FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THIRD SESSION
NO. 25

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 24 October, 2013

1. The House met at 11.36 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, 23 October, 2013.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Message:**
Mr Speaker read the following Message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

October 22, 2013

Rt Hon. Waziri Aminu Tambuwal, CFR
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

Your Excellency,

REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF LAGOS STATE DEVELOPMENT POLICY OPERATION II (DPO) INTO THE 2012-2014 MEDIUM TERM BORROWING PLAN OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

I wish to refer to the above subject and to inform the Right Honourable Speaker that the World Bank approved a Development Policy Operation (Budget Support) for a total credit amount of US$600 million to the Lagos State Government in 2010 to be implemented in three tranches of US$200 million each. The first tranche of US$200 million was approved by the National Assembly in the 2010 Borrowing Plan. The Development Policy Operation I was implemented in 2011.

PRINTED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESS, ABUJA

Unfortunately, the second tranche of the Development Policy Operation II was not captured in the 2012-2014 *Medium Term Borrowing Plan. However, given the importance of the second tranche to the success and sustainability of the first tranche, I wish to submit it for your consideration for inclusion in the current borrowing plan but with no additional funding request.*

The World Bank supported Public Private Partnership (PPP) project which was approved by the National Assembly (NASS) in the 2010 *Borrowing Plan with a total credit amount of US*$315 *million has only disbursed US*$15 *million to date, after about two years of project implementation. The World Bank has therefore embarked on restructuring of the project in the face of current realities in a manner that would release US*$200 *million for allocation to Lagos Development Policy Operation II. This is an action that the World Bank with the support of its Board can undertake. They propose that the* $200 *million DPO would enable the State complete some critical infrastructure projects including*:

(*i*) *Ultra-Modern Burns Centre and Cardiac and Renal Centre at Gbagada General Hospital*;

(*ii*) *27km Light Rail along the Lagos Badagry Expressway Corridor to Marina; and*

(*iii*) *Completion of the* 70 *million gallon per day Adiyan Water Facility among others.*

In the light of the above therefore, I wish to seek for your understanding and to request you to admit the Lagos State Development Policy Operation II (Budget Support) into the 2012-2014 *Medium Term Borrowing Plan to enable the State consolidate the gains of the first tranche of the Operation with no cost implication to the Borrowing Plan since the US*$200 *million had earlier been approved in* 2010.

Right Honourable Speaker, please accept the assurances of my highest consideration and warm regards.

(*Signed*)

GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN

4. Petitions:

The following petitions were presented and laid by:

(*i*) Hon. Zaphaniah B. Jisalo (*AMAC/Bwari Federal Constituency*) from Na'Allah B. Dogara and 20 Others on behalf of Galadimawa community of Garki Chiefdom, praying the House to redress the alleged demolition of their houses by the Minister of Federal Capital Territory and the Chief of Army Staff;

(*ii*) Hon. Warman Ogoriba (*Yenagoa/K/Opokuma Federal Constituency*) on behalf of Finidi K. Jahbless, seeking the intervention of the House over the refusal of Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) to pay the contract sum owed his company;

(*iii*) Hon. Albert Akintoye (*Okitipupa/Irele Federal Constituency*) on behalf of Anthony Agbonlahor and Associates on behalf of Mrs Ebunola Ogungbesan, praying the House to investigate the refusal of Dr George Odabi to pay her the sum of forty million, one hundred thousand Naira (₦40,100,000) being a debt owed to her with a view to ensuring that payment is made;

(*iv*) Hon. Bassey Dan Abia (*Eket/Onna/Esit Eket/Ibeno Federal Constituency*) by Joe Friday, praying the House to investigate in the wrongful dismissal of his appointment by the Nigerian Army, with a view to reinstating him;

(*v*) Hon. Evelyn Omavowan Oboro (*Okpe/Sapele/Uvwie Federal Constituency*) from Cyril Ojiemen & Co, on behalf of concerned members of Independent Petroleum Marketers Association (IPMAN), praying the House to discharge the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream) of the referral on the crisis in IPMAN, Warri Depot as the matter is before a court of competent jurisdiction.

