FOURTH REPUBLIC
8TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST SESSION
NO. 14



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
# FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

## FIRST VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 13 August, 2015

**1.** The House met at 11.17 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, 12 August, 2015.

*By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.*

**3.** **Admittance into the Chamber:**
*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That this House do admit into the Chamber, the former Speaker of the House of Representatives (2003 - 2007), Hon. Aminu Masari, pursuant to Order XIX, Rule 217 (*iv*)" (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa -- Buruku Federal Constituency*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

**4.** **Oaths of Allegiance and Membership:**
A Member-elect, Sani Aliyu (*Katsina Federal Constituency*) took and subscribed the Oaths as prescribed by law.

**5.** **Announcements:**

(*i*) ***Obituary*:**
By leave of the House, Hon. Albert Abiodun Adeogun (*Ife Federal Constituency*) announced the demise of His Imperial Majesty, Arole Oodua, Oba Okunade Sijuwade, CFR, D.LL, LLD, D.UT., Olubuse II, Ooni of Ife, Ile Ife, Osun State, on Friday, 28 July, 2015.

(*ii*) Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Dumnamene Robinson Dekor (*Khana/Gokana Federal Constituency*) announcing the passage of a former Member, Hon. Nesfield Barine Nwiko (*Khana/Gokana/Tai/Eleme/Okrika Federal Constituency* — 1983) on Sunday, 19 July, 2015.

*A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.*

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**6. Petitions:**

The following petitions were presented and laid by:

(*i*) Hon. Toby Okechukwu (*Aninri/Awgu/Oji-River Federal Constituency*) on behalf of Mr Augustine Martins Okolie, praying the House to prevail on the National Pension Commission (PENCOM) to refund the money erroneously deducted from his salary;

(*ii*) Hon. Golu Timothy Simon (*Pankshin/Kanke/Kanam Federal Constituency*) from Mr Moses Ebi and 78 others working with Sure-P as staff of the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA), praying the House to intervene in their disengagement from service, with a view to re-instating them;

(*iii*) Hon. Jones Onyereri (*Nkwerre/Isu/Nwangele/Njaba Federal Constituency*) from Dickson D. L. Osuala & Co. on behalf of Mr Nnamdi Sixtus Nsoromotu, praying the House to intervene in the dismissal of his client by Mainstreet Bank Plc, at the instance of Stanbic IBTC Bank Plc and Central Bank of Nigeria, with a view to re-instating him and paying his entitlements;

(*iv*) Hon. Akinlaja Joseph (*Ondo East Federal Constituency*) on behalf of George Temidara Akinfolarin, praying the House to intervene in his dismissal from service by the Nigerian Port Authority, with a view to re-instating him;

(*v*) Hon. Ayo Omidiran (*Ayedaade/Irewole/Isokan Federal Constituency*) from Mulikat Folasade Oyeladun, praying the House to intervene in her disengagement from service by the National Transmission Company of Nigeria (NTCN), with a view to re-instating her;

(*vi*) Hon. Obinna Chidoka (*Idemilli North/Idemilli South Federal Constituency*) from Chinedu Obi & Associates on behalf of Mr Tony Onuora over an alleged miscarriage of justice, abuse of office, conspiracy, stealing and fraudulent conversion of his container by the Management of Nigeria Port Authority (NPA) and 4 others, praying the House to redress the injustice;

(*vii*) Hon. Henry Ofongo (*Southern Ijaw Federal Constituency*) from Owanemi Theophilus, praying the House to investigate the alleged negligence by the Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC) which resulted in the death of 14 innocent people on a Joint Team Investigation at its Oil Spill Site, with a view to ensuring justice.

*Petitions were referred to the Committee on Public Petitions (when constituted).*

**7. Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order VIII, Rule 46):**

(*i*) ***Urgent Need for the House to intervene in the Strike by Resident Doctors of Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Kano*:**

Hon. Danburan Abubakar Nuhu (*Kano Municipal Federal Constituency*) presented the subject matter and prayed the House to:

(*a*) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and

(*b*) suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) to allow debate on the matter 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 for the House to Intervene on the Strike by Resident Doctors of Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital:**

The House:

*Notes* that the Health Sector is one of the important sectors of the economy and any issue affecting the sector must be addressed with high degree of urgency in order to avert associated unpleasant consequences;

*Also notes* the long strike embarked upon by Resident Doctors of the Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital since June 2015 has paralyzed activities at the hospital, and presently over 1,200 patients are not been attended to including emergency cases;

*Worried* that the doctor's strike is as a result of the non-implementation of agreement between the Hospital Management and Federal Ministries of Health and Labour Employment and Productivity after a previous labour dispute, due to the non-inclusion of the additional funds in the budget; to carter for increase resulting from skipping policy;

*Aware* that the sum of 31.6 Million Naira monthly addition was the amount agreed upon as compensation for doctors for having to skip a grade level as a matter of hospital policy;

*Worried* that unless urgent measures are taken to end the strike, the situation will worsen and that will increase the pain and sufferings of the patients and may lead to eventual death;

*Resolves to*:

(*i*) Call on the Resident Doctors to suspend the strike and dialogue with the Federal Government in order to reach amicable settlement;

(*ii*) urge the Federal Government without further delay to adhere to the terms of the Agreement with the Resident Doctors of Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital (*Hon. Danburum Abubakar Nuhu — Kano Municipal Federal Constituency*).

*Debate*:

*Question put and agreed to*.

The House:

*Noted* that the Health Sector is one of the important sectors of the economy and any issue affecting the sector must be addressed with high degree of urgency in order to avert associated unpleasant consequences;

*Also noted* the long strike embarked upon by Resident Doctors of the Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital since June 2015 has paralyzed activities at the hospital, and presently over 1,200 patients are not been attended to including emergency cases;

*Worried* that the doctor's strike is as a result of the non-implementation of agreement between the Hospital Management and Federal Ministries of Health and Labour Employment and Productivity after a previous labour dispute, due to the non-inclusion of the additional funds in the budget; to carter for increase resulting from skipping policy;

*Aware* that the sum of 31.6 Million Naira monthly addition was the amount agreed upon as compensation for doctors for having to skip a grade level as a matter of hospital policy;

*Worried* that unless urgent measures are taken to end the strike, the situation will worsen and that will increase the pain and sufferings of the patients and may lead to eventual death;

*Resolved to*:

(*i*) Call on the Resident Doctors to suspend the strike and dialogue with the Federal Government in order to reach amicable settlement;

(*ii*) urge the Federal Government without further delay to adhere to the terms of the Agreement with the Resident Doctors of Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital (**HR. 55/2015**).

(*ii*) ***Urgent Need for the Executive Arm of Government to Constitute the Board of the National Council of Public Procurement (NCPP):***

Hon. James Abiodun Faleke (*Ikeja Federal Constituency*) presented the subject matter and prayed the House to:

(*a*) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and

(*b*) suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) to allow debate on the matter 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 for the Executive Arm of Government to Constitute the Board of the National Council of Public Procurement:**

The House:

*Notes* that section 1 of the Public Procurement Act, 2007, Cap. P44 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria makes provision for the establishment of the Board of the National Council of Public Procurement;

*Also notes* that under the Act the National Council on Public Procurement among other things is to consider and approve policies on Public Procurement, approve the appointment of the Directors of the Bureau, receive and consider for approval an audited accounts of the Bureau of Public Procurement and approve changes in the procurement process to adapt the improvement in modem technology;

*Further notes* that the Bureau of Public Procurement, is among other things to formulate the general policies and guidelines relating to public sector procurement for the approval of the Council, subject to thresholds as may be set by the Council, certify federal procurement prior to the award of contract, supervise the implementation of established policies, monitor the prices of tendered items and keep a national database of standard prices and periodically review the socio-economic effect of the policies on procurement and advice the council accordingly;

*Aware* that this all important body was not constituted by the previous administration which made the former Federal Executive Council perform the functions and responsibilities of the Board of National Council on Public Procurement;

*Also aware* that the new Federal Executive Council will soon be constituted after the approval of the Senate;

*Further aware* that this government may soon embark on massive construction of the country's infrastructure by awarding various Contracts:

*Resolves to*:

Urge the President to appoint and constitute the Board of the National Council on Public Procurement as provided for in the Public Procurement Act, so that Council when constituted will greatly assist this government that has a change agenda and an obedient to the process (*Hon. James A. Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

*Debate*:

*Question put and agreed to*.

