HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

ORDER PAPER

Tuesday, 11 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
9. Personal Explanation

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

***Ad-hoc* Committee on Review of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives:**
Hon. Emmanuel Yisa Orker-Jev:
"That the House do receive the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on Review of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives" (*Referred*: 23/7/2015).

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

1. **Deplorable State of the Kabba-Obajana Road:**
Hon. T. J Yusuf:

The House:

Notes that the Kabba-Obajana road, which is one of the Major Highways linking the Federal Capital Territory to Kogi, Kwara, Ekiti and other States in the South West Zone, has been in very deplorable condition for many years now;

Concerned that the deplorable nature of the road had led to the collapse of the Odabudabu Bridge at

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Okebukun, greatly slowing down vehicular movement and cutting off communities along the road, thereby grounding commercial activities;

Observes that the condition of the road delays motorists unnecessarily, leaving other commuters with the only option of taking the Lokoja-Okene axis, which is also dilapidating due to increased traffic;

Also concerned that the state of the road has given armed bandits opportunities to attack travelers and communities along the road; and has also made the transportation of products and other human and material resources to and from the Obajana Cement Factory cumbersome;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government to expedite action on the reconstruction of the Kabba-Obajana Road;

(*ii*) also urge the Federal Ministry of Works and/or the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency to urgently undertake immediate reconstruction of the Odabudabu Bridge at Okebukun;

(*iii*) further urge the Federal Government to beef up security along the Obajana-Kabba road to protect the lives and properties of travelers and the communities.

2. **Urgent Need to Eliminate the Traffic Gridlock on the Apapa Port Road:**
Hon. Ayodeji Adebayo Joseph:

The House:

Notes that Apapa Port in Lagos State is a commercial hub for economic activities between Nigeria and the rest of the world;

Also notes that the proximity of the Port to Mile 2, Ijora and its environs has heightened economic and commercial activities in those areas, leading to traffic gridlock;

Concerned about the deplorable nature of the road leading to the Port, which, combined with the recklessness of drivers of articulated vehicles who park them carelessly along the road, thereby worsening the already chaotic traffic situation in the area, results into loss of productive time by people who are stuck in the gridlock;

Also concerned about Oil marketers flouting the criteria for which they were granted licences by siting their Oil Tank Farms within the locality rather than outside the metropolis and not providing adequate parking spaces for articulated vehicles within the Ports;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Constitute an *Ad-hoc* Committee to determine why the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) has failed to ensure that the condition for the grant of licenses which included locating tank farms outside the metropolis was kept;

(*ii*) urge the Federal Ministry of Works to rehabilitate the road and ultimately, construct a dedicated bridge for cars and buses only; and restrict trucks and trailers to a dedicated lane to reduce the traffic congestion;

(*iii*) also urge the Federal Ministry of Transport to make the construction of cargo rails an immediate priority in order to drastically reduce the use of trailers in the haulage of goods.

3. **Urgent Need for Recruitment of more Police Personnel, Improvement of Police Welfare and Bridging of the Wide Gap in Policing in the Country:**
Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta:

The House:

Aware of the role of the Nigeria Police Force as the principal law enforcement agency in Nigeria as stipulated in the Police Act;

Also aware that the United Nations Organization's ratio for effective policing is 222 Policemen per 100,000 citizens as against Nigeria's Police Population figure of 370,000 Policemen for a population figure of about 170 Million people, according to the former Minister of Police Affairs, Navy Capt. Caleb Olubolade (*rtd*);

Recalls the plea by the Inspector-General of Police, Mr Solomon Arase on the Police Service Commission, when he visited the Commission on May 11, 2015, to recruit more personnel as the force is understaffed;

Notes the lamentation of the Inspector-General of Police that about 20 - 30 Policemen die on a monthly basis and there is no provision in place to replace them;

Concerned about the statistics showing that South Africa has a Police/citizen ratio of 317 per population, Gambia has 280, Algeria has 413 while Nigeria, which is more populous than the three African countries put together, has a ratio of 205 Policemen for a population of 170 million;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Call on the Police Service Commission to accede to the call for the recruitment of more Police Personnel as a way of bridging the current low number of police officers/men in order to enhance police operations in the country;

(*ii*) urge the Commission and other relevant Institutions to enhance the capacity of Policemen by ensuring the provision of adequate welfare packages to sustain their committed resolve towards policing the nation.

4. **Urgent Need to Support and Encourage Mr President's Anti-Corruption Agenda:**
Hon. P. O. Akpatason:

The House:

Notes that corruption has remained undisputed bane of economic development in the country, but is heartened that President Muhammadu Buhari has demonstrated a strong will to frontally confront it in all its forms, through a policy of zero tolerance and non-discrimination;

Alarmed by the scary figures being presented in the media of funds that were misappropriated and also that States had to rely on bail out funds to pay arrears of salaries of workers;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Commend Mr President's strong resolve and give him the needed support to carry on with the non-discriminatory and all-embracing war against graft in all it ramifications;

(*ii*) salute the International Community for its demonstrated willingness to support Nigeria's renewed anti-corruption campaign and urge them not to renege on promises to assist in recovering stolen funds, wherever they are kept.

