FOURTH REPUBLIC
8TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST SESSION
NO. 30

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 3 November, 2015

1. The House met at 10.59 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 Thursday, 29 October, 2015.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

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

(*i*) Political Science Students, Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti;

(*ii*) Staff and Students of Florence Ade-Akodu International School, Abuja;

(*iii*) Staff and Pupils of Noble Heights College, Karu District, Abuja.

(*b*) ***Bereavement*:**
Mr Speaker read the following communications from:

(*i*) Hon. Istifanus D. Gyang (*Barkin Ladi/Riyom Federal Constituency*),announcing the death of Senator Gyang Nyam Shom Pwajok (who represented Plateau North Senatorial District, 2012 to 2015) on Wednesday, 28 October, 2015.

(*ii*) Hon. Ahmed Abu (*Lavun/Edati/Kokwa Federal Constituency*), announcing the death of His Royal Highness, Haliru Dantoro, Kitoro III, Emir of Borgu (*a former Senator*), on Friday, 30 October, 2015.

A minute silence observed in honour of the deceased.

4. **Petition**
A petition was presented and laid by Hon. Shehu Musa (*Bauchi Federal Constituency*), from Mr Mouktar M. Adamu, praying the House to prevail on the Accountant-General of the Federation and the Bureau of Public Service Reforms to compute his pension appropriately , and pay his outstanding gratuity since 2007.

PRINTED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESS, ABUJA

Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. Matter of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order VIII, Rule 46)
***Call for Investigation of the Activities of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) with regards to Licensing of Freshly Graduated Medical Practitioners Preparatory to National Youth Service*:**
Hon. Oladele Olatubosun George (*Irepo/Orelope/Olorunsogo 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.*

Call for Investigation of the Activities of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) with Regards to Licensing of Freshly Graduated Medical Practitioners Preparatory to National Youth Service:

The House:

Notes that medical Students undergoing Internship program are usually issued with Provisional Registration by the MEDICAL AND DENTAL COUNCIL OF NIGERIA (MDCN) which license is supposed to be exchanged with a permanent license upon completion of the Internship programme;

Also notes that it is only the Medical and Dented Council of Nigeria that can regulate the practice and issue licenses to Medical and Dental Practitioners in Nigeria by virtue of Medical and Dental Practitioners Act, Cap. M8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004;

Worried that an estimate of about 2,500 Medical Doctors are supposed to be in various NYSC Orientation Camps across Nigeria to commence the one year National Youth Service to motherland but most, if not all of them may miss the Batch 'B' 2015 service year thus denying Nigeria their services at this critical time;

Concerned that this unfolding scenario is caused by the failure of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria to issue Permanent Licences to Medical Doctors who have concluded their internship in place of the provisional ones issued during their internship;

Cognizant that the process of issuing Permanent Licences that ought to take less than one week is now taking months without assurance of getting same despite having made statutory payments unless the applicant is connected;

Also worried that the MDC which has failed in its duty to issue the requisite licenses to the affected doctors has also directed the NYSC not to accept into orientation camps across the country any Medical school graduate who does not have permanent license despite evidence of payment for such license by the affected applicants thus making our young men and women who ought to be in camps travel to either Lagos or Abuja office of the MDCN from wherever they are posted for issuance of the permanent license and exposing them to extortions and risk of accidents without assurance that the licenses will meet the Batch 'B' 2015 NYSC service year;

Aware that other regulatory bodies such as PHARMACEUTICAL COUNCIL directed NYSC to accept their professionals with evidence of completion of payment for permanent licenses and completion of professional training rather than subject them to the risks and rigors of traveling in pursuit of permanent licenses with the attendant ri: k of missing the service year:

Also concerned that if nothing is done urgently in the interim, the nation risks a break in the production chain of medical doctors for one year; a vacuum which will be difficult to bridge while our young professionals in this field risk missing the Batch 'B' 2015 service year with the consequences of sitting at home idling for one year;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Call on the MEDICAL AND DENTAL COUNCIL OF NIGERIA (MDCN) to urgently direct the NYSC to admit into the Batch 'B' 2015 Orientation camps across the Nigeria all Medical Professionals with evidence of completion of internship and payment receipts for permanent license pending the issuance of such licenses by the MDCN;