The House:

*Noted* that section 1 of the Public Procurement Act, 2007, Cap. P44 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria makes provision for the establishment of the Board of the National Council of Public Procurement;

*Also noted* that under the Act the National Council on Public Procurement among other things is to consider and approve policies on Public Procurement, approve the appointment of the Directors of the Bureau, receive and consider for approval an audited accounts of the Bureau of Public Procurement and approve changes in the procurement process to adapt the improvement in modem technology;

*Further noted* that the Bureau of Public Procurement, is among other things to formulate the general policies and guidelines relating to public sector procurement for the approval of the Council, subject to thresholds as may be set by the Council, certify federal procurement prior to the award of contract, supervise the implementation of established policies, monitor the prices of tendered items and keep a national database of standard prices and periodically review the socio-economic effect of the policies on procurement and advice the council accordingly;

*Aware* that this all important body was not constituted by the previous administration which made the former Federal Executive Council perform the functions and responsibilities of the Board of National Council on Public Procurement;

*Also aware* that the new Federal Executive Council will soon be constituted after the approval of the Senate;

*Further aware* that this government may soon embark on massive construction of the country's infrastructure by awarding various Contracts;

*Resolved to*:

Urge the President to appoint and constitute the Board of the National Council on Public Procurement as provided for in the Public Procurement Act, so that Council when constituted will greatly assist this government that has a change agenda and an obedient to the process (**HR. 56/2015**).

***Motion made and Question proposed*, "That the House do suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (4) to enable it take more than two Matters of Urgent Public Importance" (*Hon. Prestige Ossy — Aba North/Aba South Federal Constituency*).**

*Question put and agreed to*.

(*iii*) ***The Deplorable State of Federal Roads and the Insecurity in Aba, Abia States and the need to Rehabilitate them in order to Preserve Lives and Properties of Indigenes and Sustain the Status of the City as the Commercial Hub of the South East and Nigeria*:** Hon. Prestige Ossy (*Aba North/Aba South Federal Constituency*) presented the subject matter and prayed the House to:

(*a*) onsider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and

(*b*) suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) to allow debate on the matter 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 Deplorable State of Federal Roads and the Insecurity in Aba, Abia State and the Need to Rehabilitate Them in Order to Preserve Lives and Properties of Indigenes and Sustain the Status of the City as the Commercial Hub of the South East and Nigeria:**

The House:

*Notes* that the ancient city of Aba founded in 1902 is the commercial nerve centre of Abia State, Southeast of the nation and also an economic city that attracts investors and traders from Africa and all over the world;

*Also notes* that since after the civil war and subsequently, after the creation of Abia State in 1991, there has been no infra structural development or upgrade of Aba and its environs;

*Aware* that infrastructure in Aba are in a state of total collapse, disrepair and acute squalor; as more than 70 roads/street of Aba built mainly by colonial masters are no longer motorable and have become death trap to commuters;

*Also aware* that all Federal Roads in Aba Federal Constituency of Abia State namely Abayi-Aba-Ohabiam/Port Harcourt Road, Aba-Ikot Ekpene/Akwa Ibom Road and Aba -Azumiri/Akwa Ibom Roads are in deplorable states and totally dilapidated; i.e. Aba -Ikot Epene which ordinary takes 15minutes drive now takes 2 and half hours;

*Concerned* that as a result of deplorable state of the Roads markets like Ariaria International Market, New Markets, Textile Market, (Eke Oha Market), Electronic Market at Ohabiam, Machinery/Motor Spare Parts Market at Port Harcourt Road, Asa Nnetu Markets and the Cemetery Market have been virtually cut from their costumers due to the deplorable nature of the roads;

*Also concerned* that these Federal Roads establish a co-terminus between Aba in Abia State, Ikot Ekpene, Obot Akara in Akwa Ibom State, Calabar in Cross River State have totally collapsed due absolute abandonment for the past 20 years;

*Further concerned* that Armed Robbers, Kidnappers and other Criminal element are now using most section of the abandoned roads as safe haven for keeping their captives;

*Worried* that the kidnappers are now on the rampage, going from one house to the other kidnapping and killing people on daily basis;

*Also worried* that if no urgent security step is taken to protect the lives and the properties of the citizens of Aba, we may likely witness the mass exodus of the inhabitants like in 2011 where over 200,000 (two Hundred Thousand) people left Aba which also led to the closure of so many Companies including Bank of Industries, Lever Brothers Nig. Ltd, etc. due security concerns;

*Further worried* that out of the three major entry and exit points into Aba, i.e. Aba - Ikot Ekpene Road, Akwa Ibom Axis, Port Harcourt Road and the Osisioma Axis that connect the city centre to the other regions, only the Osisioma axis is barely motorable as the road is also in a terrible shape;

*Equally worried* that the heavy influx of vehicles through only one entry point which include articulated trucks into the city centre via the Osisioma axis causes heavy gridlock daily on the road, subjecting commuters to untold hardships as they waste productive hours on the road for a journey which ought to take minutes;

*Perturbed* that the terrible state of the road create a heavy burden on the residents, motorist, as the entire city is also flooded at the slightest drop of rain fall leading to environmental hazards and the loss of properties worth millions of Naira; especially Ndiegoro and Ngwa Road, Port Harcourt Road, Cemetery Road, and its environs;

*Also perturbed* at the rate of accidents which occur almost on daily basis on these neglected, dilapidated and abandoned roads with its attendant deaths, injuries suffered by road users;

*Aware* that if these Roads are rehabilitated and reconstructed it will improve the social-economic welfare of the people of Aba and Abians and all the neighbouring states of Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Rivers, Enugu and Imo States. It will also destroy the kidnappers' safe haven as law enforcement agents will have access to every part of the city;

*Also aware* that the effect of a good road network and other infrastructural rehabilitation in a commercial and industrial city like Aba will surely attract both local and foreign investors to the benefit of Nigerian economy in general;

*Resolves to*:

(*i*) Urge the Federal ministry of works to as a matter of urgency include in 2016 Budget, Appropriations that will aim at the reconstruction and the total rehabilitation of the entry roads in Aba;

(*ii*) call on the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to, in the interim; urgently take palliative measures towards the rehabilitations of the roads so as to alleviate agony of the people;

(*iii*) mandate the Committees on Works, and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (when constituted) to liaise with the relevant Authorities with a view to ensure compliance and report back to the House within two weeks;

(*iv*) also urge Mr President to restore full Military Patrol and their presence in Aba just like was done in 2011, to checkmate the menace of notorious kidnappers in Aba;

(*vi*) further urge the Inspector General of Police to deploy Anti-Terrorist Squad to police all niches and cranes of the cities and its environs;

(*vi*) equally urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to declare Ndiegoro, Obohia, Ohanku, Ngwa Road and Port Harcourt Areas as a disaster area and take urgent steps to compensate those whose flood devastated their homes (*Hon. Prestige Ossy C. E. Ossy -- Aba North/South Federal Constituency*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Motion referred to the Committees on Works, and Federal Road Maintenance Agency (when constituted) for further legislative action* **(HR. 57/2015).**

**8. Privilege (Order VI, Rule 21):**

**(i)** Hon. Patrick Asadu (*Nsukka/Igboeze South Federal Constituency*) noted that his privilege and that of the House have been breached by the reason of non-implementation of the capital projects in the Appropriation Act, 2015 and the violation of some provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility Act by the Federal Ministry of Finance. He therefore sought the leave of the House to move a motion on the subject matter forthwith.

*Mr Speaker noted that the matter of privilege raised by Hon. Patrick Asadu was of national concern and therefore called on him to move the motion as requested.*

**Non-Implementation of Capital Projects as Contained in the 2015 Appropriation Act; FGN Budget and Serial Breach of the Fiscal Responsibility Act by the Federal Ministry of Finance and Threats to my Effective Representation of my Constituents:**

The House:

*Notes* that the 1999 Constitution, sections 80 - 83 clearly stipulates how monies belonging to the Federal Republic of Nigeria can be kept and spent and clearly vests in the National Assembly the powers to appropriate moneys for expenditure by government;

*Also notes* that both Houses of the National Assembly, duly passed the 2015 Appropriation Act in line with its functions under the relevant sections of the 1999 Constitution and same was signed into law as required, and as such is binding on the Federal Government for implementation;

*Further notes* that by Sections 81 and 82 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), the Federal Government expenditures must be either as direct charges on the constitution, as contained in the Appropriation Act or Supplementary Appropriation act where applicable or as may be specifically prescribed by the National Assembly, while Section 30 (1) of the Fiscal Responsibility Act clearly mandates the Hon. Minister of Finance, through the Budget Office, to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the annual budget, and assess the attainment of fiscal targets and to report thereon on quarterly basis to the Joint Finance Committee of the National Assembly and to also publish same in the mass and electronic media not later than thirty days after the end of each quarter of the financial year;

*Cognizant* that there has not been any constitutional amendment adjusting the financial year by the National Assembly nor has any publication been made by the Ministry of Finance in any mass and electronic media bn the implementation of the budget and attainment of fiscal targets;

*Also cognizant* that the 2015 Appropriate Act, though tagged 'A TRANSITION BUDGET' has the full force of, law and should not be treated with levity irrespective of any change in government, especially when Government has not proposed or presented any supplementary budget to show any discomfort with the 2015 budget as passed;

*Aware* that by the provisions of Section 1 of the Financial Year Act and Section 318 of the 1999 Constitution, the financial year is a period of twelve months beginning on the first day of January in any year or such other date as the National Assembly may prescribe;

*Also aware* that it is the duty of parliament to ensure that expenditures of Government are strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Appropriation Act and the extant laws;

*Concerned* that the despite the public outcry over the non-implementation of previous national budgets by previous Governments, the present Government seems to abandon the implementation of the 2015 capital projects, almost up to mid way into the 3rd quarter of the 2015 financial year, as at now, hence the urgency to tackle this worrisome development;

*Also concerned* that the Constituency projects that are meant to ensure even and equitable development of all sections of the country and which total estimates amounts to less than 0.1% of the total 2015 annual budget is also not being implemented;

*Worried* that with the rising exchange rate of the Naira and with the over 11,000 reported abandoned projects across Nigeria, further delays or non-implementation of the 2015 budget exposes the nation to higher eventual expenditures on the same projects due to time value of money;

*Also worried* that the failure of Government to release funds for capital projects despite the ₦556,995,465,449 allocated for capital expenditure while spending on the huge recurrent expenditure of almost 4 trillion Naira, makes our 2015 budget implementation very wasteful and inefficient, depriving the country of highly needed basic facilities and subjecting our constituents to untold hardship in both infrastructural and economic empowerment and has stunted the nation's economic growth;

*Resolves to*:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate, during the vacation, the extent of implementation of the 2015 capital projects as enacted into law in the 2015 Appropriation Act, and the performance of the Federal Ministry of Finance in carrying out its mandates as contained in the 2015 Appropriation Act and under Section 30 (1) and (2) of the Fiscal Responsibility Act and report back to the House on resumption which is about the last quarter of the 2015 financial year (*Hon. Patrick O. Asadu — Nsukka/Igboeze South Federal Constituency*).

*Debate*:

**Amendment Proposed:**
*Leave out* all the words in the Prayer and *insert* as follows instead thereof:
"Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to look into the non-implementation of capital projects in the Appropriation Act, 2015" instead thereof (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha – Isiukwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

*Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the 1999 Constitution, sections 80 - 83 clearly stipulates how monies belonging to the Federal Republic of Nigeria can be kept and spent and clearly vests in the National Assembly the powers to appropriate moneys for expenditure by government;

*Also noted* that both Houses of the National Assembly, duly passed the 2015 Appropriation Act in line with its functions under the relevant sections of the 1999 Constitution and same was signed into law as required, and as such is binding on the Federal Government for implementation;

*Further noted* that by Sections 81 and 82 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), the Federal Government expenditures must be either as direct charges on the constitution, as contained in the Appropriation Act or Supplementary Appropriation act where applicable or as may be specifically prescribed by the National Assembly, while Section 30 (1) of the Fiscal Responsibility Act clearly mandates the Hon. Minister of Finance, through the Budget Office, to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the annual budget, and assess the attainment of fiscal targets and to report thereon on quarterly basis to the Joint Finance Committee of the National Assembly and to also publish same in the mass and electronic media not later than thirty days after the end of each quarter of the financial year;

*Cognizant* that there has not been any constitutional amendment adjusting the financial year by the National Assembly nor has any publication been made by the Ministry of Finance in any mass and electronic media bn the implementation of the budget and attainment of fiscal targets;

*Also cognizant* that the 2015 Appropriate Act, though tagged 'A TRANSITION BUDGET' has the full force of, law and should not be treated with levity irrespective of any change in government, especially when Government has not proposed or presented any supplementary budget to show any discomfort with the 2015 budget as passed;

*Aware* that by the provisions of Section 1 of the Financial Year Act and Section 318 of the 1999 Constitution, the financial year is a period of twelve months beginning on the first day of January in any year or such other date as the National Assembly may prescribe;

*Also aware* that it is the duty of parliament to ensure that expenditures of Government are strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Appropriation Act and the extant laws;

*Concerned* that the despite the public outcry over the non-implementation of previous national budgets by previous Governments, the present Government seems to abandon the implementation of the 2015 capital projects, almost up to mid way into the 3rd quarter of the 2015 financial year, as at now, hence the urgency to tackle this worrisome development;

*Also concerned* that the Constituency projects that are meant to ensure even and equitable development of all sections of the country and which total estimates amounts to less than 0.1% of the total 2015 annual budget is also not being implemented;

*Worried* that with the rising exchange rate of the Naira and with the over 11,000 reported abandoned projects across Nigeria, further delays or non-implementation of the 2015 budget exposes the nation to higher eventual expenditures on the same projects due to time value of money;

*Also worried* that the failure of Government to release funds for capital projects despite the ₦556,995,465,449 allocated for capital expenditure while spending on the huge recurrent expenditure of almost 4 trillion Naira, makes our 2015 budget implementation very wasteful and inefficient, depriving the country of highly needed basic facilities and subjecting our constituents to untold hardship in both infrastructural and economic empowerment and has stunted the nation's economic growth;

*Resolved to*:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to look into the Non-Implementation of Capital Projects in the Appropriation Act, 2015 instead thereof (**HR. 58/2015**).

(*ii*) Hon. Emmanuel Ekon (*Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency*) recalled the House Resolution of Tuesday, 11, August, 2015 (**HR. 35/2015**) by which the Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria was invited to brief the House on Thursday, 13 August, 2015 on the new CBN's policy on foreign exchange transactions. He noted that the House is scheduled to proceed on vacation while the CBN Governor is yet to appear before it. He therefore viewed this as a breach of his privilege and that of the House.

