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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

NOTICE PAPER

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NOTICE OF MOTIONS

1. **Urgent Need to Investigate Land Grabbing in Nigeria by Multinational Companies: Hon. Ahmed Abu:**

The House:

Notes that in the last few years successive Federal Governments have been prioritizing attracting foreign investments in the agricultural sector:

Also notes that the massive project with Multinational Companies which was backed by the Federal Government and G8's New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa, was a project meant to enhance food security and livelihoods for small farmers in Nigeria and Africa at large;

Disturbed that farmers in Niger, Taraba and Edo States are being forced off the lands they have farmed for generations to make way for these foreign companies to establish rice plantation;

Concerned that farmers are being forced off the lands they have farmed on for generations to make way for these foreign companies to establish rice and other plantations;

Also concerned that large acres of land containing plots held by thousands of farmers and a publicly funded irrigation system were simply handed over to foreign companies by the local government without adequate consultation with local farmers or payment of compensation either in cash or job offers by these Companies;

Further concerned that Nigeria is now changing its laws on land, seed and fertilizer markets and trade rules that effectively hands control of local food systems over to foreign corporate giants which is also taking place in Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Senegal, Kenya and other African Countries;

Still concerned that the only investments of these foreign companies in Nigeria are just some of those pledged as part of the G8's New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition launched in 2012 and they have failed to provide evidence of their impact on food security, poverty reduction and job creation;

Regrets that these deals between transnationals and governments taking place in many States of the Federation, whose laudable objectives are only being realized on paper, have left small-scale farmers displaced, vulnerable, marginalized and impoverished;

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Aware that allowing local populations to keep control over their land and seeds is a means towards sustainable development and avoids profit being syphoned off by large multinationals corporations:

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge concerned State Governments to insert in the land agreements relevant provisions of the Unfair Contract Terms Act, 1977, to make the purchase contract voidable at the instance of the villagers and or their heirs should those foreign companies fail to fulfil their own part of the contract;

(*ii*) urge the Committee on Agricultural Services to investigate the matter with a view to uncovering the real owners and collaborators of these multinational companies, their financial standings and market reputations, level of commitments to corporate social responsibilities and transfer of technology to Nigerian and report back to the House within four (4) weeks for further legislative action.

2. Call for a New Revenue Allocation Formula (RAF) for the Federation:
Hon. Rotimi Agunsoye:

The House:

Aware that the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) is the body saddled with the responsibility of fixing the Revenue Allocation Formula for the distribution of funds to the three tiers of government;

Also aware that the Revenue Allocation Formula (RAF), which is currently in use for the allocation of funds from the Federation Account to the three tiers of government, was enacted in 1982 and amended in 1992;

Concerned that the said Formula being applied for disbursements predates the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria;

Further aware that Section 6 (1) (*b*) of the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission Act prescribes for a certain committee within the Agency to review the Revenue Allocation Formula from time to time, to reflect current and contemporary realities;

Worried that the effectiveness of the current applicable Formula, which is over thirty years old, would appear doubtable to reflect the realities facing the financial needs of the three tiers of government;

Observes that the provision in the 1992 Act which prescribes for the deduction of various percentages totaling about 7.5%, which fund altogether is referred to as "Special Fund" has been adjudged unconstitutional by the Supreme Court;

Equally aware that Section 162 (2) of the Constitution requires the President, on the recommendation of the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission, to submit a proposal for a new Revenue Allocation Formula to the National Assembly for consideration and passage into law.

Also worried that there have been several proposals for a new Revenue Allocation Formula submitted to the National Assembly by previous governments but they were all subsequently withdrawn without any verifiable reason being proffered;

Concerned that the failure to review the Revenue Allocation Formula, in line with contemporary realities, poses frequent financial threats and hardships in the fiscal relationship between the three tiers of government, creating imbalance and loopholes of uncertainty in the federal structure;

Further worried that the recent realities of the inability of components of the three tiers of government to meet their fiscal responsibilities (the States and Local Governments in particular), reveal the need, more than ever before, to review the Revenue Allocation Formula for fiscal stability;

Determined to entrench probity, good governance and a strict adherence to the rule of law and to play its role as an arm of the Federal Government committed to ensuring an ideal fiscal policy which includes a review of the Revenue Allocation Formula;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission to come up with a review of the current Revenue Allocation Formula to reflect contemporary realities; and

(*ii*) also urge the President to, as a matter of urgency, submit to the National Assembly proposals for a new Revenue Allocation Formula, for further legislative action.