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Health Care Services to investigate the activities of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria regarding the issuance of licenses to freshly qualified Medical Professionals with a view to making the procedure faster, timely and transparent and report back to the House within 4 weeks; and

(*iii*) also mandate the Committee on Legislative compliance to urgently give effect to the resolutions herein (*Hon. Oladele Bosun George — Irepo/Oorelope/Olorunsogo Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out all the words in Prayer (*i*) and *substitute* as follows:
"Mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, and Youth Development to intervene in the activities of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria, and report back to the House in two weeks" (*Hon. Raphael Nnanna Igbokwe — Ahiazu Mbaise /Ezinihitte Federal Constituency*).

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

Question on the Motion as amended, put and agreed to.

Question put and agreed to.

Motion referred to the Committees on Health Services, Youth Development, and Legislative Compliance (**HR. 167/2015**).

6. Need for Rehabilitation of the Road linking the Otor Bridge which Connects Delta/South Eastern States and the Northern Part of Nigeria
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Otor bridge located at Otor, between Esan South East Local Government Area of Edo State and Aniocha North Local Government Area of Delta State serves as a link between the people of Delta/South Eastern States and the Northern part of Nigeria;

Also notes that the road leading to and after the bridge is of significant economic importance to commuters in the movement of persons and raw materials from one part of the country to another;

Further notes that the Orowa junction, the road before the bridge and the road after the bridge is in a terrible state of disrepair occasioned by flood, long use, constant movement of heavy duty trucks and endless stream of traffic;

Worried that if urgent steps are not taken to repair those bad portions of the road, there would continue to be monumental loss of valuable man hours on the road which will result in dwindling economic fortunes and increase in the spate of robbery currently being witnessed on the road;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to embark upon immediate rehabilitation of the Road; and

(*ii*) call on the Federal Government to include the Orowa junction and the road immediately after the Otor Bridge in the scheme of 2016 budget, for reconstruction (*Hon. Sergius Ose Ogun — Esan North East/Esan South East Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 51 (5) **(HR. 168/2015)**.

7. **Call for the Connection of Ankpa, Omala and Olamaboro Local Government Areas to Geregu Power Supply**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) has declined to connect electricity supply to Ankpa, Omala, and Olamaboro Local Government Areas of Kogi State on the ground that the single line feeder transmission sub-station is inadequate;

Aware that the Federal Government has commissioned electricity projects in the State aimed at improving power supply to various towns, however, Ankpa, Omala and Olamaboro Local Government Areas have been left out and still in darkness;

Concerned that the lack of electricity supply to the areas is making life unbearable for the people and the small and medium scale enterprises and industries that were once thriving have closed down due to non-availability of electric power;

Also concerned that the continued lack of electricity in the areas is causing security challenges as there is an upsurge in criminal activities like robbery, kidnaping and other related crimes due to the perpetual darkness in the nights and able bodied youths idling away;

Realizes that provision of electric supply to the areas will promote economic growth, facilitate employment for the teeming youths, ensure security of lives and properties, and improve the general well-being of the people of the areas;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Power to liaise with the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) to ensure that the Electricity Distribution Company links Ankpa, Omala, and Olamaboro Local Government Areas to the Geregu Power Supply (*Hon. Hassan A. Omale — Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Motion referred to the Committee on Power, pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 51 (5) **(HR. 169/2015)**.

8. Call on the Federal Government to Reconstruct the Federal Roads Network in Ondo State
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes with concern the deplorable conditions of the Federal Roads in Ondo State which have constituted serious impediments to the smooth movement of people and goods to and from the neighbouring States of Ekiti, Kogi, Ogun, Osun, Edo and Lagos;

Recalls that all the Federal Roads linking Ondo State with other neighbouring States have been neglected by previous administrations since the return of democratic rule in 1999, save for Ilesa-Akure road which links Ondo and Osun States that is currently under repairs;

Worried that the conditions of those roads have caused untold economic hardships to motorists plying them;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government, to construct dual carriage ways on the Federal Roads linking Ondo with the neigbouring States with a view to stemming the hardships being faced by commuters; and

(*ii*) call on the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to immediately fix the badly damaged parts of the road in Akure-Ikare-Akoko-Okene corridor at Okekia in Oka Akoko, pending the construction of a dual carriage way (*Hon. Afe Olowookere — Akure North/Akure South Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 51 (5) **(HR. 170/2015)**.