*Mr Speaker informed the House that he received a letter from the CBN explaining the inability of the CBN Governor to appear as scheduled before the House due to official assignment outside the country.*

**9. *Ad-hoc* Committee on Non-Implementation of Capital Projects in the Appropriation Act, 2015:**

Mr Speaker announced membership of the *Ad-hoc* Committee as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (1) | Hon. Ahman Aliyu Pategi | — | *Chairman* |
| (2) | Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai | — | *Member* |
| (3) | Hon. Sadik Ibrahim | — | *Member* |
| (4) | Hon. Oluwole Oke | — | *Member* |
| (5) | Hon. Linus Okorie | — | *Member* |
| (6) | Hon. Edward Pwajok Gyang | — | *Member* |
| (7) | Hon. Ahmed Safana | — | *Member* |

**10. Presentation of Bills:**

The following Bills were presented and read the *First Time*:

(*i*) Chartered Institute of Project Management of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 18).

(*ii*) Federal Road Authority (Establishment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 21).

(*iii*) Nigerian Agency for Foreign Assistance Bill, 2015 (HB. 24).

(*iv*) Investment and Security Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB.34).

(*v*) Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation Act (Repeal and Re-Enactment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 44).

(*vi*) Tertiary Education Trust Fund Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 38).

(*vii*) Telecommunications Facilities (Lawful Interception of Information) Bill, 2015 (HB. 35).

(*viii*) Emergency Communications Bill, 2015 (HB. 32).

(*ix*) Environmental Health Officers (Registration, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 29).

(*x*) Federal Capital Territory Area Council (Administrative and Political Structure) Bill, 2015 (HB. 30).

11. **Presentation of Reports:**

(*i*) ***Ad-hoc Committee on Code of Conduct*:**
*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That the House do receive the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on the Code of Conduct for Honourable Members of the House of Representatives" (*Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari — Yabo/Shagari Federal Constituency*).

*Question put and agreed to*.

*Report laid*.

(*ii*) ***Ad-hoc Committee on the US$75 Million World Bank Credit Facility for Edo State*:**
*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That the House do receive the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on the US$75 Million World Bank Credit Facility for Edo State" (*Hon. Babangida Ibrahim — Kafur/Malumfashi Federal Constituency*).

*Question put and agreed to*.

*Report laid*.

12. **Need to Complete the Reconstruction of Kontagora-Rijau-Tungun Magajiya Road:**
*Motion made and Question proposed*:

The House:

*Notes* that the Kontagora-Rijau-Tungan Magajiya road is of great economic and social value to the people of Niger and kebbi States;

*Aware* that a contract was awarded to Enerco (Nig.) Ltd sometime in November 2012 for the reconstruction of the road at the cost of ₦3,698,014,603.34 with a completion period of 48 months;

*Recalls* that soon after the award, the contractor mobilized to site and commenced construction work on the road, but regrettably, only 34.8% completion was recorded before the work was abandoned;

*Concerned* that the abandonment of such a project has become a source of concern to the people and commuters plying the road;

*Informed* that the contractor abandoned the construction work for non-payment of the percentage of work done and duly certified by the Federal Ministry of Work which was estimated at ₦1,416,802,90.47;

*Resolves to*:

(*i*) Mandate the Committee on Works (when constituted) to include, as a matter of priority, the money for the completion of the abandoned Kontagora-Rijau-Tungan Magajiya Road in the 2016 Appropriations proposal;

(*ii*) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to, as an interim measure, rehabilitate the road to make it motorable (*Hon. Shehu Saleh — Magama/Rijau Federal Constituency*).

*Question put and agreed to*.

*Motion referred to the Committee on Works (when constituted), pursuant to Order VIII, Rule* 51 (5) *for further legislative action* (**HR. 59/2015**).

13. **Urgent Need for the Rehabilitation of the Abakaliki/Afikpo Road Linking Ebonyi to Abia, Imo and Cross River States:**
*Motion made and Question proposed*:

The House:

*Notes* that the Abakaliki-Afikpo road links Ebonyi State to the neighbouring States of Abia, Imo and Cross River States;

*Observes* that the road has suffered years of neglect and has remained in very deplorable condition to the great inconvenience, frustration and despair of all users of the road who are forced by social and economic reasons to ply the road on a daily basis;

*Aware* that contract for the reconstruction of the road was awarded to two construction firms - Bulletine Construction Ltd, to handle the Abakaliki - Onueke - Abaomege section of the road at a cost of ₦2,987,774,000 and CCECC Nig. Ltd, to handle the Abaomege - Akpoha - Afikpo section for ₦3.5 billion, with a completion period of 18 months;

*Also notes* that whereas CCECC Nig. Ltd. rose to the occasion and completed its section of the road, Bulletine Nig. Ltd failed to do same, and eventually handed the road over to local contractor called, Uniglobe Nig. Ltd;

*Further notes* that Uniglobe Nig. Ltd, after initial skeletal work, has since abandoned work on the road, thus rendering the road completely impassable, leading to a situation where motorists, sometimes spend about four hours to cover a distance of about two kilometres;

*Concerned* that unless there is intervention, the errant contractor, Uniglobe Nig. Ltd, which has since abandoned work for over two years now, may never return to site to carry on with its contractual obligation of rehabilitation of that section of the road awarded since 2010;

*Resolves to*:

(*i*) Mandate the Committee on Works (when constituted) to interface with the Federal Ministry of Works to ensure that the contractor (Uniglobe Nig. Ltd) returns to site to ensure the completion of rehabilitation works on the Abakaliki - Afikpo road;

(*ii*) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure adherence to the above prayer (*Hon. Igariwey Iduma Enwo — North/Afikpo South Federal Constituency*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Motion referred to the Committees on Works, and Legislative Compliance (when constituted), pursuant to Order VIII, Rule* 51 (5) *for further legislative action* (**HR. 60/2015**).

14. **Need for Exploration of Water Transportation as an Alternative Mode of Movement in Nigeria:**
*Motion made and Question proposed*:

The House:

*Notes* that the importance of the grossly under-tapped water transportation mode in Nigeria cannot be overemphasized as it would provide the means for the movement of people and goods by light, medium and heavy equipment such as boats, ship, sail boats and ferry over the sea, ocean, lake, canal or river;

*Also notes* that several locations in Nigeria are inaccessible by road, despite the preponderance of natural resources and economic activities, hence the need for the introduction of modern ferries to convey people and goods from one point to another to enhance economic productivity and growth in such areas;

*Aware* that in places like Lagos where there is usually heavy hold-up on the roads network, the use of ferries to convey passengers and goods has drastically eased the process and brought reliefs on the affected routes;

*Further notes* that countries like Canada and China have experienced remarkable improvement in inland waterways transportation through deliberate growth policies anchored on public and private financing;

*Concerned* that water transport services in Nigeria have not been fully explored as in the few places where they are available, they are inadequate, inefficient and non-cost effective;

*Cognizant* of the fact that increased use of diesel-powered water transport mode will reduce the pressure on subsidised petrol, and by extension government expenditure on petrol subsidy;

*Desirous* of making the exploration of water transport a means of boosting job creation and reduction of accidents, as well as wear and tear on national roads network;

*Resolves to*:

(*i*) Urge all relevant agencies of government under the Federal Ministry of Transport to undertake a study on the modalities for the optimal exploration of water transportation in Nigeria;

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Marine Transport (when constituted) to come up with measures for the actualization of the above objective: and

(*iii*) call on the Federal Government to urgently complete the dredging of the lower Niger (*Hon. Peter Akpatason Ohiozojeh — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

*Debate*:

**Amendment Proposed:**
*Insert* a new ~~Prayer~~ (*iv*) as fol~~lows~~:
"Urge the relevant government agencies to ensure that water transporters adhere strictly to safety conditions of passengers such as the use of live jackets among other conditions" (*Hon. Namdas Abdulrazak Sa'ad — Mayo Belwa/Gnaye/Jada/Toungo Federal Constituency*).