3. **The Need for Independent National Commission (INEC) to Comply with the Mandate of Creating State Constituencies in Accordance with the Provisions of the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999:**
Hon. Francis Charles Uduyok:

The House:

Notes that Section 91of the Constitution of Nigeria states that "subject to the provision of this Constitution, a House of Assembly of State shall consist of three or four times the number of seats which that State has in the House of Representatives divided in a way to reflect as far as possible nearly equal population: provided that a House of Assembly of a State shall consist of not less than twenty-four and not more than forty members;

Also notes Section 112 which state that "Subject to the provisions of sections 91 and 113 of this Constitution, the Independent National Electoral Commission shall divide every State in the Federation into such number of State constituencies as is equal to three or four times the number of Federal constituencies within that State";

Aware that, it is the duty of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to create state constituencies in line with the dictates of the Constitution in Sections112, 113 and 114;

Disturbed that, people in some States may not be well represented going by the requirement of fairness in Sections 91, 112 and 114 of the Constitution as in several States such as, Anambra, Akwa Ibom, Benue, Imo, Jigawa, Kogi, Ogun, Ondo, Rivers and Sokoto, the Constitutional provisions' which makes it mandatory that a State House of Assembly shall consist of three of four times the number of seats which the State has in the House of Representatives is not being complied with;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as a matter of urgency to commence the creation of State Constituencies in the affected States of Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Bayelsa, Sokoto, Jigawa, Kogi, Imo, and Benue, so as to ensure that the number of seats at the States House of Assembly is multiplied by three or four times the number of seats at the National Assembly House of Representatives; and

(*ii*) also urge all other government agencies concerned with ensuring the creation of constituencies to comply with the provision of the Constitution.

4. Call for Introduction of Micro Irrigation (Drip Irrigation) for Farmers in Gombi/Hong Federal Constituency in Adamawa State and in Other Parts of Nigeria.
Hon. Yusuf Buba Yakubu:

The House:

Notes that many people in Gombi/Hong Federal Constituency are subsistent farmers who have limited funds and rely basically on rainfall for their water supply, as a result of which they are unable to cultivate all year round;

Also notes that most of the farmers usually have low agricultural output owing to the fact that they cannot afford the traditional irrigation methods which are expensive;

Aware that the Micro Irrigation (Drip Irrigation) is a low cost drip irrigation system tailored for the needs of poor farmers which can solve the irrigation problems of the residents of the Constituency as it can be as cheap as ₦25,000.00 and can be used on a farm land as small as 1,500 square meters; and a kit drip system costing ₦55,000.00-₦60,000.00 will cover a farm with 1,500 plants of pepper which can yield 180,000 fruits at 12 fruits per stand and has a net sale of ₦360,000.00;

Concerned that despite the availability of this low cost irrigation system, many farmers do not have knowledge about it owing mainly to the failure of the relevant government agencies to create awareness about it, rather emphasis is placed on large dam irrigation system;

Worried that owing to reduced rainfall, many farmers have abandoned their small farms due to unavailability of water to irrigate them but the introduction of micro irrigation system will revive the farms, boost production, thereby solving the double-digit prices of food products, and also prevent growth of weeds and reduce labour in farm work;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government to introduce the micro drip irrigation methods (Drip Irrigation) to small scale farmers in Gombi/Hong Federal Constituency and in other parts of the country;

(*ii*) also urge the Federal Government to create awareness amongst small scale farmers about the Micro Irrigation methods (Drip Irrigation): and

(*iii*) further urge the Agricultural and Commercial Banks to provide loans at single digit interest rates to small scale farmers to enable them purchase the Drip Irrigation Kits.

5. Urgent Need for the Clean Up Of Wreckeges of Military Hardware and Landmines in the North-East:
Hon. Adamu D. U. Kamale:

The House:

Notes that the successes recorded by the Nigerian security operatives in the fight against the Boko Haram Sect in the North-East has led to the recovery of several local governments areas previously under the control of the insurgents before now, especially between March-April, 2015, following which hundreds of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) that were in camps across the zone returned to their various homes;

Aware that the insurgents put up stiff resistance to ward off the retaken of the areas, as a result of which several Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) tanks, trucks, pick-ups etc. were destroyed;

Disturbed that as a strategy of defence, the insurgents planted landmines while retreating, which are still in place and pose dangers to the inhabitants;

Worried that hundreds of wrecked military hardwares belonging to the insurgentslitter the streets of the recovered territories, and added to the landmines planted by the insurgents, the residents are faced with psychological trauma which poses great danger to their lives and the environment;

Concerned that the continued presence of destroyed military hardware and landmines threaten the safety of the inhabitants of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States contrary to Section 14 (2) (*b*) of the 1999 Constitution that guarantees the provision of security and welfare of the people as the primary purpose of government;

Recalls that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janerio, Brazil. 3 to 14 June, 1992 imposed obligation on members of the UN to prevent the generation of hazardous wastes and the rehabilitation of contaminated sites as a consequences of war or adverse effect on the environment;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge Federal Government to, as a matter of urgency, clear all the military hardware wreckages scattered across the recovered territories of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States;

(*ii*) also urge the Nigerian Military High Command to set up a special team to deactivate and remove all landmines in the recovered territories of the North-East; and

(*iii*) further urge the Federal Government through its relevant agencies to assist the victims and families of land mine explosions in the North-east.

