FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THIRD SESSION
NO. 65

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 18 March, 2014

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 Tuesday, 11 March, 2014.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcement:**
(*i*) ***Visitors in the Gallery*:**
Mr Speaker recognized the presence of the following:

(*a*) National Union of Rivers State Students (NURSS), University of Abuja; and

(*b*) Staff and students of Glory Ultimate Academy, Akwanga, Nasarawa State.

(*ii*) ***Bereavement*:**
Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Samuel Babatunde Adejare (*Agege Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of his father, Pa Amos Olugbade Adejare who died on Thursday, 20 February, 2014.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

4. **Petition:**
A petition was presented and laid by Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa (*Ikorodu Federal Constituency*) from Odoh Jude Ifeanyi on behalf of Nigerian staff in the Huawei Technology Nigeria Limited, praying the House to investigate the unfavouable condition of service of the Nigerian staff, with a view to ensuring justice.

Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance:**
(*i*) Citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Steve Sunday Karimi (*Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the recruitment exercise conducted by the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) on Saturday, 15 March, 2014

PRINTED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESS, ABUJA

in some designated centres across the country. He noted that the exercise was unfortunately marred with disorganisation, planlessness and lack of foresight which resulted into stampede, claiming the lives of many applicants and injuring several others. He thus urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance and to suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) so that the matter could be debated 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.*

Tragedy at 2014 Immigration Recruitment Exercise in Nigeria as One (1) Million Nigerian Youths Scramble for 4,500 Job Placements:

The House:

Notes that on Saturday, 15 March, 2014, over one Million Nigerian Youths trooped into all the Nation's State Capital and other major Cities to participate in the 2014 Nigerian Immigration Service Recruitment Exercise, for which the Service had on September 2013 advertised positions into it and had obtained ₦1,000 as Application fee from each of the Applicants;

Further notes that in Lagos alone, about 70,000 Youths showed up at the Stadium for the test. In Ibadan, the Liberty Stadium played host to about 20,000 Nigerian Youths. In Abuja, the 60,000 Capacity National Stadium was overcrowded with 70,000 Youths. In Ilorin, 25,000 Candidates showed up like a sea of head at the Ilorin Stadium. In Benin, at the Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium, 26,000 Nigerian Youths trooped in all in a bid to write the Aptitude Test. The Sani Abacha Stadium in Kano played host to 15,800 Youths, In Benue State 17,800 Youths took part in the exercise and in Port Harcourt about 23,000 candidates enrolled for the recruitment exercise. Despite the crises and insecurity in the North East, Gombe and Borno State played host to about 5000 Applicants each, while in Sokoto State 10,000 Applicants participated in the recruitment exercise. This was the same trend in other State Capitals on the said date. Despite the fact that the Applicants were requested to come to the test centres in their sport outfit, No physical test was conducted and only about 20 percent of the Candidates were able to participate in recruitment process as a result of its poor organisation;

Sadly notes that this resulted in chaos and stampede in all the Centres and several persons were reported dead and many more critically injured. At least about 21 deaths were reported. In Benin, three (3) pregnant women lost their lives, in Abuja, 8 candidates, including 2 men and six (6) women died at the venue. In Port, Harcourt, Five (5) Corpses including that of a pregnant women were recovered at the scene. In Calabar, Ogun, Lagos and at many other centres, candidates were flogged and abused by security personnel all in a bid to secure a white collar job. Many slept at the venues, a night preceding the recruitment exercise. An unrecorded number of Nigerians had lost their lives in motor accidents on their way to the Test Centres;

Queries the fact that considering the high response to the advertisement and the fact that the Nigerian Immigration Service had realised approximately One Billion Naira (₦1,000,000,000.00) from the sales of recruitment forms-why could the Service not properly organise a recruitment test or programme? Why did the Service not conduct an internet based recruitment tests? Why could the Aptitude Test not have been conducted in conducive educational centres in batches all over the nation? Why was it so poorly co-ordinated that it resulted in the death of innocent and helpless Nigerians?

