FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THIRD SESSION
NO. 34

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 14 November, 2013

1. The House met at 11.53 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, 13 November, 2013.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcement:**

(*i*) ***Visitors in the Gallery*:**
Mr Speaker recognized the presence of Members of the Zuma Students Unity Forum (ZSUF), Gauraka, Tafa Local Government Area, Niger State.

(*ii*) ***Change of Political Party*:**
Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Austin Ogbaburhon (*Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*) announcing his decampment from the Democratic Peoples Party (DPP), to the People Democratic Party (PDP).

(*iii*) ***Briefing by the Chief of Defence Staff and Security Chiefs*:**
Mr Speaker recalled that the House invited the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and other Security Chiefs to brief the House today on the current security situation in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States and read the communication from the CDS regretting his inability to honour the invitation because he was outside Abuja for other official assignment and therefore requested for a new date. Mr Speaker directed the Chairman, Committee on Defence to liaise with CDS with a view to determining if Wednesday, 20 November, 2013 was suitable for him and other Security Chiefs for the briefing.

4. **Petitions:**
The following petitions were presented and laid by:

(*i*) Hon. Yakubu A. Balogun (*Lagos Island II Federal Constituency*) on behalf of Kolawole Salami, praying the House to ensure the restoration of the payment of his federal pension which was terminated since 2002;

(*ii*) Hon. Jones Onyereri (*Nwerre/Isu/Nwangele/Njaba Federal Constituency*) on behalf of Romanus Dike, praying the House to redress his retrenchment without benefit from the service of Shell Petroleum Development Company Nigeria (SPDC, East);

(*iii*) Hon. Abiodun Awoleye (*Ibadan North Federal Constituency*) on behalf of Aremu Adekunle, praying the House to investigate the termination of his appointment by the Federal University of Technology, Akure, with a view to ensuring his reinstatement.

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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5. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Adamu Ochepo Entonu (*Apa/Agatu Federal Constituency*) informed the House of the incessant attacks on Agatu communities of Benue State by the nomadic herdsmen. He noted that the latest attacks which occurred on the 8th and 9th of November, 2013 left 45 persons dead, 150 homes destroyed and over 900 people displaced. He further noted that similar attacks in the past 6 months had caused the death of over 150 people and destruction of properties worth millions of naira. He stressed the need to stop the unwarranted destruction of lives and properties, 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 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 Stop the Senseless Destruction of Lives and Properties in Agatu Local Government of Benue State:

The House:

Notes that the constitution of Nigeria guarantees the right to life for every Nigerian citizen and this right is sacred;

Further notes that there has been an upsurge of loss of lives in Nigeria and particularly in Agatu Local Government;

Aware that on the 8th and 9th of November, 2013 the communities of Ikpele, Okpokpolo, Okpagabi, Ogbangede, Enungba, Enicha, Ogwule, Ankpa, Usha in Apa/ Agatu federal constituency were brutally attacked by nomadic herdsmen killing over 45 persons comprising of the elderly, women and children. Over 150 homes were destroyed and Nine thousand (9,000) people displaced;

Further aware that in the last six months, four consecutive and deadly attacks were launched on the people of Agatu Local Government resulting in the death of over 150 people and destruction of homes and properties;

Concerned that the incessant attacks have become a recurring situation in Agatu with the recent incidents being the most deadly and vicious of all the previous attacks;

Further concerned that Nigeria has over 5,000 Soldiers spread across the African continent in various peace-keeping missions but not enough soldiers and security personnel to protect innocent lives from internal attacks in crisis prone zones;

Worried that despite prior information in the planned attacks, security forces failed to put in place adequate measures to forestall them;

Further worried that the security forces failed to appear at the scene until 48 hours after the operation was over;

Disturbed that the unmotorable terrain leading to the affected communities has been blamed as being responsible for the failure of the security personnel to arrive on time.