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

*Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the importance of the grossly under-tapped water transportation mode in Nigeria cannot be overemphasized as it would provide the means for the movement of people and goods by light, medium and heavy equipment such as boats, ship, sail boats and ferry over the sea, ocean, lake, canal or river;

*Also noted* that several locations in Nigeria are inaccessible by road, despite the preponderance of natural resources and economic activities, hence the need for the introduction of modern ferries to convey people and goods from one point to another to enhance economic productivity and growth in such areas;

*Aware* that in places like Lagos where there is usually heavy hold-up on the roads network, the use of ferries to convey passengers and goods has drastically eased the process and brought reliefs on the affected routes;

*Further noted* that countries like Canada and China have experienced remarkable improvement in inland waterways transportation through deliberate growth policies anchored on public and private financing;

*Concerned* that water transport services in Nigeria have not been fully explored as in the few places where they are available, they are inadequate, inefficient and non-cost effective;

*Cognizant* of the fact that increased use of diesel-powered water transport mode will reduce the pressure on subsidised petrol, and by extension government expenditure on petrol subsidy;

*Desirous* of making the exploration of water transport a means of boosting job creation and reduction of accidents, as well as wear and tear on national roads network;

*Resolved to*:

(*i*) Urge all relevant agencies of government under the Federal Ministry of Transport to undertake a study on the modalities for the optimal exploration of water transportation in Nigeria;

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Marine Transport (when constituted) to come up with measures for the actualization of the above objective;

(*iii*) call on the Federal Government to urgently complete the dredging of the lower Niger; and

(*iv*) also urge the relevant government agencies to ensure that water transporters adhere strictly to safety conditions of passengers such as the use of live jackets among other conditions.

*Motion referred to the Committee on Marine Transport* (*when constituted*), *for further legislative action* (**HR. 61/2015**).

15. **Federal Governments Obligation to Immediately Commence the Reintegration and Infrastructural Development of the Niger Delta Area:**
*Motion made and Question proposed*:

The House:

*Aware* that the Amnesty Programme initiated by late President Umaru Musa Yar-Adua for ex-militant commenced on 6 August, 2009, in four stages, namely:

(1) Disarmament,

(2) Rehabilitation,

(3) Reintegration, and

(4) Infrastructural development:

*Notes* that the ex-militants have kept their words as part of the amnesty condition by disarming and further subjecting themselves to rehabilitation, thus leaving the Federal Government to perfect its part in the amnesty programme to embark on a comprehensive reintegration and infrastructural development of the Niger Delta Area, but this promise has so far not been kept;

*Also notes* that some students who were placed on scholarships have since graduated from various schools as pilots, welders, mechanics and in many other technical fields but have not yet obtained job placements;

*Informed* that over Eleven Billion Naira (₦11,000,000,000.00) is available in the coffers of the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs which is linked directly with the Amnesty Programme;

*Resolves to*:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government to direct the affected Ministries, Agencies and Parastatals, particularly the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs and Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to immediately commence the long awaited Reintegration and Infrastructural Development of the Area as guaranteed in the Niger Delta Amnesty Programme;

(*ii*) mandate the Committees on Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), and Niger Delta Ministry (when constituted) to ensure implementation of Prayer (*i*) (*Hon. Sodaguno A. Festus Omoni — Ogbia Federal Constituency and 6 others*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Motion referred to the Committees on Niger Delta Development Commission, and Niger Delta Ministry (when constituted), pursuant to Order VIII, Rule* 51 (5) *for further legislative action* (**HR. 62/2015**).

16. **Need for Rehabilitation of the Ijora-Ajegunle-Apapa Federal Highway:**
*Motion made and Question proposed*:

The House:

*Notes* that the Ijora - Ajegunle - Apapa Highway which covers two Federal Constituencies of Ajeromi - Ifelodun and Apapa, Lagos State is a major supply route to the Tin-Can port, which is strategic to the Nation's economy;

*Worried* that 38 years after the road was constructed, no steps have been taken to maintain it despite its strategic location and importance;

*Disturbed* that if the road is not urgently fixed, it will become impassable, and thus disrupt activities at the Tin-Can Port and other parts of Lagos;

*Resolves to*:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Ministry of works to urgently embark on the reconstruction of the Highway and reactivation of the street lights;

(*ii*) also urge the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to urgently carry out a palliative but comprehensive maintenance works on the Road pending the reconstruction (*Hon. Rita O. Orji — Ajeromi/Ifelodun Federal Constituency*).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Motion referred to the Committee on Federal Road Maintenance Agency (when constituted), pursuant to Order VIII, Rule* 51 (5) *for further legislative action* (**HR. 63/2015**).

**17. Need to Investigate the Ban of Exportation of Some Nigeria's Food Items by the European Union:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*:

The House:

*Notes* the recent ban by the European Union (EU) on some agricultural food exports from Nigeria;

*Also notes* that the reason the European Food Safety Authority gave for the ban was that some of the food items contain high level of unauthorized pesticides, while the others were suspected of lacking proper storage;

*Informed* that the pesticides were usually applied when the products are being prepared for export;

*Aware* that the EU Authorities had previously warned the Nigerian Authorities that the banned items are hazardous and had issued about fifty notifications to relevant Nigerian authorities since 2013;

*Also aware* that the Director-General of the National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) had blamed the exporters of those products of being responsible for the ban due to their non-compliance with regulatory requirements for semi-processed and processed commodities;

*Worried* by the negative impact of the ban on the income of the farmers of those products and the middlemen who trade on them, as well as the foreign exchange that accrues to Nigeria through those exports;

*Disturbed* that this is happening in an era when the Federal Government is working on diversifying the economy from oil-based to agro-based;

*Resolves to*:

Mandate the Committees on Commerce, and Agriculture (when constituted) to liaise with relevant stakeholders to work on resolving the issues and concerns raised by the European Union Food Safety Authority in order to bring an end to the ban *(Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso — Orlu/Orsu/Oru East Federal Constituency)*.

*Debate*:

**Amendments Proposed:**

(*i*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*ii*) as follows:

"Urge the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) and the Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON) to intensify advocacy program on acceptable processes and standards of exportable products as stipulated by destination countries/regions as well as enforce compliance" (*Hon. Abubakar Amuda Kannike — Ilorin East/Ilorin South Federal Constituency*).

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

(*ii*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*iii*) as follows:

"Urge National Agency for Foods and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) to ensure that food products are properly processed to meet regulatory requirements and the standard of European Union Food Safety Authority before export" (*Hon. Agbonayinman Johnson Ehiozwa — Egor/Ikpoba/Okha Federal Constituency*).

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

(*iii*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*iv*) as follows:
"Urge the Nigeria Export Promotion Council and other relevant agencies to step up their activities in the agricultural sector to enable farmers meet all international standards when exporting their products" (*Hon. Yusuf Buba — Gombi/Hong Federal Constituency*).

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

*Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* the recent ban by the European Union (EU) on some agricultural food exports from Nigeria;

*Also noted* that the reason the European Food Safety Authority gave for the ban was that some of the food items contain high level of unauthorized pesticides, while the others were suspected of lacking proper storage;

*Informed* that the pesticides were usually applied when the products are being prepared for export;

*Aware* that the EU Authorities had previously warned the Nigerian Authorities that the banned items are hazardous and had issued about fifty notifications to relevant Nigerian authorities since 2013;

*Also aware* that the Director-General of the National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) had blamed the exporters of those products of being responsible for the ban due to their non-compliance with regulatory requirements for semi-processed and processed commodities;

*Worried* by the negative impact of the ban on the income of the farmers of those products and the middlemen who trade on them, as well as the foreign exchange that accrues to Nigeria through those exports;

*Disturbed* that this is happening in an era when the Federal Government is working on diversifying the economy from oil-based to agro-based;

*Resolved to*:

(*i*) Mandate the Committees on Commerce, and Agriculture (when constituted) to liaise with relevant stakeholders to work on resolving the issues and concerns raised by the European Union Food Safety Authority in order to bring an end to the ban;

(*ii*) urge Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC), and Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON) to intensify advocacy program on acceptable processes and standards of exportable products as stipulated by destination countries/regions as well as enforce compliance;

(*iii*) also urge National Agency for Foods and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) to ensure that food products are properly processed to meet regulatory requirements and the standard of European Union Food Safety Authority before export;

(*iv*) further urge the Nigeria Export Promotion Council and other relevant agencies to step up their activities in the agricultural sector to enable farmers meet all international standards when exporting their products (**HR. 64/2015**).