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

(*i*) Citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Ifeoluwa Arowosoge (*Ekiti South West/Ikere/Ise-Orun Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the crash of the Associated Airliner on Thursday, 3 October, 2013 while conveying the corpse of Late Dr Olusegun Agagu, former Governor of Ondo State, to his hometown. He noted that the 13 out of 20 people on board lost their lives while the remaining 7 sustained serious injuries. 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 be debated forthwith.

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 Need to Frantically and Frontally Tackle the Human Factor in the Aviation Sector:

The House:

Notes that on October 3, 2013, an Embraer 120 aircraft, with registration number 5N-BIT owned and operated by Associated Airlines which was hired to convey the corpse of the late former Governor of Ondo State, Dr Olusegun Agagu from the domestic wing of Murtala Muhammed Airport, Lagos to Akure, Ondo State crashed minutes after taken-off killing 13 of the 20 passengers and crew members on board;

Further notes that the Hon. Minister of Aviation, Princess Stella Oduah attributed this avoidable accident to what she called "inevitable act of God" which presupposes that there would be no need to investigate the possible causes of the disaster;

Worried that while Nigerians in general and the people of Ondo State in particular were still grieving for the loss of 13 passengers and commiserating with their families, one other passenger who had sustained injuries in the crash died in the hospital while two others were still in critical conditions;

Further worried that the crash could have been avoided in view of the advice of the co-pilot arid the warning by the aircraft itself; but rather than aborting the flight, the pilot continued the journey with his team of three (3) engineers as if the engineers could carry out repairs while the flight was on, in the event of any malfunction of the aircraft. An action which cast a serious doubt to the expertise being claimed by the technical staff of the Aviation Industry in Nigeria;

Similarly worried that the 9 billion Naira which Hon. Minister of Aviation claimed that the Ministry had spent to renovate and improve security at the Nigerian airports has not impacted positively on them as to have led to noticeable improvement I the protection of lives of passengers since 7 fatal air mishaps had occurred which claimed the lives of over 200 passengers and 2 near crashes where averted in the last two and half (2½) years that the Hon. Minister of Aviation assumed duties;

Totally disagrees with the spokesman of the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), Mr Yakubu Datti that Nigeria is one of the 14 countries in Africa with effective safety implementations above the global average of 61% but rather agrees that failure of leadership and criminal negligence of those concerned in the aviation industry from Minister of Aviation to other Chief Executive Officers of the Agencies may have been responsible for all of those avoidable, incessant and tragic air crashes in recent times;

Aware that the insurance status of the ill-fated aircraft has been generating controversies in many quarters since the Nigerian Insurance firm alleged to have insured the aircraft denied having any business with it, thus leaving Nigerians confused as to whether the aircraft was insured or not until of recent, when the UK insurers, Lloyds team of London, claimed to have a valid insurance cover for the aircraft, which clearly shows that there is no proper coordination between the Associated Airline, the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), The National Insurance Commission (NIC) and Nigeria Insurers Association (NIA) as required by the relevant insurance laws before any aircraft is allowed to fly on the Nigerian Air Space;

Further aware that the lack of proper supervision of the airlines operation with respect to insurance policy by NCAA to ensure that the relevant bodies such as National Insurance Commission (NIC) and Nigeria Insurers Association (NIA) are made to play their own role before any aircraft is allowed to fly, has led to inadequate compensation of the families of victims of air crashes in the country;

Cognizant of the assertion of the Management of the Nigeria Airspace Management Authority (NAMA) that Nigeria has attained the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Category I and that the country is in Category II in International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) rating which ought to have been an endorsement of Nigeria's facilities for international civil Air navigation, and if indeed the country has new total radar operational system and Very High Frequency Radio Coverage and robust communication system as claimed, as well as having a World Geodetic Survey (WCS-84) a universal satellite navigation system that enhances precision of aircraft movement, then what we have as major challenges in the Aviation sector is the Nigeria factor, human factor, corruption, lackadaisical and care-free attitude to work.

Resolves to:

(*i*) Observe one minute silence in honour of the victims of that ill-fated air crash that occurred on 3 October, 2013;

(*ii*) urge the Ministry of Aviation to ensure that the families of the diseased and all the other surviving victims of the accident are adequately compensated in line with all relevant international and domestic laws;

(*iii*) mandate the Committees on Aviation, Treaty and Agreement, and Local Content to investigate compliance or otherwise of airline operators with the relevant international and domestic laws on Aviation, particularly in relation to insurance and payment of compensation to victims of air disaster and make recommendation to the House within 6 weeks (*Hon. Ifeoluwa Arowosoge — Ekiti South West/Ikere/Ise-Orun Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on October 3, 2013, an Embraer 120 aircraft, with registration number 5N-BIT owned and operated by Associated Airlines which was hired to convey the corpse of the late former Governor of Ondo State, Dr Olusegun Agagu from the domestic wing of Murtala Muhammed Airport, Lagos to Akure, Ondo State crashed minutes after taken-off killing 13 of the 20 passengers and crew members on board;

Further noted that the Hon. Minister of Aviation, Princess Stella Oduah attributed this avoidable accident to what she called "inevitable act of God" which presupposes that there would be no need to investigate the possible causes of the disaster;

Worried that while Nigerians in general and the people of Ondo State in particular were still grieving for the loss of 13 passengers and commiserating with their families, one other passenger who had sustained injuries in the crash died in the hospital while two others were still in critical conditions;

Further worried that the crash could have been avoided in view of the advice of the co-pilot arid the warning by the aircraft itself; but rather than aborting the flight, the pilot continued the journey with his team of three (3) engineers as if the engineers could carry out repairs while the flight was on, in the event of any malfunction of the aircraft. An action which cast a serious doubt to the expertise being claimed by the technical staff of the Aviation Industry in Nigeria;

Similarly worried that the 9 billion Naira which Hon. Minister of Aviation claimed that the Ministry had spent to renovate and improve security at the Nigerian airports has not impacted positively on them as to have led to noticeable improvement I the protection of lives of passengers since 7 fatal air mishaps had occurred which claimed the lives of over 200 passengers and 2 near crashes where averted in the last two and half (2½) years that the Hon. Minister of Aviation assumed duties;

Totally disagreed with the spokesman of the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), Mr Yakubu Datti that Nigeria is one of the 14 countries in Africa with effective safety implementations above the global average of 61% but rather agrees that failure of leadership and criminal negligence of those concerned in the aviation industry from Minister of Aviation to other Chief Executive Officers of the Agencies may have been responsible for all of those avoidable, incessant and tragic air crashes in recent times;

Aware that the insurance status of the ill-fated aircraft has been generating controversies in many quarters since the Nigerian Insurance firm alleged to have insured the aircraft denied having any business with it, thus leaving Nigerians confused as to whether the aircraft was insured or not until of recent, when the UK insurers, Lloyds team of London, claimed to have a valid insurance cover for the aircraft, which clearly shows that there is no proper coordination between the Associated Airline, the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), The National Insurance Commission (NIC) and Nigeria Insurers Association (NIA) as required by the relevant insurance laws before any aircraft is allowed to fly on the Nigerian Air Space;

Further aware that the lack of proper supervision of the airlines operation with respect to insurance policy by NCAA to ensure that the relevant bodies such as National Insurance Commission (NIC) and Nigeria Insurers Association (NIA) are made to play their own role before any aircraft is allowed to fly, has led to inadequate compensation of the families of victims of air crashes in the country;

Cognizant of the assertion of the Management of the Nigeria Airspace Management Authority (NAMA) that Nigeria has attained the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Category I and that the country is in Category II in International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) rating which ought to have been an endorsement of Nigeria's facilities for international civil Air navigation, and if indeed the country has new total radar operational system and Very High Frequency Radio Coverage and robust communication system as claimed, as well as having a World Geodetic Survey (WCS-84) a universal satellite navigation system that enhances precision of aircraft movement, then what we have as major challenges in the Aviation sector is the Nigeria factor, human factor, corruption, lackadaisical and care-free attitude to work.

Resolved to:

(*i*) Observes one minute silence in honour of the victims of that ill-fated air crash that occurred on 3 October, 2013;

(*ii*) urge the Ministry of Aviation to ensure that the families of the diseased and all the other surviving victims of the accident are adequately compensated in line with all relevant international and domestic laws;

(*iii*) mandate the Committees on Aviation, Treaty and Agreement, and Local Content to investigate compliance or otherwise of airline operators with the relevant international and domestic laws on Aviation, particularly in relation to insurance and payment of compensation to victims of air disaster and make recommendation to the House within 6 weeks (**HR. 58/2013**).

A minute silence observed in honour of the deceased.

(*ii*) Also citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Maurice Pronen (*Gokana/Khana Federal Constituency*) informed the House of the Oil Spillage which occurred on a facility owned by Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited (SPDC) on Wednesday, 9 October, 2013 at Baraobara/Nonwa in Tai Local Government Area (Ogoniland) of Rivers State. He noted that the attendant environmental problems affected both humanand aquatic life. 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 be debated forthwith.

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 Investigate the Recent Oil Spill in Ogoniland:

The House:

Notes with dismay incidents of Oil spills and other environmental degradations that have become a recurring decimal in Nigeria, particularly in the Niger Delta region where oil installations and facilities are located;

Also notes that in recent times, oil spill incidents are recorded almost on a daily basis as seen in several cases, including the very recent one which occurred on 9 October, 2013 at Baraobara/Nonwa in Tai Local Government Area (Ogoniland) of Rivers State on a facility owned by the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited (SPDC);

Aware that people of the Niger Delta region (where most of these incidents occur) and indeed several well-meaning Nigerians have cried out over the continued oil spills and their attendant environmental effect(s) on human and aquatic life as well as the livelihood pattern of inhabitants and people that live in or near the affected areas;

Also aware that it was in order to check the rising incidents of oil spills and thereby protect the environment from further degradation that the Federal Government of Nigeria established the Federal Ministry of Environment and agencies like the National Oil Spill Detection Response Agency (NOSDRA) and the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA);

Worried that noble and welcome as the idea for setting up these agencies were, the effective discharge of their responsibilities have been largely hampered by poor or lack of adequate facilities and means;

Concerned that the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria (SPDC) ought to have stopped its operation and dismantled its pipelines in Ogoniland since 1993 but it has failed, refused and/or neglected to do so and thereby further exposing the area to oil spills and pollution;

Worried that the present oil spill, like preceding ones, has negatively affected the environment and livelihood pattern of indigenes and inhabitants of the area.

Resolves to:

(*i*) Mandate the Committee on Environment to investigate the matter and report to the House within three (3) weeks for further legislative action;

(*ii*) urge the Federal Government, relevant Ministries, Agencies and Departments whose duty it is to oversee and/or check oil spill and environmental pollution cases to be alive to their responsibilities and take immediate remedial measures to cushion the effects of the Baraobara/Nonwa Tai oil spill (*Hon. Maurice Pronen — Gokana/Khana Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted with dismay incidents of Oil spills and other environmental degradations that have become a recurring decimal in Nigeria, particularly in the Niger Delta region where oil installations and facilities are located;

Also noted that in recent times, oil spill incidents are recorded almost on a daily basis as seen in several cases, including the very recent one which occurred on 9 October, 2013 at Baraobara/Nonwa in Tai Local Government Area (Ogoniland) of Rivers State on a facility owned by the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited (SPDC);

Aware that people of the Niger Delta region (where most of these incidents occur) and indeed several well-meaning Nigerians have cried out over the continued oil spills and their attendant environmental effect(s) on human and aquatic life as well as the livelihood pattern of inhabitants and people that live in or near the affected areas;

Also aware that it was in order to check the rising incidents of oil spills and thereby protect the environment from further degradation that the Federal Government of Nigeria established the Federal Ministry of Environment and agencies like the National Oil Spill Detection Response Agency (NOSDRA) and the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA);

Worried that noble and welcome as the idea for setting up these agencies were, the effective discharge of their responsibilities have been largely hampered by poor or lack of adequate facilities and means;

Concerned that the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria (SPDC) ought to have stopped its operation and dismantled its pipelines in Ogoniland since 1993 but it has failed, refused and/or neglected to do so and thereby further exposing the area to oil spills and pollution;

Worried that the present oil spill, like preceding ones, has negatively affected the environment and livelihood pattern of indigenes and inhabitants of the area.

Resolved to:

(*i*) Mandate the Committee on Environment to investigate the matter and report to the House within three (3) weeks for further legislative action;

(*ii*) urge the Federal Government, relevant Ministries, Agencies and Departments whose duty it is to oversee and/or check oil spill and environmental pollution cases to be alive to their responsibilities and take immediate remedial measures to cushion the effects of the Baraobara/Nonwa Tai oil spill (**HR. 59/2013**).

(*iii*) Also citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Bimbo Daramola (*Ikole/Oye North Federal Constituency*) recalled that in recent time, the Federal Government have been unable to manage the Federation account to the satisfaction of the States. He noted that they were allegations of shortfalls in the payment due to States despite the fact the prize of oil has been reasonable stable since the beginning of the 2013 financial year. He stressed that the situation was so bad that it is becoming impossible for some States to meet their financial obligations. 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 be debated forthwith.

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 Need for Full Disclosure of the State of the Federation Account and Economic Situation of our Country:

The House:

Notes that Section 162 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria provides that the Federation shall maintain a special account to be called the "Federation Account" into which shall be paid all revenues collected by the Government of the Federation;

Further notes that Section 162 (3) provides that any amount standing to the credit of Federation Account shall be distributed among the Federal and State Governments and the Local Government Councils in each State on such terms and manner as prescribed by the National Assembly;

Aware that section 162 (4) states that any amount standing to the credit of the State in the Federation Account shall be distributed among states on such terms and in such manner as maybe prescribed by the National Assembly;

Further aware that the benchmark in the 2013 Appropriation Act is $79 per barrel and to date, oil sales have not fallen below $100 per barrel;

Worried that in the past three to four months, the nation has been regaled with diatribes between the Minister of Finance and State Governors over partial releases of the amounts due to the States;

Further worried that only a day ago Governors are almost dealing with a fait accompli with regard to what should be statutory releases, seemingly now discounted and almost resorted to arbitrary releases;

Disturbed that some State Governments are already unable to meet their statutory responsibilities such as payment of salaries, thereby inflicting pains on the people;

Further disturbed that despite profuse reassurances from the Honourable Minister of Finance on African Independent Television (AIT) that the economy is growing and that the Government is meeting all its obligations as at when due, there are manifest scenarios in the country such as the non remittance of full amounts due to States and improper funding or fund releases for capital projects.

Accordingly resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Finance, Appropriation, Loans and Aids to conduct a one day public hearing where the Honourable Minister for Finance, Heads of Revenue Agencies, Debt Management Office (DMO), and related organisations should appear and present to Nigerians the full status of the state of account of the Federation (*Hon. Bimbo Daramola — Ikole/Oye North Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Section 162 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria provides that the Federation shall maintain a special account to be called the "Federation Account" into which shall be paid all revenues collected by the Government of the Federation;

Further notes that Section 162 (3) provides that any amount standing to the credit of Federation Account shall be distributed among the Federal and State Governments and the Local Government Councils in each State on such terms and manner as prescribed by the National Assembly;

Aware that section 162 (4) states that any amount standing to the credit of the State in the Federation Account shall be distributed among states on such terms and in such manner as maybe prescribed by the National Assembly;

Further aware that the benchmark in the 2013 Appropriation Act is $79 per barrel and to date, oil sales have not fallen below $100 per barrel;

Worried that in the past three to four months, the nation has been regaled with diatribes between the Minister of Finance and State Governors over partial releases of the amounts due to the States;

Further worried that only a day ago Governors are almost dealing with a fait accompli with regard to what should be statutory releases, seemingly now discounted and almost resorted to arbitrary releases;

Disturbed that some State Governments are already unable to meet their statutory responsibilities such as payment of salaries, thereby inflicting pains on the people;

Further disturbed that despite profuse reassurances from the Honourable Minister of Finance on African Independent Television (AIT) that the economy is growing and that the Government is meeting all its obligations as at when due, there are manifest scenarios in the country such as the non remittance of full amounts due to States and improper funding or fund releases for capital projects.

Accordingly resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Finance, Appropriation, Loans and Aids to conduct a one day public hearing where the Honourable Minister for Finance, Heads of Revenue Agencies, Debt Management Office (DMO), and related organisations should appear and present to Nigerians the full status of the state of account of the Federation (**HR. 60/2013**).