Aware that Nigerian Parents had struggled to educate their wards at a very high cost and at high inconveniences in the belief that education is a lifelong investment that will guarantee the liberation and empowerment of their offspring. Unfortunately, this heavy investment appears to be a waste and a source of sorrow, as there is no hope in sight that Nigerian Youth can ever get a profitable job or be empowered to face life on their own. This helplessness was heightened on Saturday as many died and crops of them are critically injured;

Worried that the rate of unemployment in Nigeria is at a perpetual all time high. Bloomberg estimates Nigeria's unemployment at 40 percent and its Youth Unemployment at 72 percent. Nigeria colligates with economically weak nations such as Spain, Greece and Zimbabwe in its employment indices. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) states that 54 percent of Nigerian Youths are unemployed and puts Nigeria's total unemployment at 23.9 percent. However, the last Saturday's Nigerian Immigration Service recruitment exercise shows that Nigeria is nowhere near a 70 percent employment, rate and therefore, National Bureau of Statistics Figures cannot be said to be reliable.

Concerned that most Federal Government Youth Empowerment and Employment creation programmes have not recorded much success in the past. The National Directorate of. Employment (NOE) was established in 1989 to reduce unemployment, yet not much has been achieved ever since. That the current Sure-P and YOU WIN empowerment Programmes which are aimed at job creation and assisting Nigerian youths to finance and commence business seem to be the exclusive preserve of a privileged few as several Nigerian youths remain unemployed and unable to find a profitable vocation. Even the Federal Government of Nigeria under the Obasanjo Administration established the Vocational Enterprise Institution (VEI) and the Vocational Innovation Enterprise Institution (VIEI) to provide vocational, professional and technical education to Nigerian youths to meet the demands of the various sectors of the Nigerian economy. This has since been abandoned. Our economic growth as a Nation must transcend into job and employment creation, Government at all levels must create programmes that will stamp out unemployment. Agriculture must be encouraged, Small and Medium Scale Companies must also be encouraged. Our Policy makers must desist from developing policies that are good on paper but have no effect on the life of the common man;

Resolves:

(*i*) to condemn unequivocally the handling of the recruitment exercise of the Nigerian Immigration Service of March 15, 2014 and commiserate with the families of Applicants who lost their lives and also empathise with those who suffered injuries as a result of the exercise;

(*ii*) that the Comptroller General of the Immigration Service and the Minister of Interior must appear before this House to explain the unwieldy recruitment exercise of March 15, 2014;

(*iii*) that the Federal Government of Nigeria should work in conjunction with the State and Local Governments and Public spirited individuals and organisations' including religious organisations, to evolve a job creation scheme that 'will best address the unemployment situation in Nigeria;

(*iv*) that forthwith, all mass recruitment exercises into Federal Government Agencies must be done via the internet and in more conducive environment than that of last Saturday (*Hon. Steve Sunday Karimi — Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

(*a*) In Prayer (*ii*), *leave out* all the words and *insert* the following instead thereof:
"Mandate the Committees on Interior, Justice, and Human Rights to conduct an investigative public hearing on the unwieldy recruitment exercise of Saturday, 15 March, 2014 and report back to the House within a month" (*Hon. Kamil Akinlabi Mudashiru — Afijio/Atiba East/Oyo West Federal Constituency*).

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

(*b*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*v*) as follows:
"Observe a minute silence to honour the vibrant young men and women who died looking for means of livelihood" (*Hon. Kamil Akinlabi Mudashiru — Afijio/Atiba East/Oyo West Federal Constituency*).

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

(*c*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*vi*) as follows:
"Government should identify the relatives of the deceased and offer them automatic employment" (*Hon. Jerry Alagboso — Orlu/ORSU/Oru East Federal Constituency*).

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

(*d*) In Prayer (*ii*) as amended, *leave out* the words "Human Rights"and *insert* the words "Public Service Matters, and Labour, Employment and Productivity" instead thereof (*Hon. Abubakar Momoh — Etsako East/Etsako West/ Etsako Central Federal Constituency*).