18. **Need to Investigate the Violation of Sections 41 and 42 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act by all Tiers of Government on Debt and Indebtedness:**
*Motion made and Question proposed*:

The House:

*Notes* that the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007 was enacted to ensure prudent management of the nation's resources, assure long-term macro-economic stability of the national economy and secure greater accountability and transparency in fiscal operations within a medium-term fiscal policy framework;

*Also notes* that Sections 42 (1) (*b*), 42 (3) and 42 (4) of the Act make provisions for management of debt and indebtedness by all tiers of government in country;

*Disturbed* that the rate at which Governments at all levels go about borrowing both internally and externally is so worrisome to the extent that those sections of the Act are being flagrantly violated in terms of:

(*i*) Rate of borrowing,

(*ii*) Purpose of borrowing,

(*iii*) Terms of the borrowing,

(*iv*) The manner of approvals,

(*v*) Setting of overall limits of the consolidated debts and other forms of violations, and

(*vi*) Consideration for the current status of Nigeria's National income;

*Realizes* that most of the States that are owing salaries to their civil servants and are indebted to contractors are those that had borrowed heavily and are now sucked into the vortex of debt repayment and servicing, since they did not envisage the current financial challenges;

*Resolves to*:

Mandate the Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management (when constituted) to undertake a comprehensive investigation of the debt profile of all tiers of government, with a view to establishing their levels of compliance with and the need for invocation of section 41 (3) of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007, and report back to the House within six (6) weeks for further legislative inputs (*Hon. Odebunmi Olusegun Dokun — Ogo-Oluwa/Surulere Federal Constituency*).

*Debate*:

**Amendment Proposed:**
*Insert* a new Prayer (*ii*) as follows:
"Urge the relevant government agencies to ensure that any loan taken should be tied to employment generation especially for the teaming unemployed youths" (*Hon. S. A. Festus Omoni — Ogbia Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.*

*Main Question put and agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007 was enacted to ensure prudent management of the nation's resources, assure long-term macro-economic stability of the national economy and secure greater accountability and transparency in fiscal operations within a medium-term fiscal policy framework;

*Also noted* that Sections 42 (1) (*b*), 42 (3) and 42 (4) of the Act make provisions for management of debt and indebtedness by all tiers of government in country;

*Disturbed* that the rate at which Governments at all levels go about borrowing both internally and externally is so worrisome to the extent that those sections of the Act are being flagrantly violated in terms of:

(*i*) Rate of borrowing,

(*ii*) Purpose of borrowing,

(*iii*) Terms of the borrowing,

(*iv*) The manner of approvals,

(*v*) Setting of overall limits of the consolidated debts and other forms of violations, and

(*vi*) Consideration for the current status of Nigeria's National income;

*Realized* that most of the States that are owing salaries to their civil servants and are indebted to contractors are those that had borrowed heavily and are now sucked into the vortex of debt repayment and servicing, since they did not envisage the current financial challenges;

*Resolved to*:

Mandate the Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management (when constituted) to undertake a comprehensive investigation of the debt profile of all tiers of government, with a view to establishing their levels of compliance with and the need for invocation of section 41 (3) of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007, and report back to the House within six (6) weeks for further legislative inputs (**HR. 65/2015**).

19. **Urgent Need to Investigate instances of Killings, Harassments, Inhuman Treatment and Abuse of Human Rights by Personnel of the Nigerian Army and Men of the Special Task Force in Langtang, Wase, Barkin Ladi and Riyom Local Government Areas of Plateau State:**

*Order read; deferred by leave of the House.*

20. **Need to Determine what Happened to the Sum of $2,198,900 Confiscated by National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) at Murtala Mohammed Airport, Lagos:**

*Order deferred by leave of the House.*

21. **High Rate of Failure in the Bar Examinations:**
*Motion made and Question proposed*:

The House:

*Notes* that report that 898 students (amounting to 32%) out of the 2,851 law graduates who wrote the Bar final examination of the Nigerian Law school in 2015 failed, leaving only 1953 students who passed the examination;

*Recalls* that in 2014, 2,433 students failed the same Bar final examination out of 5,841 who sat for the first phase, and still out of the 1,335 students who sat for the re-sit examination; only 88 of them passed;

*Aware* that the Nigerian Law School was established in 1963 to provide a postgraduate professional training for Law Graduates of Universities, and has over the years produced great and accomplished Lawyers and Judges who have efficiently administered the Nigerian Judicial System as well as other organizations;

*Disturbed* that the current state of facilities in the Law Schools have made learning un-conducive and effective teaching almost impossible as may be seen in the Lagos Law School where students, compelled by a lack of basic accommodation, are living in uncompleted hostel buildings, where rooms meant to accommodate only three (3) students are now being occupied by 6 - 8 students;

*Resolves to*:

(*i*) Express displeasure at the high rate of failure of Students in the Bar Final Examinations induced by the very poor conditions under which the students are being trained;

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Justice (when constituted) to assess the conditions of the Nigerian Law Schools to determine the causes of the high rate of failure at Bar Final Examinations, and report back to the house within four (4 ) weeks (*Hon. Olabode Ayorinde — Owo/Ose Federal Constituency*).

*Debate*:

**Amendments Proposed:**

(*i*) *Leave out* Prayer (*i*) (*Hon. Igariwey Iduma Enwo — Afikpo North/Afikpo South Federal Constituency*).

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

(*ii*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*ii*) as follows:
"Also mandate the Committee on Justice (when constituted) to interface with the Nigerian Law Schools to determine the condition under which the Law Students are studying" (*Hon. Leo Ogor — Isoko North/Isoko South Federal Constituency*).

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

*Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that report that 898 students (amounting to 32%) out of the 2,851 law graduates who wrote the Bar final examination of the Nigerian Law school in 2015 failed, leaving only 1953 students who passed the examination;

*Recalled* that in 2014, 2,433 students failed the same Bar final examination out of 5,841 who sat for the first phase, and still out of the 1,335 students who sat for the re-sit examination; only 88 of them passed;

*Aware* that the Nigerian Law School was established in 1963 to provide a postgraduate professional training for Law Graduates of Universities, and has over the years produced great and accomplished Lawyers and Judges who have efficiently administered the Nigerian Judicial System as well as other organizations;

*Disturbed* that the current state of facilities in the Law Schools have made learning un-conducive and effective teaching almost impossible as may be seen in the Lagos Law School where students, compelled by a lack of basic accommodation, are living in uncompleted hostel buildings, where rooms meant to accommodate only three (3) students are now being occupied by 6 - 8 students;

*Resolved to*:

(*i*) Mandate the Committee on Justice (when constituted) to assess the conditions of the Nigerian Law Schools to determine the causes of the high rate of failure at Bar Final Examinations, and report back to the house within four (4 ) weeks; and

(*ii*) also mandate the Committee on Justice (when constituted) to access the condition of the Nigerian Law Schools to determine the condition under which the Law Students are studying (**HR. 66/2015**).