9. Need for a Review of Environmental Standards, Policies, Guidelines and Status Reports of Oil Firms

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

10. Call on the Armed Forces and Other Security Agencies to Pay Entitlements of Service Personnel who died while Fighting the Boko Haram Insurgents
Motiòn made and Question proposed:

The House:

Aware that the fight against the Boko Haram Insurgents started on the 26 of July, 2009 when the sect commenced an armed rebellion against the Nigerian nation;

Also aware that many gallant personnel of the Armed Forces and other security agencies have lost their lives in the fight to protect the territorial sovereignty of the nation;

Observes that it is a standard practice for entitlements to be paid to the next of Kin of any soldier who had died in the line of duty protecting the integrity of the nation, among whom is Sargent Moses Osarenkhoe 04NA/55/1157 who, until his death, was attached to the 55 Signal Command, Arakan Barracks, Apapa, Lagos State but was posted to the Armed Forces Special Force Battalion "OP Zaman Lafiya" Maiduguri;

Informed that many months after the death of these heroes, no payment of entitlements have been made to their families, thereby leaving their spouses and children in desperate situations without any form of livelihood;

Worried that such delay in payment of entitlements of deceased military personnel might dampen the morale and willingness of serving military personnel from serving their fatherland, and being willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice, if the need arises;

Resolves to:

Call on the Federal Government, the Armed Forces, other Law Enforcement Agencies and other relevant authorities to, as a matter of urgency, pay all entitlements/benefits of deceased personnel who died in active duty fighting the Boko Haram insurgents (*Hon. E. J. Agbonayinma — Egor/Ikpoba/Okha Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

(*i*) In the Prayer, line 3, immediately after the word "duty", *leave out* all other words (*Hon. Henry Archibong — Itu/Ibiono Federal Constituency*).

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

(*ii*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*ii*) as follows:
"Erect a Cenotaph engraved with the names of the fallen heroes at the Headquarters of the Nigerian Army Division in Maiduguri in their honour" (*Hon. Kwamotu B. Laori — Numan/Demsa/Lamurde Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

(*iii*) In Prayer (*i*) as amended, line 3, immediately after the word "duty", *insert* the following words "within 3 months" (*Hon. Abubakar Chika — Shiroro/Rafi/Munya Federal Constituency*).

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

(*iv*) In Prayer (*i*) as amended, line 3, immediately after the word "duty", *insert* the following words "and initiate a process of insuring the lives of all security personnel in Nigeria" (*Hon. Jones Onyerere — Nkwerre/Isu/Nwangele/Njaba Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

(*v*) Insert a new Prayer (*ii*) as follows:
"Mandate the Committees on Defence, Army, and Navy to conduct an audit of those who died in active duty and ensure that all other entitlements are paid" (*Hon. Beni Lar — Langtang North/Langtang South Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

(*vi*) Insert a new Prayer (*ii*) as follows:
"Urge the Federal Government to put in place a life insurance for all security agencies to stop depending on the discretion of the Armed Forces or other law Enforcement Agencies" (*Hon. Betty Apiafi — Ahoada East/Abua/Odual Federal Constituency*).

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

(*vii*) In Prayer (*i*) as amended, line 3, immediately after the word "insurgents", *insert* the following words, "and ensure the payment of entitlements to the families of other deceased personnel as and at when due" (*Hon. Ayo Omidiran — Ayedaade/Irewole/Isokan Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

(*viii*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*iii*) as follows:
"Mandate the Committees on Defence, Army, Police Affairs, and Security and Intelligence to investigate the root causes of the systemic failure in the administration of the Nigerian Army and other security Acts in order to overhaul it, make it efficient and bring to book those who perpetuate injustice" (*Hon. Muhammad Sani Abdu — Alkaleri/Kirfi Federal Constituency*)

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

(*ix*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*iv*) as follows:
"Urge the Nigerian Military to establish a Trust Fund for the sole purpose of educating the children of our fallen heroes" (*Hon. Nasiru Sule Garo — Gwarzo/Rabo Federal Constituency*).