6. **Alleged Plan to Remove Fuel Subsidy:**
Hon. Albert Abiodun Adeogun:

The House:

Notes that subsidy was introduce in Nigeria as a palliative measure to ease the sufferings of Nigerians who livelihood are dependent on the use of petroleum products;

Also notes that plans are allegedly on going by the Federal Government to remove petroleum subsidy;

Concerned that removal of subsidy will lead to scarcity of petroleum products, trigger a rise in transportation cost, and generally cause untold hardship to Nigerians who will be at the mercy of petroleum marketers with regards to fuel pump price increase;

Also concerned that subsidy removal will ultimately result in inflation and increase in goods and services, thereby aggravating poverty across the country;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to exercise restraint in removing fuel subsidy in Nigeria;

(*ii*) also urge the Federal Government to introduce less restrictive and stringent conditions for the setting up of refineries in Nigeria so as to stimulate investment in the oil industry.

(*iii*) further urge the Federal Government to fast - track the repairs of all the refineries within Nigeria to enhance local production of petroleum products as this will, on the long run, fizzle out the issue of subsidy or at worse reduce it to the barest minimum; and

(*iv*) mandate the Committees on Petroleum Resources (Upstream), and Petroleum Resources (Downstream) to investigate, amongst other things, the quantum of petroleum products imported into the country, consumption pattern and distribution and exportation and smuggling of fuel to neighboring countries through our borders and make recommendations to the House within four (4) weeks.

7. **Need To Checkmate Illegal Fishing Activities Of Chinese Vessels Off The Coast Of Nigeria In Particular And West Africa In General:**
Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso:

The House:

Notes recent report by Green Peace which highlighted the alarming rate at which Chinese vessels have been fishing off the coast of Nigeria and other West Africa countries in contravention of the Convention on Fishing and Conservation of Living Resources of the High Seas of 1958 (effective 1966);

Aware that the Convention to which Nigeria is a signatory empowers the country to act to protect or conserve living resources of the high seas within its coast to prevent them from over-exploitation;

Worried by further reports by Green Peace which suggest that some of the Chinese vessels have been exceeding the fishing limits authorized under International Conventions by 61%, and concerned about the impact of over-exploitation of these marine resources on the marine ecology of West Africa;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government to use its influence in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to mobilize, the various member States towards checkmating illegal fishing within their maritime boundaries;

(*ii*) also urge the Federal Government to direct the Nigerian Navy and other security agencies to effectively patrol the nation's maritime boundaries to check illegal fishing activities; and

(*iii*) mandate the Committees on Marine Safety, Education and Administration, Environment and Habitat to liaise with all relevant Agencies to ensure compliance with prayers (1) and (2) and report to the House within four (4) weeks;

8. **Urgent Need to Build Dasin Hausa Dam:**
Hon. Igariwey Iduma Enwo:

The House:

Notes that since 1982, the most catastrophic man-made disaster that annually threatens lives and property in nearly half of the States in Nigeria is flooding arising from the release of water from Lagdo dam located in Northern Cameroon;

Also notes that whenever Cameroon opens the flood gates of the dam, low land communities in the following States: Niger, Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Anambra, Taraba, Nasarawa, Kebbi, Sokoto, Adamawa, Kogi, Benue, and riverine parts of Ebonyi State such as Afikpo and Edda, are threatened with flooding and being submerged;

Recalls that when the Cameroonian authorities opened the Dam in 2012, the resultant flooding led to the death of over fifty three (53) people in eleven (11) States of the Federation; the displacement of over one hundred thousand, four hundred and twenty (100,420) others, disruption of lives, paralysis in economic activities and losses of properties estimated at around ₦2.6 trillion;

Also recalls that when Cameroon built the Lagdo dam in 1982, the Government of Nigeria was advised to build a buffer dam downstream which would serve as a shock-absorber to the devastating effects of yearly release of water and a suitable site for the construction of the buffer dam was chosen in Dasin Village in Fufore LGA of Adamawa State;

Aware that the multi-purpose dam was also expected to generate some 300mw of electricity, irrigate about 150,000 hectares of land, and provide employment opportunities for 40,000 families;

Observes that since Cameroonian authorities insist that they would continue to release excess water to avoid the collapse of Lagdo Dam, the construction of the Dasin Hausa Dam therefor remains urgent and an unavoidable venture;

Resolves to:

Urge the Federal Ministries of Water Resources and the Environment to revisit and update the original design and feasibility of Dasin Hausa Dam done in 1982, and take necessary measures to ensure the award of contract for construction of the Dam without further delay to save Nigeria from further avoidable disasters.