**22. Need for the House Membership of the United States Congressional Nigerian Caucus as a Congressional Member Organization (CMO), United States of America and the House of Representatives:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*:

The House:

*Notes* that memberships of the United States Congressional Members Organization would be vital to the House in accessing benefits as an Institutional member:

Informed that the Congressional Nigeria Caucus as a Congressional Member Organization (CMO) of the House of Representatives of the of the United States of America for the 113th Congress was initiated in 2014 through the concerted efforts of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, a Democrat of the 18th Congressional District of Texas and former Congressman Steve Stockman, a Republican of the 36th Congressional District of Texas, who were assisted by other Congressmen and women;

*Also informed* that the United States Congressional Nigeria Caucus officially wrote to the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, sometime in 2014 apprising it of the need and benefits derivable from membership of the Congressional Member Organization (CMO) of the 113th Congress of the United States House of Representatives;

*Realises* that since Nigeria is practicing the same presidential system model as the United States, it behoves on the 8th House of Representatives to take up the membership of the Congressional Member Organisation (CMO) accorded to the House in 2014 to better the lots of Nigerian legislature by putting in place a scheme to create a good working relationship and thus begin to enjoy the benefits associated with membership;

*Resolves to*:

(*i*) Formally recognize the United States Congressional Caucus, the Nigerian Coordinating Team and the group "Nigeria Our Heritage Project" (NOHP);

(*ii*) approve the areas identified by the Congressional Caucus;

(*iii*) delegate some Members to pay a visit to the United States Congressional Nigeria Caucus of the United States House of Representatives, Washington DC for interaction (*Hon. Agbonayinman Johnson Ehiozwa — Egor Ikpoba Okha Federal Constituency*).

*Debate*:

*Motion withdrawn by leave of the House.*

**23. Urgent Need to Prevail on the National Identity Management Commission to Defer the September1, 2015 Deadline for Completion of Issuance of National Identity Card Pending the Passage of the Personal Information and Data Protection Bill:**
Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

*Notes* that the National Identity Management Commission has fixed September 1, 2015 as the deadline for the completion of transaction involving the identification of individuals under the National Identification Number (NIN) scheme;

*Aware* that since Nigeria does not have a Personal Data Protection Act to guarantee the privacy and safety of citizens' data, the identity management scheme could be compromised;

*Conscious* of the need to ensure that a legal framework is put in place through the passage of the Personal Information and Data Protection Bill before the Commission implements its directive on conclusion of the Identity card scheme;

*Resolves to*:

Urge the National Identity Management Commission to stay action on the implementation of its directive pending the passage of the Personal Information and Data Protection Bill (*Hon. Chukwuemeka Ujam — Nkanu East/Nkanu West Federal Constituency*).

*Debate*:

*Question put and agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the National Identity Management Commission has fixed September 1, 2015 as the deadline for the completion of transaction involving the identification of individuals under the National Identification Number (NIN) scheme;

*Aware* that since Nigeria does not have a Personal Data Protection Act to guarantee the privacy and safety of citizens' data, the identity management scheme could be compromised;

*Conscious* of the need to ensure that a legal framework is put in place through the passage of the Personal Information and Data Protection Bill before the Commission implements its directive on conclusion of the Identity card scheme;

*Resolved to*:

Urge the National Identity Management Commission to stay action on the implementation of its directive pending the passage of the Personal Information and Data Protection Bill.

*Motion referred to Committee on Population* (*when constituted*) *for further legislative action* (**HR. 66/2015**).

**24. Urgent Need to Curb the Unwholesome Practices of Foreign Companies in Nigeria:**
*Motion made and Question proposed*:

The House:

*Notes* with concern a report in the Punch Newspaper of Wednesday, 1 July, 2015, titled "Wempco Faulty Machine Smashes Worker's Head during Production";

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

*Concerned* that some of the companies act with impunity by subjecting their workers to dehumanizing working conditions and absence of safety equipment in flagrant disobedience to 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 Wempco 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 (*Hon. Segun Adekola Alexander — Ekiti South West/Ikere/Ise/Orun Federal Constituency*).

*Debate*:

*Question put and agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* with concern a report in the Punch Newspaper of Wednesday, 1 July, 2015, titled "Wempco Faulty Machine Smashes Worker's Head during Production";

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

*Concerned* that some of the companies act with impunity by subjecting their workers to dehumanizing working conditions and absence of safety equipment in flagrant disobedience to Nigeria's labour laws;

*Resolved to*:

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

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity (when constituted) to investigate the incident at Wempco 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.

*Motion referred to Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity* (*when constituted*) *for further legislative action* (**HR. 67/2015**).

**25. Non-Payment of Allowances of Midwives for Over One Year under the Midwives Service Scheme of the Federal Ministry of Health and the Lack of Fulfillment of Other Terms of the Scheme:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*:

The House:

*Notes* that the United Nations has identified infant and maternal mortality as endemic in developing countries of the world and the Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 are aimed at reducing mortality rate by two thirds between 1990 and 2015 and reducing maternal mortality ratio by three quarters between 1990 and 2015;

*Also notes* that as a signatory to the Millennium Development Goals agreed to by 189 countries at the UN General Assembly in September 2000, Nigeria is expected to adopt necessary strategies and measures to achieve Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5;

*Further notes* that in a bid to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, Nigeria adopted the Integrated Maternal New-born and Child Health (IMNCH) strategy and introduced the Midwives Service Scheme (MSS) in 2009 to provide improved skilled human resources at the Primary Health Care (PHC) level through the mandatory yearly deployment of midwives after completion of Midwifery School to Primary Health Care facilities in all local government areas, including the FCT, and train them to enhance their performance in providing quality care as well as perform upward review of the number of admissions into Midwifery Schools;

*Aware* that the Midwives Service Scheme is managed by the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) and funded by the Millennium Development Goals Debt Relief Gains (DRG) based on a Memorandum of Understanding between Federal, State and Local Governments where the National Primary Health Care Development Agency provides the midwives with a monthly allowance of ₦40,000.00 (Forty Thousand Naira) only, while the host State and Local Governments provide a supplementary allowance and accommodation with the understanding that the midwives would be retained in the service of related States after two years of participation in the scheme and is renewable after the initial mandatory one year period;

*Concerned* that considering the near-conclusion of the Millennium Development Goals and the pivotal contribution of the Midwives Service Scheme to the recently acclaimed success of Nigeria in meeting Millennium Development Goals, particularly in the area of maternal mortality, over 3,600 participating midwives in the scheme have not received their monthly allowances from the National Primary Health Care Development Agency since September 2014 as majority of the States and Local Governments have failed to meet their financial obligations to the Scheme, and none of the Midwives have been retained by any of the State or Local Government Areas;

*Further concerned* that despite pleas to forestall public protests and promises by the erstwhile Minister of Health through a communique to pay all outstanding allowances owed them by the States and Local Governments by May, 2015, the Midwives are yet to be paid and are, as a result of debts owed, undergoing great suffering;

*Worried* that considering Nigeria's daily losses through child and maternal deaths, the continued lack of payment and fulfillment of other obligations to midwives under the Midwives Service Scheme will put millions of Nigerians at risk and erode the successes Nigeria has recorded in the achievement of Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5, and the non-employment of these Midwives in a more permanent capacity will impact negatively on the sustainability of these achievements in line with current global focus on a progression to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG'S);

*Resolves to*:

(*i*) Mandate the Committees on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and Health (when constituted) to investigate the non-payment of allowances to Midwives and ensure that concrete modalities are mapped out to immediately offset the debts;

(*ii*) urge the States and Local Governments to, without further delay fulfill their obligations as is provided for in the Midwives Service Scheme;

(*iii*) commend the Governor of Benue State, Dr Samuel Ortom for his commencement of the immediate rehabilitation and reaccreditation of Benue State School of Nursing and Midwifery and his efforts to ensure that the State meets all outstanding and extant obligations to Midwives under the Midwives Service Scheme;

(*iv*) also urge other State Governments, especially those with Schools of Nursing and Midwifery, to take a cue from the Benue State government (*Hon. Mark Tereer Gbillah — Gwer East/Gwer West Federal Constituency*).