5. **Need to Address the Non take off of the Hydro Power Producing Areas Development Commission (HYPADEC) five Years after the Act Establishing it was Passed into Law:**
Hon. Mohammed A. Mahmud:

The House:

Notes that the Act establishing the Hydro Power Producing Areas Development Commission (HYPADEC) was passed by both Houses of the 7th Assembly on 26 May and 3 June, 2010 respectively;

Also notes that the Act was assented to by former President Goodluck Jonathan on 10 August, 2010;

Aware that both Houses of the 7th Assembly made some landmark amendments to section 3 (1) (*b*) of the Act to include Benue State as one of the benefitting States and amended section 14 (2) (*a*) to reduce the funds allocated to the benefitting States from 30 percent to 10 percent;

Worried that five years after the passage of the Act, the Commission is yet to take off, a situation that has exposed the Communities within the area of operation of Hydroelectric Dams in Nigeria to serious ecological challenges;

Recalls that the sum of ₦352,570,000 was appropriated in 2011 budget for the take of the Commission while nothing was appropriated in 2012 and 2013 budgets, however the Commission got an appropriation of ₦247,500,000 in 2014 and ₦10,000,106.00 in 2015 budgets, respectively;

Disturbed that despite those allocations being made, the Commission has not taken off and this has brought enormous hardship on the people of the areas;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Power (when constituted) to investigate the reasons for the delay in the take-off of the Commission and the utilization or otherwise of the ₦610,176,000 appropriations so far made for it from 2011 to 2015, and report back to the House within three weeks for further legislative action

6. **Urgent Need for the National Council on Privatization to Revitalize the Aluminum Smelter Company of Nigeria (ALSCON) by Directing the Bureau of Public Enterprises to Implement the Supreme Court Judgment and Order of July 6, 2012:**
Hon. Francis Charles Uduyok:

The House:

Notes that the Aluminum Smelter Company of Nigeria, which was established in 1997, is one of the largest Aluminum companies in Africa with great economic potentials for Nigeria;

Recalls that the company was privatized by the Bureau of Public Enterprises but it has not been running for quite a while due to lingering litigation;

Informed that the litigation ended on July 6, 2012 when the Supreme Court delivered judgment in the case in favour of BFIG, ordering the Bureau of Public Enterprises, which is the Secretariat of the National Council on Privatization, to prepare the company for handing over to BFIG, the rightful owners;

Concerned that the Bureau of Public Enterprises has refused to comply with the valid and subsisting judgement of the Supreme Court without any reason, as a result of which the company is now lying moribund with weeds overgrowing its premises;

Also concerned that the refusal to hand over the company to BFIG to commence production has led to losses of millions of naira in revenue to the country and of jobs, thereby leaving many Nigerians, particularly the people of Ikot Abasi in Akwa Ibom State to wallow in economic hardship;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Privatization and Commercialization (when constituted) to investigate the reasons behind the non-implementation of the Supreme Court order which has stalled the revitalization and re-opening of ALSCON, and report back to the House within two weeks.

7. Need to Investigate and Ascertain the State of Nigeria's Economy:
Hon. Bede Eke:

The House:

Notes the different conflicting pronouncements by past and present officials of government on the state of Nigeria's economy and the negative impression and confusion the matter is creating both within and outside Nigeria;

Concerned about various screaming reports in the media asserting various positions on the running of the affairs of the country and its economic state, including allegations that the country is broke; that it is the biggest economy in Africa; that President Muhammadu Buhari approved ₦804.7 bn life line for State Governments, failure of some agencies to remit earnings, etc.;

Cognizant that the conflicting reports and the consequent confusion and uncertainty they have created about the true state of the nation's economy are detrimental to the nation's quest to attract investors to the country;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Finance (when constituted) to invite the Federal Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank of Nigeria, the National Planning Commission and any other relevant Agency to brief it with a view to ascertaining the true state of Nigeria's economy, and report back to the House within three (3) weeks.

8. Urgent Need to Investigate the Accounting Procedures of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS):
Hon. Abubakar Amuda-Kannike G.:

The House:

Aware that section 15 (*a*) of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (Establishment) Act enables the Service to establish and maintain a fund which shall consist of and into which shall be credited, *inter alia*, a percentage, as determined by the National Assembly, of all non-oil and gas revenue collected by the Service which may be appropriated by the National Assembly for the capital and recurrent expenditures of the service;

Also aware that section 22 (1) of the Act mandates the Executive Chairman of the Service to keep proper accounting records as determined by the Board in respect of all revenues and expenditures of the Service, all assets, liabilities and other financial transactions as well as all other revenues collected by the Service, including income on investments;

Notes that in the year 2014, out of ₦4.69tn generated by the Service, non-oil taxes were given as ₦2.24tn, 4% which amounted to ₦89.6bn was presumably retained as operational costs by the Service for that year;

Also notes that the Service has generated ₦1.842tn in revenue from January to June, 2015;

Concerned that the reported amount of ₦4.69tn non-oil revenue from generated in 2014 might have been a significant contribution to the sources of funding the national budget which stood at ₦4.669tn;

Also concerned that given the fact that the country has been experiencing dwindling revenue earnings from the sales of crude oil due to the weakening global demand and fall in oil prices, a product which the country depends, there is a need to ensure transparency, accountability and due diligence in the management of the country's revenue to rekindle hope in Nigeria's Creditors about her fiscal capacity to address her macro-economic concerns;

Feels that there might be irregularities in the accounting procedure and calculations of the 4% of the non-oil taxes the Service is empowered to retain as operational costs;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Finance (when constituted) to investigate the accounting procedures of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) with a view to ensuring adherence to constitutional and statutory provisions.