(*iv*) Further citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Robinson Uwak (*Oron/Mbo/Okobo/Udung Uko/Urue Offong/Oruko Federal Constituency*) informed the House of the destructive impact of the Lagdo Dam in Cameroon on lives, the Nigerian economy and the environment. He noted that although the dam was originally designed to irrigate about 15,000 hectares of farmland, the Cameroonian Government restructured the dam for electricity purposes thus diverting water to River Benue without due consultation with the Nigerian Government. He stressed that the restructuring has led to incessant flooding in particularly in Bornu, Gombe, Adamawa, Taraba, Benue and other adjoining States. 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 be debated forthwith.

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

Matter to stand over till another Legislative day.

(*v*) Also citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Friday Itulah (*Esan North East/South East Federal Constituency*) informed the House that the Local Government election conducted in Edo State on Wednesday, 2 October, 2013 was marred with glaring irregularities. He stressed the negative implications of the election on the growth of democracy in Nigeria, and thus urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance.

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

6. **Briefing by Chairman, Committee on Education on the Strike Embarked Upon by ASUU:**
The Hon. Speaker invited the Chairman, Committee on Education, Hon. Aminu Suleiman to brief the House on the outcome of the meetings the Committee had with the Executive Arm of the Federal Government and the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) over the lingering strike action by the latter.

The Chairman informed the House that the strike action was embarked upon as a result of the alleged failure of Government to implement the Agreement it signed in year 2009 with the ASUU. He stated further that ASUU accused Government of attempted to renege, or renegotiate some aspects of the Agreement, which prompted a notice of strike action on 2 July, 2013, and which Government ignored.

He noted that the Committees on Education of both Senate and the House of Representatives called for a meeting of the parties to seek for a resolution of the crisis in order to bring normalcy back to the Universities. He stated that the issues in contention includes:

(*i*) Adequate funding to revitalize the University system;

(*ii*) Registration of Nigeria Universities Pension Management Company;

(*iii*) Transfer of Federal Government landed properties to Universities;

(*iv*) Amendment of pensionable retirement age of Academics in the professional cadre;

(*v*) Federal Government assistance to State Universities;

(*vi*) Earned Academic allowances.

He disclosed that Federal Government delegation claimed that Government had commenced implementation of the 2009 Agreement on the pension scheme, retirement age of professors and assistance to State Universities. In stated that ASUU responded to Government position by claiming that Government was merely addressing peripheral issues while ignoring the core issues in contention, which includes its continued interference in universities administration through the National University Commission (NUC).

The Chairman further disclosed that on 8 September, 2013, ASUU worked out from the meeting mediated by the Committees citing loss of confidence in the ability of the Committees to extract credible promise from the Government. Following this action, he stated that the President of Nigeria asked the Vice President of Nigeria to call a meeting during which the Government agreed to provide an additional Ten Billion Naira (₦10,000,000,000) to the earlier Thirty Billion Naira (₦30,000,000,000) it had agreed to provide for the payment of earned allowances of the ASUU members. He noted that representative of ASUU had indicated that they will deliberate on the offer and will make their position known to the public.

Concluding, Hon. Suleiman Aminu called on well-meaning Nigerians to intervene and prevail on the parties to shift their positions in the interest of Nigerian students and the University system.

The Hon. Speaker called on both sides to place the interests of the nation and the students uppermost in the decisions for the resolution of the crisis. He urged the Executive Arm of the Federal Government and the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) to resolve the matter without further delay so that the Students could return to the Universities to continue their education. He assured that the House will act expeditiously in the event of the need for a supplementary appropriation or amendment of any law with a view to resolving the matter.