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

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on Saturday, 15 March, 2014, over one Million Nigerian Youths trooped into all the Nation's State Capital and other major Cities to participate in the 2014 Nigerian Immigration Service Recruitment Exercise, for which the Service had on September 2013 advertised positions into it and had obtained ₦1,000 as Application fee from each of the Applicants;

Further noted that in Lagos alone, about 70,000 Youths showed up at the Stadium for the test. In Ibadan, the Liberty Stadium played host to about 20,000 Nigerian Youths. In Abuja, the 60,000 Capacity National Stadium was overcrowded with 70,000 Youths. In Ilorin, 25,000 Candidates showed up like a sea of head at the Ilorin Stadium. In Benin, at the Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium, 26,000 Nigerian Youths trooped in all in a bid to write the Aptitude Test. The Sani Abacha Stadium in Kano played host to 15,800 Youths, In Benue State 17,800 Youths took part in the exercise and in Port Harcourt about 23,000 candidates enrolled for the recruitment exercise. Despite the crises and insecurity in the North East, Gombe and Borno State played host to about 5000 Applicants each, while in Sokoto State 10,000 Applicants participated in the recruitment exercise. This was the same trend in other State Capitals on the said date. Despite the fact that the Applicants were requested to come to the test centres in their sport outfit, No physical test was conducted and only about 20 percent of the Candidates were able to participate in recruitment process as a result of its poor organisation;

Sadly noted that this resulted in chaos and stampede in all the Centres and several persons were reported dead and many more critically injured. At least about 21 deaths were reported. In Benin, three (3) pregnant women lost their lives, in Abuja, 8 candidates, including 2 men

and six (6) women died at the venue. In Port, Harcourt, Five (5) Corpses including that of a pregnant women were recovered at the scene. In Calabar, Ogun, Lagos and at many other centres, candidates were flogged and abused by security personnel all in a bid to secure a white collar job. Many slept at the venues, a night preceding the recruitment exercise. An unrecorded number of Nigerians had lost their lives in motor accidents on their way to the Test Centres;

Queried the fact that considering the high response to the advertisement and the fact that the Nigerian Immigration Service had realised approximately One Billion Naira (₦1,000,000,000.00) from the sales of recruitment forms-why could the Service not properly organise a recruitment test or programme? Why did the Service not conduct an internet based recruitment tests? Why could the Aptitude Test not have been conducted in conducive educational centres in batches all over the nation? Why was it so poorly co-ordinated that it resulted in the death of innocent and helpless Nigerians?

Aware that Nigerian Parents had struggled to educate their wards at a very high cost and at high inconveniences in the belief that education is a lifelong investment that will guarantee the liberation and empowerment of their offspring. Unfortunately, this heavy investment appears to be a waste and a source of sorrow, as there is no hope in sight that Nigerian Youth can ever get a profitable job or be empowered to face life on their own. This helplessness was heightened on Saturday as many died and crops of them are critically injured;

Worried that the rate of unemployment in Nigeria is at a perpetual all time high. Bloomberg estimates Nigeria's unemployment at 40 percent and its Youth Unemployment at 72 percent. Nigeria colligates with economically weak nations such as Spain, Greece and Zimbabwe in its employment indices. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) states that 54 percent of Nigerian Youths are unemployed and puts Nigeria's total unemployment at 23.9 percent. However, the last Saturday's Nigerian Immigration Service recruitment exercise shows that Nigeria is nowhere near a 70 percent employment, rate and therefore, National Bureau of Statistics Figures cannot be said to be reliable.

Concerned that most Federal Government Youth Empowerment and Employment creation programmes have not recorded much success in the past. The National Directorate of. Employment (NOE) was established in 1989 to reduce unemployment, yet not much has been achieved ever since. That the current Sure-P and YOU WIN empowerment Programmes which are aimed at job creation and assisting Nigerian youths to finance and commence business seem to be the exclusive preserve of a privileged few as several Nigerian youths remain unemployed and unable to find a profitable vocation. Even the Federal Government of Nigeria under the Obasanjo Administration established the Vocational Enterprise Institution (VEI) and the Vocational Innovation Enterprise Institution (VIEI) to provide vocational, professional and technical education to Nigerian youths to meet the demands of the various sectors of the Nigerian economy. This has since been abandoned. Our economic growth as a Nation must transcend into job and employment creation, Government at all levels must create programmes that will stamp out unemployment. Agriculture must be encouraged, Small and Medium Scale Companies must also be encouraged. Our Policy makers must desist from developing policies that are good on paper but have no effect on the life of the common man;