*Debate*:

**Amendments Proposed:**

(*i*) *Leave out* Prayer (*iii*) (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

(*ii*) *Leave out* Prayers (*ii*) and (*iv*) (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

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

*Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the United Nations has identified infant and maternal mortality as endemic in developing countries of the world and the Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 are aimed at reducing mortality rate by two thirds between 1990 and 2015 and reducing maternal mortality ratio by three quarters between 1990 and 2015;

*Also noted* that as a signatory to the Millennium Development Goals agreed to by 189 countries at the UN General Assembly in September 2000, Nigeria is expected to adopt necessary strategies and measures to achieve Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5;

*Further noted* that in a bid to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, Nigeria adopted the Integrated Maternal New-born and Child Health (IMNCH) strategy and introduced the Midwives Service Scheme (MSS) in 2009 to provide improved skilled human resources at the Primary Health Care (PHC) level through the mandatory yearly deployment of midwives after completion of Midwifery School to Primary Health Care facilities in all local government areas, including the FCT, and train them to enhance their performance in providing quality care as well as perform upward review of the number of admissions into Midwifery Schools;

*Aware* that the Midwives Service Scheme is managed by the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) and funded by the Millennium Development Goals Debt Relief Gains (DRG) based on a Memorandum of Understanding between Federal, State and Local Governments where the National Primary Health Care Development Agency provides the midwives with a monthly allowance of ₦40,000.00 (Forty Thousand Naira) only, while the host State and Local Governments provide a supplementary allowance and accommodation with the understanding that the midwives would be retained in the service of related States after two years of participation in the scheme and is renewable after the initial mandatory one year period;

*Concerned* that considering the near-conclusion of the Millennium Development Goals and the pivotal contribution of the Midwives Service Scheme to the recently acclaimed success of Nigeria in meeting Millennium Development Goals, particularly in the area of maternal mortality, over 3,600 participating midwives in the scheme have not received their monthly allowances from the National Primary Health Care Development Agency since September 2014 as majority of the States and Local Governments have failed to meet their financial obligations to the Scheme, and none of the Midwives have been retained by any of the State or Local Government Areas;

*Further concerned* that despite pleas to forestall public protests and promises by the erstwhile Minister of Health through a communique to pay all outstanding allowances owed them by the States and Local Governments by May, 2015, the Midwives are yet to be paid and are, as a result of debts owed, undergoing great suffering;

*Worried* that considering Nigeria's daily losses through child and maternal deaths, the continued lack of payment and fulfillment of other obligations to midwives under the Midwives Service Scheme will put millions of Nigerians at risk and erode the successes Nigeria has recorded in the achievement of Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5, and the non-employment of these Midwives in a more permanent capacity will impact negatively on the sustainability of these achievements in line with current global focus on a progression to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG'S);

*Resolved to*:

Mandate the Committees on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and Health (when constituted) to investigate the non-payment of allowances to Midwives and ensure that concrete modalities are mapped out to immediately offset the debts.

*Motion referred to Committees on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and Health (when constituted) for further legislative action* (**HR. 682015**).

**26. Need to Appraise and Revamp the National Research Institutes for Better Value and Service Delivery:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*:

The House:

*Notes* that Nigeria has over thirty (30) Research Institutes spread across sectors like Agriculture, Education, Health, Pharmaceuticals, Energy, Space, Science and Technology;

*Also notes* that all over the world, Research Institutes are set up for basic and applied research purposes that contribute significantly to the increase of knowledge and ground-breaking inventions that are vital to national development and prosperity;

*Further notes* that Research Institutes in Nigeria are statutorily established and draw significant resources from the National purse to fund their activities;

*Observes* that it is pertinent to retain these Institutes and continue to fund them appropriately because of their critical contributions to National Development and prosperity;

*Also observes* that over the years, enormous resources in form of appropriations and subventions have continually been allocated to these establishments, in the hope that dividends of new knowledge, inventions, improved processes and products would accrue to the nation;

*Further observes* that in the decades of their existence, and given the huge resources invested and still being invested, Nigeria is yet to enjoy significant or reasonably commensurate "Returns on Investment, value or service delivery";

*Worried* that in the light of the present economic realities, and compelling demand for prudent allocation of resources, Nigeria cannot afford unjustified and unprofitable ventures;

*Resolves to*:

Mandate the Committees on Justice, Health, Education, and Science and Technology (when constituted) to:

(*i*) carry out a comprehensive audit of all the Research Institutes;

(*ii*) review the functions and duties of each Institute;

(*iii*) take inventory of achievements, breakthroughs and results, factored against the backdrop of Economic Development, Inventions, Alternative Economy and Employment Generation;

(*iv*) appraise the Management and implementation challenges, and problems militating against successful execution of mandate and report back to the House within weeks (6) for further legislative actions (*Hon. Awaji-Inombek Dagomie Abiante — Andoni-Opobo/Nkoro Federal Constituency and* 16 *others*).

*Debate*:

**Amendments Proposed:**

(*i*) *Leave out* Prayer (*ii*) (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

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

(*ii*) In the Prayer, line 1, immediately after the word "Technology", *insert* the word "Agriculture" (*Hon. Johnbull Shekarau — Shendam/Mikang/Qua'an/Pan Federal Constituency*).

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

*Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that Nigeria has over thirty (30) Research Institutes spread across sectors like Agriculture, Education, Health, Pharmaceuticals, Energy, Space, Science and Technology;

*Also noted* that all over the world, Research Institutes are set up for basic and applied research purposes that contribute significantly to the increase of knowledge and ground-breaking inventions that are vital to national development and prosperity;

*Further noted* that Research Institutes in Nigeria are statutorily established and draw significant resources from the National purse to fund their activities;

*Observed* that it is pertinent to retain these Institutes and continue to fund them appropriately because of their critical contributions to National Development and prosperity;

*Also observed* that over the years, enormous resources in form of appropriations and subventions have continually been allocated to these establishments, in the hope that dividends of new knowledge, inventions, improved processes and products would accrue to the nation;

*Further observed* that in the decades of their existence, and given the huge resources invested and still being invested, Nigeria is yet to enjoy significant or reasonably commensurate "Returns on Investment, value or service delivery";

*Worried* that in the light of the present economic realities, and compelling demand for prudent allocation of resources, Nigeria cannot afford unjustified and unprofitable ventures;

*Resolved to*:

Mandate the Committees on Justice, Health, Education, Science and Technology, and Agriculture (when constituted) to:

(*i*) carry out a comprehensive audit of all the Research Institutes;

(*ii*) take inventory of achievements, breakthroughs and results, factored against the backdrop of Economic Development, Inventions, Alternative Economy and Employment Generation; and

(*iii*) appraise the Management and implementation challenges, and problems militating against successful execution of mandate and report back to the House within weeks (6) for further legislative actions (**HR. 69/2015**).

27. **Consideration of Report:**
***Ad-hoc Committee on the US$75 Million World Bank Credit Facility for Edo State*:**
*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That the House do consider the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on the US$75 Million World Bank Credit Facility for Edo State and approve the Recommendation therein" (*Hon. Babangida Ibrahim — Kafur/Malumfashi 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*:**
"That the House do approve the request by Mr President for the second tranche of US$75 Million for Edo State" (*Hon. Babangida Ibrahim — Kafur/Malumfashi 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 the Committee of Whole considered the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on the US$75 Million World Bank Credit Facility for Edo State and approved the only Recommendation.

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

28. **Adjournment:**
*That the House do adjourn First Sitting till* 4.30 *p.m.* (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).

*The House adjourned accordingly at* 4.26 *p.m.*

**Yakubu Dogara**
*Speaker*