9. **Urging Governments at all Levels to provide better Security Arrangements in our Schools: Hon. Yakub-Abiodun Balogun:**

The House:

Recalls the unfortunate incident of the abduction of about two hundred and seventy-six (276) school girls by the Boko Haram insurgents from the Federal Government Girls Secondary School in Chibok, Borno State on the 15April, 2014;

Notes that only about fifty-seven (57) of the girls have, at different times, escaped, thereby leaving two hundred and nineteen (219) of them still in captivity;

Also notes that efforts being made by the Nigerian Military, the Special Military Task Force and other Security Apparati to locate and free the girls from captivity have so far not yielded positive results;

Aware that the abduction of the girls occurred due to lack of adequate or absence of security measures to protect the school children from such dastardly act;

Also aware that following the unfortunate incident, many private schools have taken the issue of security and safety of students and their school environment more seriously than ever before, but no concrete steps appear to have been taken to provide security measures in the public primary and secondary schools to forestall are occurrence of such unfortunate incident;

Resolves to:

Urge the Military High Command and the Joint Special Military Task Force to work with the Federal Ministry of Education and the National Parents Teachers Association of Nigeria to develop and put in place a comprehensive and effective security surveillance and strategy in the public primary and secondary schools at the Federal, States and Local Government levels, especially those operating boarding system.

10. **Non-Compliance by the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), States and Local Government Councils with the Prohibition of the Use of Consultants, Contractors, Task Forces or Non- Revenue Officials in the Assessment And Collection of Taxes and Levies Across the Federation:**
Hon. Ayano Edwin:

The House:

Notes that Section 2 subsection 1 of the Taxes and Levies (Approved List for Collection) Act, 1998 prohibits and criminalizes the use of non-revenue officials popularly referred to as consultants, contractors and task forces in revenue assessment and collection across, the federation;

Aware that the use of consultants, where it is permissible, should not exceed the confines of advising the government on needing the consultancy services on possible legal ways of encouraging tax compliance while the duty of assessing, demanding and collection of taxes and levies are the exclusive preserve of officials of government employed for that purpose;

Amazed that while the Ag. Chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), Mr Babatunde Fowler showed good leadership by publicly announcing the ban of consultants from assessing and collecting revenues for the FIRS at the 132nd meeting of the Joint Tax Board (JTB) which held in Abuja on 14th September, 2015, Commissioners of Finance of some states were bold to announce the resolve of their respective States Executive Councils to engage consultants for the same purpose that they were banned;

Observes that the consultants now use their company's letterheads which, in some cases, contain the name of the Ministries, Departments and Agency (MDA) of the Federation, State or Local Government that engaged their services, to write demand letters to taxable entities in the country, and in most cases, the account numbers that will be indicated on the demand letters would be private accounts of the consultants;

Also notes that it is the duty of the staff of the Federal Inland Revenue Services (FIRS) and the Board of Internal Revenue (BIR) to collect taxes for the Federal and State Governments respectively, within the confines of the Taxes and Levies (Approved List for Collection) Act, 1998 and the duty of the Joint Tax Board (JTB) to monitor compliance with extant laws by the collecting authority to avoid abuse of any tax regime;

Further notes reports in the Sun Newspaper of 3rd September, 2014 and Premium Times Newspaper of 14th August, 2014 that due to the flagrant abuse of the tax collection process across the federation, the National Economic Council (NEC), after a meeting held in Abuja sometime in 2014, condemned the use of consultants, contractors, task forces or non-revenue officers in the collection of taxes which encourages multiple and illegal taxation;

Worried that the use of these non-revenue officials generally increases the tax burden of the ordinary Nigerian taxable entities by creating tax burdens that are not supported by any law, encourages the abuse of citizens' economic rights, renders the revenue officials redundant, and encourages wastages and leakages;

Disturbed that multiple taxation and uncertainty of a tax regime, stifles the growth of small and medium scale businesses and discourages foreign investments which resultant effect is high unemployment rate to the detriment of the economy;

Also disturbed that the use of consultants undermines transparency and accountability because revenue officials are shut out from their legitimate duties by the public office holders who give out the 'consultancy' jobs as political gratification to their financiers or sponsors or do so with the intention of covering up their corrupt practices on government revenues;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Express displeasure at the practice of using consultants, contractors, task forces or non-revenue officials in the assessment and collection of taxes and levies across the federation and urge the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), States and Local Government Councils to the practice; and

(*ii*) also urge the Joint Tax Board (JTB) to monitor the situation and then mandate the Committee on Finance to liaise with the Board with a view to reporting back to the House the level of compliance