Resolved:

(*i*) to condemn unequivocally the handling of the recruitment exercise of the Nigerian Immigration Service of March 15, 2014 and commiserate with the families of Applicants who lost their lives and also empathise with those who suffered injuries as a result of the exercise;

(*ii*) mandate the Committees on Interior, Justice, Public Service Matters, and Labour, Employment and Productivity to conduct an investigative public hearing on the unwieldy recruitment exercise of Saturday, 15 March, 2014 and report back to the House within a month;

(*iii*) that the Federal Government of Nigeria should work in conjunction with the State and Local Governments and Public spirited individuals and organisations' including religious organisations, to evolve a job creation scheme that 'will best address the unemployment situation in Nigeria;

(*iv*) that forthwith, all mass recruitment exercises into Federal Government Agencies must be done via the internet and in more conducive environment than that of last Saturday;

(*v*) observe a minute silence to honour the vibrant young men and women who died looking for means of livelihood;

(*vi*) Government should identify the relatives of the deceased and offer them automatic employment (**HR. 30/2014**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(*ii*) Citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Gideon Lukas G. (*Kaura Federal Constituency*) informed the House of the incessant attacks on Moro'a villages in Kaura Federal Constituency of Kaduna State. He particularly noted that the attacks of Saturday, 1 February, and Friday, 14 and Saturday, 15 March, 2014 which resulted in the death of several persons and destruction of property. He expressed regrets at Government's inability to prevent frequent attacks on the affected communities and thus urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance and to suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) so that the matter could be debated 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.*

Incessant Attacks on Moro'a Villages in Kaura Federal Constituency:

The House:

Notes the provisions of Section 14 (2) (*b*) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 as amended, which States Inter-alia:

The Security and welfare of the people shall be the primary Purpose of government;

Further notes that since 2011 various Communities in Kaura Federal Constituency have been targets of attacks by armed gunmen causing deaths, injuries and destructions;

Worried that just recently a family of 7 people were murdered in their house on the 1st February, 2014 with houses and property destroyed with assorted grains of food stolen. Again on the night of Friday, 14 March, 2014 to the early hours of Saturday, 15 March, 2014 a massacre took place in Bondon village of Moro'a leaving behind 123 people dead including children, women, men, aged, physically challenged people dead and many injured with over 240 buildings destroyed and assorted grains of food with other valuable items stolen;

Disturbed that in spite of the drawn attention of Government and Security Agencies these carnage has continued without intervention, therefore;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Observe a minute silence for the repose of the Souls of the deceased victims of the attacks;

(*ii*) urge the Security agents to intensify efforts to apprehend the insurgents so as to bring them to justice;

(*iii*) mandate the Committee on National Security and Public Safety to investigate the matters and report to the House in two weeks (*Hon. Gideon L. Gwani — Kaura Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Motion referred to Committee on Public Safety and National Security (**HR. 31/2014**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(*iii*) Citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Ganiyu Olukolu (*Amuwo Odofin Federal Constituency*) informed the House of a boat mishap on Tuesday, 11 March, 2014 in FESTAC town (Amuwo Odofin Federal Constituency) of Lagos State where 13 people reportedly died. He noted that the mishap occurred after a rainstorm which caused poor visibility for an overloaded boat. He regretted that children returning home from schools were among the passengers of the ill-fated boat. He thus urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance and to suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) so that the matter could be debated 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.*

FESTAC Town Boat Mishap in Amuwo Odofin Federal Constituency of Lagos State:

The House:

Notes the unfortunate Boat Mishap on Tuesday, 11 March, 2014 in FESTAC Town, Amuwo Odofin Federal Constituency of Lagos State where 13 people died;

Disturbed that the boat mishap was caused by a rainstorm, and that boat accidents in the area are frequently caused by overloading and poor weather conditions;

Further disturbed that among the 21 passengers on the boat were children returning from school and other people coming back from their places of work;

Acknowledges the efforts of the Lagos State Emergency Rescue Agency as 13 dead bodies were recovered, while 8 people were rescued alive;

Cognizant of the need for a bridge across the Canal at 4th Avenue and 13th Road on 6th Avenue;

Recalls that in 2004, the Federal Housing Authority (FHA) estimated the cost of the bridge across the Canal at 240 Million Naira;

Worried by the deplorable condition of roads, sewage facilities and the general level of infrastructural decay as a result of negligence to implement the FESTAC Town Master Plan;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development and the FHA to construct a bridge linking 42 Road in 4th Avenue and 13th Road of 6th Avenue;

(*ii*) further urge the Federal Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development and the Federal Housing Authority (FHA) to commence the full implementation of the FESTAC Town Master Plan to ensure planned and adequate provision of basic infrastructural development;

(*iii*) commiserate with the families of the deceased and other victims of the incident;

(*iv*) observe a minute silence and prayers in honour of the dead and victims of the boat mishap (*Hon. Ganiyu Olukolu — Amuwo Odofin Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted the unfortunate Boat Mishap on Tuesday, 11 March, 2014 in FESTAC Town, Amuwo Odofin Federal Constituency of Lagos State where 13 people died;

Disturbed that the boat mishap was caused by a rainstorm, and that boat accidents in the area are frequently caused by overloading and poor weather conditions;

Further disturbed that among the 21 passengers on the boat were children returning from school and other people coming back from their places of work;

Acknowledged the efforts of the Lagos State Emergency Rescue Agency as 13 dead bodies were recovered, while 8 people were rescued alive;

Cognizant of the need for a bridge across the Canal at 4th Avenue and 13th Road on 6th Avenue;

Recalled that in 2004, the Federal Housing Authority (FHA) estimated the cost of the bridge across the Canal at 240 Million Naira;

Worried by the deplorable condition of roads, sewage facilities and the general level of infrastructural decay as a result of negligence to implement the FESTAC Town Master Plan;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development and the FHA to construct a bridge linking 42 Road in 4th Avenue and 13th Road of 6th Avenue;

(*ii*) further urge the Federal Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development and the Federal Housing Authority (FHA) to commence the full implementation of the FESTAC Town Master Plan to ensure planned and adequate provision of basic infrastructural development;

(*iii*) commiserate with the families of the deceased and other victims of the incident;

(*iv*) observe a minute silence and prayers in honour of the dead and victims of the boat mishap (**HR. 32/2014**).

6. Presentation of Bills:
The following Bills were presented and read the *First Time*:

(*i*) Nigerian Institute of Chartered Foresters Bill, 2013 (HB. 576).

(*ii*) Government Performance and Results Bill, 2013 (HB. 611).

(*iii*) Chartered Institute of Export of Nigeria Bill, 2013 (HB. 614).

(*iv*) Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2013 (HB. 617).

(*v*) Security and Intelligence (Compulsory inclusion in Secondary Schools Syllabuses) Bill, 2013 (HB. 618).

(*vi*) Traffic Warden Service Bill, 2013 (HB. 619).

(*vii*) Oil Pipeline Act (Amendment) Bill, 2013 (HB. 628).

(*viii*) Ports Related Offences, etc. Act (Amendment) Bill, 2013 (HB. 629).

7. Presentation of Report:
***Committees on Public Service Matters, Labour, Employment and Productivity and Anti-Corruption, National Ethics and Values*:**
Motion made and Question proposed,"That this House do receive the Report of the Committees on Public Service Matters, Labour, Employment and Productivity and Anti-Corruption, National Ethics and Values on the Racketeering in Recruitments into the Public Service of the Federation (**HR. 175/2011**)".

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid.

8. Receipt of Conference Committee Report on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Centre for Automotive Design and Development Act, 1992, the National Automotive Council Act, 1993 and Provide for the Establishment of the National Automotive Design and Development Council and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 408):
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the National Automotive Design and Development Council Bill, 2012, was passed by the House on Thursday, 27 June, 2013 and transmitted to the Senate for concurrence;

The Senate passed the National Automotive Design and Development Council Bill, with some differences;

The two Chambers met in Conference on Wednesday, 4 December, 2013 and adopted a harmonised version of the Report;

A clean copy of the Conference Report is ready for presentation and adoption;

And in view of the importance of this Bill to the development of the Automotive Industry in the country;