7. **Presentation of Reports:**

(*i*) ***Committees on Commerce and Justice*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Committees on Commerce and Justice on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Institute of Chartered Trustees of Nigeria (ICTN) charged with the Responsibility of Regulating and Promoting the practices of Trusteeship including the Registration and Discipline of its Members and for Related Matters (HB. 93)" (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

(*ii*) ***Committees on Commerce and Justice*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Committees on Commerce and Justice on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Financial and Investment Analysts of Nigeria to Regulate and Control Practice of Financial and Investment Analysis in the Country and requiring that every Financial and Investment Analysts practicing in Nigeria Register with the Institute and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 295)" (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

(*iii*) ***Committees on Commerce and Justice*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Committees on Commerce and Justice on a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of the Industrial Property Commission to take over the Functions of the Registration of Trade Marks, Patents, Designs, Plant varieties, Animal Breeders and Farmers' Rights and Supervise the New Registries created under the Industrial Property Act (HB. 64)" (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

8. **Need to Investigate the Discriminatory Policy by Certain Commercial Banks on Real Estate/Assets Located in Selected Cities/Towns and Locations as Acceptable Collateral:**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that by virtue of policy guidelines of the Central Bank of Nigeria, all Commercial Banks operate branches and render banking services in all major towns, State capitals and commercial centres in all the States of the Federation;

Further notes that Nigerians in each of these locations open and operate all types of bank accounts with the Commercial banks and often times the need arises to apply to the banks for loans and other banking facilities to enhance their trade and business within such localities;

Worried that some of the Commercial banks including Skye Bank, Access Bank, FCMB, Mainstreet, Keystone, Ecobank and Sterling Bank operate a policy of insisting that immovable assets required as collateral for banking facility must be located in Lagos, Port Harcourt or Abuja;

Disturbed by the negative impact this policy will continue to have on trade and businesses and the general economy of the country.

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to investigate the issue and report to the House within four (4) Weeks (*Hon. Udo Oluchi Ibeji — Umuahia North/South/Ikwuano Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that by virtue of policy guidelines of the Central Bank of Nigeria, all Commercial Banks operate branches and render banking services in all major towns, State capitals and commercial centres in all the States of the Federation;

Further noted that Nigerians in each of these locations open and operate all types of bank accounts with the Commercial banks and often times the need arises to apply to the banks for loans and other banking facilities to enhance their trade and business within such localities;

Worried that some of the Commercial banks including Skye Bank, Access Bank, FCMB, Mainstreet, Keystone, Ecobank and Sterling Bank operate a policy of insisting that immovable assets required as collateral for banking facility must be located in Lagos, Port Harcourt or Abuja;

Disturbed by the negative impact this policy will continue to have on trade and businesses and the general economy of the country.

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to investigate the issue and report to the House within four (4) Weeks (**HR. 61/2013**).

9. **Urgent Need to Investigate the Biometric Central Motor Registration (BCMR) by the Nigerian Police Force:**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that recently, the Nigeria Police came up with the Biometric Central Motor Registration scheme for motorists, wherein they would be required to make a payment of Three Thousand Five Hundred Naira (₦3,500) and One Thousand Five Hundred (₦1,500) for owners of cars and motorcycles respectively so as to have their Biometric data captured which they claim would assist in fighting crime in the country;

Further notes that laudable as the idea may be, the Police in the bid to combat the high spate of crime that is being experienced in the country today, cannot use this claim to justify this scheme that it is seeking to implement as the Federal Road Safety Commission is presently capturing the biometric data of all motorist in the country;

Aware that ordinarily any measure that will enhance security of lives and property ought to be welcomed, however it is sad to note that this venture by the Nigeria Police is most unnecessary and government owe Nigerians the sacred duty to protect them from any form of exploitation;

Worried that while Nigerians are grappling with how to come to terms with the high cost of obtaining the new Drivers License and renew their old number plates whose cost is on the high side, the Nigeria Police pretends to be unaware that the Federal Road Safety Commission is presently collating biometrics details of all motorists in the country;

Concerned that what the Nigeria Police is seeking to do is merely to duplicate what the Federal Road Safety Commission is doing, whereas the Police can conveniently key into the scheme without taxing the already over taxed citizens of the country.

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Nigeria Police Force to suspend forthwith the biometric central motor registration scheme;

(*ii*) further urge the Nigeria Police Force, Federal Road Safety Corps and Vehicle Inspection Office to synergize on the biometric registration of vehicles in Nigeria;

(*iii*) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, Federal Road Safety, and Justice to investigate the desirability of this scheme and report to the House within three weeks (*Hon. Hassan Saleh — Ado/Ogbadibo/Okpokwu Federal Constituency and 27 Others*).

Debate:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do dispense with notice on amendments pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 56" (*Hon. Albert T. Sam-Tsokwa — Dunga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out Prayers (*i*) and (*ii*) (*Hon. Albert T. Sam-Tsokwa — Dunga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

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

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that recently, the Nigeria Police came up with the Biometric Central Motor Registration scheme for motorists, wherein they would be required to make a payment of Three Thousand Five Hundred Naira (₦3,500) and One Thousand Five Hundred (₦1,500) for owners of cars and motorcycles respectively so as to have their Biometric data captured which they claim would assist in fighting crime in the country;

Further noted that laudable as the idea may be, the Police in the bid to combat the high spate of crime that is being experienced in the country today, cannot use this claim to justify this scheme that it is seeking to implement as the Federal Road Safety Commission is presently capturing the biometric data of all motorist in the country;

Aware that ordinarily any measure that will enhance security of lives and property ought to be welcomed, however it is sad to note that this venture by the Nigeria Police is most unnecessary and government owe Nigerians the sacred duty to protect them from any form of exploitation;

Worried that while Nigerians are grappling with how to come to terms with the high cost of obtaining the new Drivers License and renew their old number plates whose cost is on the high side, the Nigeria Police pretends to be unaware that the Federal Road Safety Commission is presently collating biometrics details of all motorists in the country;

Concerned that what the Nigeria Police is seeking to do is merely to duplicate what the Federal Road Safety Commission is doing, whereas the Police can conveniently key into the scheme without taxing the already over taxed citizens of the country.

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, Federal Road Safety, and Justice to investigate the desirability of this scheme and report to the House within three weeks (**HR. 62/2013**).

10. **A Bill for an Act to authorize the issue from the Statutory Revenue Fund of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), the Total sum of ₦315,805,990,000.00 (Three Hundred and Fifteen Billion, Eight Hundred and Five Million, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Nine Thousand Naira) only, of which the sum of ₦15,080,729,671.00 (Fifteen Billion, Eighty Million, Seven Hundred and Twenty-Nine Thousand, Six Hundred and Seventy-One Naira) only, is for Personnel Costs, the sum of ₦11,992,380,000.00 (Eleven Billion, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Two Million, Three Hundred and Eighty Thousand Naira) only, is for Overhead Expenditure, and ₦2,281,257,520.00 (Two Billion, Two Hundred and Eighty-One Million, Two Hundred and Fifty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred and Twenty Naira) only, is for Capital Expenditure while ₦286,451,600,000.00 (Two Hundred and Eighty-Six Billion, Four Hundred and Fifty-One Million, Six Hundred Thousand Naira) only, is for Development Projects for the Service of the Niger Delta Development Commission for the Fiscal Year Commencing 1st April 20 13 and Ending 31st December 2013 (HB. 458) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to authorize the issue from the Statutory Revenue Fund of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), the Total sum of ₦315,805,990,000.00 (Three Hundred and Fifteen Billion, Eight Hundred and Five Million, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Nine Thousand Naira) only, of which the sum of ₦15,080,729,671.00 (Fifteen Billion, Eighty Million, Seven Hundred and Twenty-Nine Thousand, Six Hundred and Seventy-One Naira) only, is for Personnel Costs, the sum of ₦11,992,380,000.00 (Eleven Billion, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Two Million, Three Hundred and Eighty Thousand Naira) only, is for Overhead Expenditure, and ₦2,281,257,520.00 (Two Billion, Two Hundred and Eighty-One Million, Two Hundred and Fifty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred and Twenty Naira) only, is for Capital Expenditure while ₦286,451,600,000.00 (Two Hundred and Eighty-Six Billion, Four Hundred and Fifty-One Million, Six Hundred Thousand Naira) only, is for Development Projects for the Service of the Niger

Delta Development Commission for the Fiscal Year Commencing 1st April 2013 and Ending 31st December 2013 (HB. 458) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola — House Leader*).

Debate:

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

Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission.

11. Adjournment:
That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 29 October, 2013 at 11.00 a.m. (*Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola — House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.17 p.m.

Aminu Waziri Tambuwal
Speaker