Resolves to:

(*i*) condemn the killings of innocent lives and the destruction of properties in Agatu Local Government;

(*ii*) urge the Federal Government to immediately deploy a large number of military personnel to the crisis prone areas so as to forstall a future re-occurrence;

(*iii*) further urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to visit the sites and provide relief materials;

(*iv*) mandate the Committee on Defence to ensure that the Defence Headquarter establishes a military base around the affected areas or the border communities along the river Benue through which these attackers normally come through;

(*v*) further mandate the committee on police affairs to ensure that police stations are built around these porous border communities as it will strengthen security presence in the area (*Hon. Adamu Ochepo Entonu — Apa/Agatu Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the constitution of Nigeria guarantees the right to life for every Nigerian citizen and this right is sacred;

Further noted that there has been an upsurge of loss of lives in Nigeria and particularly in Agatu Local Government;

Aware that on the 8th and 9th of November, 2013 the communities of Ikpele, Okpokpolo, Okpagabi, Ogbangede, Enungba, Enicha, Ogwule, Ankpa, Usha in Apa/ Agatu federal constituency were brutally attacked by nomadic herdsmen killing over 45 persons comprising of the elderly, women and children. Over 150 homes were destroyed and Nine thousand (9,000) people displaced;

Further aware that in the last six months, four consecutive and deadly attacks were launched on the people of Agatu Local Government resulting in the death of over 150 people and destruction of homes and properties;

Concerned that the incessant attacks have become a recurring situation in Agatu with the recent incidents being the most deadly and vicious of all the previous attacks;

Further concerned that Nigeria has over 5,000 Soldiers spread across the African continent in various peace-keeping missions but not enough soldiers and security personnel to protect innocent lives from internal attacks in crisis prone zones;

Worried that despite prior information in the planned attacks, security forces failed to put in place adequate measures to forestall them;

Further worried that the security forces failed to appear at the scene until 48 hours after the operation was over;

Disturbed that the unmotorable terrain leading to the affected communities has been blamed as being responsible for the failure of the security personnel to arrive on time.

Resolved to:

(*i*) condemn the killings of innocent lives and the destruction of properties in Agatu Local Government;

(*ii*) urge the Federal Government to immediately deploy a large number of military personnel to the crisis prone areas so as to forstall a future re-occurrence;

(*iii*) further urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to visit the sites and provide relief materials;

(*iv*) mandate the Committee on Defence to ensure that the Defence Headquarter establishes a military base around the affected areas or the border communities along the river Benue through which these attackers normally come through;

(*v*) further mandate the committee on police affairs to ensure that police stations are built around these porous border communities as it will strengthen security presence in the area (**HR. 78/2013**).

6. **Presentation of Report:**
***Committees on Finance, Appropriations, Legislative Budget and Research, and Aids, Loans and Debt Management*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do receive the Report of the Committees on Finance, Appropriations, Legislative Budget and Research, and Aids, Loans and Debt Management on the 2014 - 2016 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP)" (*Hon. Michael A. Ogunnusi — Ifako Ijaiye Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

7. **Need to Construct a 132 KV Sub-Station in Gwaram, Local Government Area of Jigawa State:**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Aware that without adequate and stable supply of electricity which distinguishes modern civilization from the Stone Age, better living condition would continue to elude the people as they can hardly engage in any meaningful and sustainable economic activity to better their lots;

Concerned that a situation whereby people are left without electricity supply for upwards of 30-40 days portends a grave threat to their socio-economic activities;

Worried that Gwaram, which is one of the most populated Local Government Areas, with the highest number of electricity consumers and largest land mass in Jigawa State has been without electricity for a long period, resulting to a complete halt in economic transactions, thereby lowering the living standards of the people and increasing the spate of insecurity;

Convinced that the construction of a 132KV Sub-Station in Gwaram will ameliorate the suffering of the people and address the prevailing perennial blackout;

Further convinced that the construction of a 132KV Sub-station in Gwaram would have a multiplier effect on neighboring Ningi, Wariji, Darazo, Giyade, Shira, Birnin Kudu, Buji, Jama'are, Garijuwa and Misau Local Governments of Jigawa and Bauchi States.

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Ministry of Power to construct a 132KV Sub-Station in Gwaram as a remedial measure to the current challenges;

(*ii*) further urge the Kano Distribution Company to urgently improve and increase electricity supply to Gwaram to enable the people have a taste of civilization (*Hon. Yusuf Shitu Galambi — Gwaram Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Motion referred to the Committee on Power, pursuant to Standing Order VIII, Rule 51 (5) (**HR. 79/2013**).

8. **A Bill for an Act to Amend Part II of the Companies Income Tax Act, 1990 to include the Provision of Tax relief for Corporate Organizations based on their Contributions towards Philanthropic and Corporate Social Responsibility Initiatives and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 529) - *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend Part II of the Companies Income Tax Act, 1990 to include the Provision of Tax relief for Corporate Organizations based on their Contributions towards Philanthropic and Corporate Social Responsibility Initiatives and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 529) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Ayo Omidiran — Ayedaade/Irewole/Isokan Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

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

Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Committees on Finance and Justice.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to increase the National Judicial Council's Power over the Suspension, Punishment, Reinstatement and Discipline of Judicial Officers and for Other Connected Matters (HB. 504) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to increase the National Judicial Council's Power over the Suspension, Punishment, Reinstatement and Discipline of Judicial Officers and for Other Connected Matters (HB. 504) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Sunday Steve Karimi — Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

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

Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Ad-hoc Committee on Constitution Review.

10. **Closed Session:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do resolve into a Closed Session" (*Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola — House Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

House in Close Session — **1. 05 *p.m.***

11. ***House in Open Session*** — **3.32 *p.m.***

12. **Consideration of Report:**
***Committees on Finance, Appropriations, Legislative Budget and Research, and Aids, Loans and Debt Management*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do consider the Report of the Committees on Finance, Appropriations, Legislative Budget and Research, and Aids, Loans and Debt Management on the 2014 - 2016 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP) and approve the Recommendations therein" (*Hon. Michael A. Ogunnusi — Ifako Ijaiye Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report, put and agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(*Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair*)

***Recommendation (i)*:**
"That the Crude Oil Production of 2,3883mpbd, 2,5007mpbd and 2,5497mpbd for 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively" (*Hon. Michael A. Ogunnusi — Ifako Ijaiye Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

***Recommendation (ii)*:**
"Average exchange rate of ₦160/USD for the next three years" (*Hon. Michael A. Ogunnusi — Ifako Ijaiye Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

***Recommendation (iii)*:**
"Adoption of US$76.50 per barrel as a benchmark price of crude oil" (*Hon. Michael A. Ogunnusi — Ifako Ijaiye Federal Constituency*).

Question put and negatived.

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out the figures "$76.50" and *insert* the figures "$79" instead thereof (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — Surulere 1 Federal Constituency*).

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

Recommendation (iv):
"Corporate Tax and VAT rate of 30% and 5% respectively" (*Hon. Michael A. Ogunnusi — Ifako Ijaiye Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Recommendation (v):
"That the Government should strengthen and consolidate its fiscal strategy to narrow the gap' between projected and actual revenue for the period 2014 - 2016 curtailing oil theft and diversifying the economy to increase tax bases so as to increase tax revenue" (*Hon. Michael A. Ogunnusi — Ifako Ijaiye Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Recommendation (vi):
"That the details of SURE-P projects to be executed be attached as an addendum to the annual budget estimates for approval by the National Assembly" (*Hon. Michael A. Ogunnusi — Ifako Ijaiye Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Recommendation (vii):
"That the distribution to the tiers of government of ₦666.9 from the excess crude account as proposed by the Executive" (*Hon. Michael A. Ogunnusi — Ifako Ijaiye Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Recommendation (viii):
"Augmentation from the Excess Crude Account (ECA) should the projected crude production fall below budgeted, provided there are funds in the account" (*Hon. Michael A. Ogunnusi — Ifako Ijaiye Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Chairman to report proceedings.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole House considered the Report of the Committees on Finance, Appropriations, Legislative Budget and Research, and Aids, Loans and Debt Management on the 2014 - 2016 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP) and approved Recommendations (*i*) - (*ii*), approved Recommendation (*iii*) as amended, approved Recommendations (*iv*) - (*viii*).

Question that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of the Whole, put and agreed to.

13. **Adjournment:**
That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 19 *November*, 2013 *at* 10.00 *a.m.* (*Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola — House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 4.05 *p.m.*

Aminu Waziri Tambuwal
Speaker