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

(*x*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*v*) as follows:
"Urge the Nigerian Military to assess the funds required to settle the entitlements of the affected security personnel and to make appropriate provision in the 2016 Budget for the payments" (*Hon. Adeyinka Ajayi — Ifelodun/Odo-Otin/Boripe Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

(*xi*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*v*) as follows:
"Urge the Federal Government to take over the education of the children of the deceased personnel up to university level" (*Hon. Tarkighir Dickson Dominic — Makurdi/Guma Federal Constituency*).

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

Question on the Motion as amended, put and agreed to.

The House:

Aware that the fight against the Boko Haram Insurgents started on the 26 of July, 2009 when the sect commenced an armed rebellion against the Nigerian nation;

Also aware that many gallant personnel of the Armed Forces and other security agencies have lost their lives in the fight to protect the territorial sovereignty of the nation;

Observed that it is a standard practice for entitlements to be paid to the next of Kin of any soldier who had died in the line of duty protecting the integrity of the nation, among whom is Sergeant Moses Osarenkhoe 04NA/55/1157 who, until his death, was attached to the 55 Signal Command, Arakan Barracks, Apapa, Lagos State but was posted to the Armed Forces Special Force Battalion "OP Zaman Lafiya" Maiduguri;

Informed that many months after the death of these heroes, no payment of entitlements have been made to their families, thereby leaving their spouses and children in desperate situations without any form of livelihood;

Worried that such delay in payment of entitlements of deceased military personnel might dampen the morale and willingness of serving military personnel from serving their fatherland, and being willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice, if the need arises;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Call on the Federal Government, the Armed Forces, other Law Enforcement Agencies and other relevant authorities to, as a matter of urgency, pay all entitlements/benefits of deceased personnel who died in active duty, within 3 months;

(*ii*) urge the Federal Government to put in place a life insurance for all security agencies to stop depending on the discretion of the Armed Forces or other law Enforcement Agencies;

(*iii*) mandate the Joint Committees on Defence, Army, Police Affairs, and Security and Intelligence to investigate the root causes of the systemic failure in the administration of the Nigerian Army and other security Acts in order to overhaul it, make it efficient and bring to book those who perpetuate injustice;

(*iv*) also urge the Nigerian Military to establish a Trust Fund for the sole purpose of educating the children of our fallen heroes; and

(*v*) further urge the Federal Government to take over the education of the children of the deceased personnel up to university level (**HR. 171/2015**).

11. Need for the Nigerian Airline Operators to Adhere to International Standard Practices as Obtained in Most Parts of the World:

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Aware that air transportation is vital to economic activities and development of any country and therefore concerned about poor services of airline operators in Nigeria;

Also aware of the series of challenges being faced by airline passengers and the apparent lack of commitment by Airline operators to address these complaints, particularly the lack of compliance with Part 19 of the Consumer Protection Regulation (Civil Aviation Regulation) 2006;

Further aware of frequent cancellation or delay of flights at times without any information or payment of compensation by the operators for the inconveniences or losses suffered by passengers;

Worried that the poor maintenance of aircrafts and nonchalant attitude of Airline operators are discouraging many travellers from patronizing air transportation, a situation that has further worsened the drive for the much needed foreign investments in Nigeria;

Concerned that the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) has not done enough to ensure that Airline Operators abide by Part 19 of the Consumer Protection Regulations of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Regulations, 2006;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Mandate the Committee on Aviation to investigate the failure of Airline Operators to abide by the Nigerian Civil Aviation Regulation on Protection of consumers; and

(*ii*) urge the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority to design a strategy to educate Airline passengers on their rights and obligations so as to curtail the excesses of the Operators (*Hon. Rita Orji — Ajeromi/Ifelodun Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

(*i*) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (*i*) and substitute as follows:
"Mandate the Committee on Aviation to investigate the activities of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority as regards the level of compliance and adherence to relevant rules and international standard practices by Airline Operators and report back to the House in 2 weeks" (*Hon. Akintola Taiwo — Egbeda/Onaara Federal Constituency*).

