HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

ORDER PAPER

Wednesday, 5 August, 2015

1. Prayers
2. Approval of the Votes and Proceedings
3. Oaths
4. Message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*if any*)
5. Message from the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*if any*)
6. Other Announcements (*if any*)
7. Petitions (*if any*)
8. Matter(s) of Urgent Public Importance (*Not more than two: Order VIII, Rule* 46 (4) *of the Standing Orders*)
9. Personal Explanation

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

1. Need to Investigate the Evasion of Tax by Stallion Group under the New National Rice Development Policy:
Hon. Abdullahi Umar Faruk (*Motion not open for debate*: *Order VIII, Rule* 51 (5) *of the Standing Orders*):

The House:

Notes a report in the Daily Trust Newspaper of June 2, 2015 that the Stallion Group has been making efforts since late 2014 to evade payment of ₦17 billion import duty imposed on them by the Nigerian Customs Service (NSC) for exceeding their 2014 rice import quota under the dual tariff system;

Aware that a new quota for rice millers under the National Rice Development Policy was approved by former President Goodluck Jonathan on 28 May, 2015, his last day in office ostensibly to facilitate the evasion of payment of tax by Stallion Group;

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Also aware that the new quota which was approved by former President Jonathan based on the recommendation of the Inter-Ministerial Committee which reviewed the policy to facilitate the evasion of such import duty, was conveyed to the Nigerian Customs Service on 28 May, 2015 by the former Minister of State for Finance, Ambassador Bashir Yuguda;

Further aware that the meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee held on May 14, 2015, which renewed the National Rice Policy was chaired by former Vice President Namadi Sambo and was attended by top government functionaries, including three former Ministers of Finance, National Planning, Industry and Trade and Investments;

Cognizant that the same Inter-Ministerial Committee adopted a new "National Rice Supply Gap" of 782,000 metric tonnes and allocated quotas to 16 existing millers, including Mascot Agro which was hurriedly registered as a subsidiary of Stallion Group since the popular food of the main company was blacklisted by the Nigerian Customs Service for non-payment of excess duty;

Disturbed that when the Nigeria Customs Service shut down the warehouses of Stallion Group over non-payment of such duty, the Presidency ordered the Customs Authority to reopen them pending the resolution of the matter;

Worried about the fact that Stallion Group evaded payment of ₦15 billion duty arising from its having imported 475,000 metric tonnes of rice over and above its 2014 quota of 89,939 metric tonnes of rice through Mascot Agro which was not a recognized rice miller without any quota allocation in 2014;

Also worried that while three other companies, Kereksuk Farms, Atafi Rice Industries and Arewa Rice Mill paid their duties to the NCS, the Stallion Group still refused to pay and is even determined to use the additional quotas granted to Mascot Agro to further evade payment of new custom duty;

Regrets that if this matter is not thoroughly investigated in furtherance of the current government's anti-corruption stance, a wrong precedent would have been set which could encourage similar acts in the future by other private corporate entities;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Customs and Excise (when constituted) to investigate the matter, and make appropriate recommendations to the House within two weeks.

2. Need to Investigate the Pollution of Ohaji/Egbema and Oguta Local Government Areas of Imo State by an Explosion at Ebocha-Egbema which is the operational base of Nigerian Agip Oil Company:
Hon. Goodluck Nanah Opiah (*Motion not open for debate*: *Order VIII, Rule* 51 (5) *of the Standing Orders*):

The House:

Aware that Nigeria Agip Oil Company, an oil exploration company, has been operating in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State and Ohaji/Egbema and Oguta Local Government Area of Imo State for over fifty (50) years;

Concerned that virtually all oil companies operating in the Niger Delta area use substandard and outdated equipment that are unsafe and pollute the environment and they also have little regard for the safety of lives and properties of the people of the host Communities;

Notes a fire explosion between 29 - 30 June, 2015 at the operational base of the Nigeria Agip Oil Company at Ebocha-Egbema which caused major pollution and damage to lives and properties, food crops and aquatic lives worth millions of Naira;

Cognizant that the series of oil spillages and fire explosions at exploration sites are avoidable and the recent one at Ebocha-Egbema led to a stoppage of exploration of crude oil, and consequent loss of over 20,000 barrels of crude oil per day;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the remote and immediate causes of the incident, damages caused to the host Community and determine the state and age of the operational equipment used by Nigeria Agip Oil Company and other Oil Producing Companies in the Niger Delta, and report back to the House within four (4) weeks.

(*ii*) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials and assistance to the affected communities.

3. **Urgent Need to Curb the Unwholesome Practices of Chinese, Indian and Lebanese Companies in Nigeria:**
Hon. Segun Adekola Alexander (*Motion not open for debate*: *Order VIII, Rule* 51 (5) *of the Standing Orders*):

The House:

Notes with concern, a report in the *Punch Newspaper* of Wednesday, 1 July, 2015, titled "Wempco's faulty machine smashes workers head during production";

Also notes that incidents of this nature are rampant with foreign companies operating in Nigeria, some of which have little regard for the safety of their workers, many of whom had lost their lives or got maimed in the work place due to gross negligence of the companies;

Concerned that some of the foreign companies act with impunity by subjecting their workers to dehumanizing working conditions and a near absence of safety measures in flagrant disobedience of Nigeria's Labour Laws;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Condemn the unwholesome practices of some of these foreign companies;

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity (when constituted) to investigate the incident at Wempo and other unwholesome practices of Foreign Companies operating in Nigeria with a view to bringing an end to the unhealthy trends, and report back to the House within one (1) month for further Legislative inputs.

4. **Need to Investigate the Withdrawal of ₦1.17 Billion by the Federal Ministry of Finance from the Account of Sokoto Rima River Basin Development Authority:**
Hon. Musa Sarkin Adar (*Motion not open for debate*: *Order VIII, Rule* 51 (5) *of the Standing Orders*):

The House:

Notes that on March 11, 2015 the Federal Ministry of Finance caused the account of the Sokoto Rima River Basin Development Authority to be credited with the sum of ₦1.17 Billion for execution of capital projects in 2014 budget, however, the Ministry, without any cogent reason, instructed the Bank to keep the money on hold;

Also notes that on April 11, 2015 the Ministry, inexplicably made the Bank to return the money to it, an action that rendered the Authority incapable of discharging its contractual obligations and also stoppage of execution of projects;

Concerned that the Ministry has failed/refused to respond to a formal complaint made to it by the Authority over the matter, a situation that has led to tense atmosphere within the Authority;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Agriculture, and Water Resources (when constituted) to investigate the circumstances of the conditional release, and subsequent retrieval of the fund and report back to the House within one (1) month for further legislative inputs.

5. Attacks by Boko Haram Insurgents on Zabarmari, Bale, Dusman and Muna Towns in Jere Federal Constituency of Borno State:

Hon. Ayuba Mohammed Bello:

The House:

Notes the series of attacks by Boko Haram insurgents on Friday, July 3, 2015 on Zabarmari, Bale, Dusman and Muna Communities which claimed over ninety (90) lives, injured many men, women and children and led to the destruction of properties worth millions of Naira;

Recalls that similar attacks took place in the last one month across eight (8) Local Government Areas in Borno State which claimed about five hundred (500) lives;

Concerned that the attacks on the said communities which are not more than twenty (20) kilometers from the capital city of Maiduguri, led to the insurgents burning down two hundred and fifty (250) shops and stalls stocked with grains, utensils and other consumables; and also the setting ablaze of some houses, all of which have adversely affected both the economic and commercial fortunes of the Communities in particular and the entire Federal constituency in general;

Worried about the untoward effects of those attacks on the communities which are the food baskets of Maiduguri metropolis due to their engagement in fishing, rice cultivation, farming and irrigation activities;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the General Officer Commanding the 7th Division of the Nigerian Army, Maiduguri to deploy more troops to Dusman and Zabarmari towns and connect with other security agencies to intensify intelligence gathering with the aim of dislodging the terrorists from the camps and preventing further attacks on the communities;

(*ii*) also urge the executive arm of government to provide support to the affected persons and families in order to enable them recover economically,

(*iii*) further urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the affected communities.

COMMITTEE MEETING

	Committee	*Date*	*Time*	*Venue*
1.	*Ad-hoc* Committee on Hon. Members' Welfare	Wednesday, 5 August, 2015	2.00 p.m.	Committee Room 144 New Building (House) Assembly Complex