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

(*ii*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*iii*) as follows:
"Mandate the Committee on Aviation to investigate the high price of tickets charged by the Foreign Airlines compared to other countries by same Airlines" (*Hon. Ali Isa J. C. — Balanga/Biliri Federal Constituency*).

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

(*iii*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*iv*) as follows:
"Urge the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority to enforce compliance with PART 19 of the Consumer Protection Regulation (Civil Aviation Regulation) 2006 by Airline Operators in Nigeria" (*Hon. Linus Okorie — Ohaozara/Onicha/Ivo Federal Constituency*).

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

Question on the Motion as amended, put and agreed to.

The House:

Aware that air transportation is vital to economic activities and development of any country and therefore concerned about poor services of airline operators in Nigeria;

Also aware of the series of challenges being faced by airline passengers and the apparent lack of commitment by Airline operators to address these complaints, particularly the lack of compliance with Part 19 of the Consumer Protection Regulation (Civil Aviation Regulation) 2006;

Further aware of frequent cancellation or delay of flights at times without any information or payment of compensation by the operators for the inconveniences or losses suffered by passengers;

Worried that the poor maintenance of aircrafts and nonchalant attitude of Airline operators are discouraging many travellers from patronizing air transportation, a situation that has further worsened the drive for the much needed foreign investments in Nigeria;

Concerned that the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) has not done enough to ensure that Airline Operators abide by Part 19 of the Consumer Protection Regulations of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Regulations, 2006;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Mandate the Committee on Aviation to investigate the activities of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority as regards the level of compliance and adherence to relevant rules and international standard practices by Airline Operators and report back to the House in 2 weeks for further legislative actions;

(*ii*) urge the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority to design a strategy to educate Airline passengers on their rights and obligations so as to curtail the excesses of the Operators;

(*iii*) mandate the Committee on Aviation to investigate the high price of tickets charged by the foreign Airlines compared to other countries by same Airlines; and

(*iv*) also urge the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority to enforce compliance with PART 19 of the Consumer Protection Regulation (Civil Aviation Regulation) 2006 by Airline Operators in Nigeria (**HR. 172/2015**).

12. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the National Roads Fund for the Purpose of Financing the Rehabilitation and Maintenance of National Roads and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 49) — *Second Reading*.**

Mr Speaker recalled that on Thursday, 22 October, 2015, the House ordered the Committee on Rules and Business to liaise with Hon. Karimi Sunday and Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai to determine whether a Bill on the same subject matter was pending, having regards to Order XII, Rules 96 and 92, and report back to the House. He therefore invited Hon. Oker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa, Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business to brief the House on their findings.

Hon. Oker-Jev reported that the Committee on Rules and Business examined the Bill vis-a-vis the Bills Progression records of the 7th House of Representatives and confirmed that there was no Bill on the same subject matter sponsored by Hon. Karimi Sunday. He therefore advised that the House should proceed with debate on the general principles of the Bill sponsored by Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai.

Rising on Order VIII, Rule 47 Hon. Karimi Sunday objected to the report of the Committee on Rules and Business. He stated that he was never invited to state his case on the matter following the Order of the House and insisted that Bill No. (HB. 85) of the 7th Assembly sponsored by him was on the same subject matter.

Mr Speaker ruled that Hon. Karimi Sunday should avail the Committee on Rules and Business with the evidence of his averment on the matter to enable the Committee report back to the House as soon as possible.

13. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation Act, Cap. N137, LFN, 2004 and to Re-Enact the Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation Bill, 2015 and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 44) — *Second Reading*.**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

14 .Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 4 November, 2015 at 10.00 a.m. (Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — Chief Whip).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.25 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker