FOURTH REPUBLIC
8TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST SESSION
NO. 31

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 4 November, 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 Tuesday, 3 November, 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*) Law Students Association of Nigeria, Usman Danfodiyo University, Sokoto Chapter, Sokoto State;

(*ii*) Staff and Students of Lead British International School, Gwarimpa, Abuja;

(*iii*) Staff and Pupils of Kubwa School of Islamic Studies, Kubwa, Abuja;

(*iv*) Staff and Students of Mwansat College Mangu, Mangu, Plateau State.

4. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order VIII, Rule 46)**
***Need to Halt the Planned Payment of ₦2.7 Billion by the Board of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission to its Members*:**
Hon. Mohammed Garba Gololo (*Gamawa 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.*

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Need to Halt the Planned Payment of ₦2.7 Billion by the Board of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission to its Members

The House

Notes that section 80 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) stipulates that all revenues or other monies received by the Federation shall be paid into and form one Consolidated Revenue Find of the Federation;

Aware of the decision by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission Board to pay its chairman and six members a severance package of ₦2,700,000,000 (two billion, seven hundred million Naira) with ₦400,000,000 (four hundred million Naira) for the chairman and ₦380,000,000 (three hundred and eighty million Naira) for each of the six members;

Also aware that the approval of the payment of the severance package by the members and for the members of the Board of Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission conflicts with the recommendations of the National Salaries, Incomes and Wages Commission and thus offends section 42 (1) (*a*) and (*b*) of the Electric Power Sector Reform Act;

Informed that the money is intended to cover, among other things, up-front salaries of two years for each member of the Board pursuant to section 36 (2) of the Electric Power Sector Reform Act which bars a member of the Board from working in the power sector for a period of two years after leaving office;

Convinced however that the members of the said Board are not entitled to the payment of up-front salaries of two years since section 36 (2) of the Electric Power Sector Reform Act does not bar them in any way from working in non-power sectors during the period;

Also convinced that the plan by the Board of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission to pay its outgoing members a severance package of ₦2.7 billion (two billion, seven hundred million Naira) is unlawful and unconstitutional as it is not authorized by the National Assembly in the 2015 Appropriations Act. In fact, the budget of the Commission in the said Act is ₦42,290,077 (forty-two million, two hundred and ninety thousand, and seventy-seven Naira) as capital expenditure;

Further convinced that the Commission has no recurrent expenditure in the 2015 budget, thereby suggesting that the Commission either does not any pay salaries to its Board and staff or pays salaries from funds that have not been paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation in contravention of the Constitution;

Confident that, everything considered, the payment of the severance package is indefensible as it lacks transparency and flies in the face of dwindling resources accruing to the nation, in the face of the duty of the leaders of public institutions to menace public funds judiciously and in the face of the constitutional powers of the National Assembly to authorize withdrawals from the public funds of the Federation;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Power to engage the National Salaries, Incomes and Wages Commission and the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission with a view to investigating the matter and report back to the House within two weeks (*Hon. Mohammed Garba Gololo — Gamawa Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out all the words in the Prayer, and *substitute* as follows:
"Mandate the Committee on Power to stop the payment of the severance gratuity to the seven Commissioners immediately and investigate the activities of the Commission" (*Hon. Mohammed Ali Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

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

The House

Noted that section 80 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) stipulates that all revenues or other monies received by the Federation shall be paid into and form one Consolidated Revenue Find of the Federation;

Aware of the decision by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission Board to pay its chairman and six members a severance package of ₦2,700,000,000 (two billion, seven hundred million Naira) with ₦400,000,000 (four hundred million Naira) for the chairman and ₦380,000,000 (three hundred and eighty million Naira) for each of the six members;

Also aware that the approval of the payment of the severance package by the members and for the members of the Board of Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission conflicts with the recommendations of the National Salaries, Incomes and Wages Commission and thus offends section 42 (1) (*a*) and (*b*) of the Electric Power Sector Reform Act;

Informed that the money is intended to cover, among other things, up-front salaries of two years for each member of the Board pursuant to section 36 (2) of the Electric Power Sector Reform Act which bars a member of the Board from working in the power sector for a period of two years after leaving office;

Convinced however that the members of the said Board are not entitled to the payment of up-front salaries of two years since section 36 (2) of the Electric Power Sector Reform Act does not bar them in any way from working in non-power sectors during the period;

Also convinced that the plan by the Board of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission to pay its outgoing members a severance package of ₦2.7 billion (two billion, seven hundred million Naira) is unlawful and unconstitutional as it is not authorized by the National Assembly in the 2015 Appropriations Act. In fact, the budget of the Commission in the said Act is ₦42,290,077 (forty-two million, two hundred and ninety thousand, and seventy-seven Naira) as capital expenditure;

Further convinced that the Commission has no recurrent expenditure in the 2015 budget, thereby suggesting that the Commission either does not any pay salaries to its Board and staff or pays salaries from funds that have not been paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation in contravention of the Constitution;

Confident that, everything considered, the payment of the severance package is indefensible as it lacks transparency and flies in the face of dwindling resources accruing to the nation, in the face of the duty of the leaders of public institutions to menace public funds judiciously and in the face of the constitutional powers of the National Assembly to authorize withdrawals from the public funds of the Federation;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Power to stop the payment of the severance gratuity to the seven Commissioners immediately and investigate the activities of the Commission (**HR. 173/2015**).

5. Valedictory Speech by Hon. Khadija W. Bukar Abba

Mr Speaker invited Hon. Khadija W. Bukar Abba (*Damaturu/Gubja/Gulani/Tarmuwa Federal Constituency*), whose nomination as a Minister by the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, had been confirmed by the Senate, presented her Valedictory Speech as follows:

Mr Speaker, Honourable colleagues.

My journey into the National Assembly started in 2007 having won elections to represent the good people of Damaturu/Tarmuwa/Gujba/Gulani Federal Constituency, Yobe State in the House of Representatives.

Mr Speaker, when I first spoke in this chamber, my very first words were "I am in this chamber today because I want to make contributions for the benefit of Nigerians". Today, I believe that I have fulfilled that burning desire in my heart.

Mr Speaker, honourable colleagues, I received a letter, sometime last month, from Mr President, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR nominating me as a Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

It is with humility that I accepted the nomination which I consider another call to service and an opportunity to further my efforts in establishing a better Nigeria that we will all be proud of.

I want to use this opportunity to express my gratitude for all the support you have given me since 2007 till date. To say the least, I must admit that it hasn't been a bed of roses but with all your support, I was able to pull through some challenges I encountered during my parliamentary practice.

I also want to thank especially all the female legislators of the House of Representatives for the amazing support they gave me during the Ministerial screening.

To the amazons of the 8th Assembly, I can't thank you enough.

I will also not forget the staff of National Assembly especially the chamber staff, the Committee staff and the media who supported my course. I wish you all luck in your future endeavours.

Today, I am leaving the House of Representatives and National Assembly a happy person, on one hand and also unhappy on the other hand; reason being that most people leave the parliament, some because they were not re-elected, and so many other reasons .

However, my case is not the same and I thank Almighty Allah for that.

I am unhappy because I am going to miss you all but I take solace in the fact that the job of nation building is a collective responsibility of different arms of government which means that our paths will definitely cross again.

In the course of rendering service to the people, I admit that I am human and only God is infallible, so I may have offended some people. Such certainly was neither deliberate nor intentional. I therefore, ask for forgiveness if I have offended you in any way.

For me and on behalf of my entire family, I owe a debt of gratitude to my constituents, my party the APC and you my dear colleagues for the unwavering confidence and total support both in season and out of season. To all Nigerians, I am short of words because you gave me opportunity and crowned it with goodwill and support.

I pray the Almighty Allah to bountifully reward your show of love.

God bless Nigeria.

Thank you Mr Speaker, Hon. colleagues.

The House Leader, Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila extolled the virtue and exemplary life of Hon. Khadija W. Bukar Abba. He saluted her professional legislative dexterity as worthy of emulation and described her as a role model for other women of her time. He opined that Hon. Khadija's nomination as a Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria was not an accident but a good decision which took into account her true personality. He urged her to proceed to her new assignment not only as a loyal member of Mr President's cabinet, but also as an ambassador of the legislature. He enjoined her to always impress upon the Executive arm of government to respect and act on the resolutions of the House.

6. **Privilege (Order VI, Rule 19 and 20)**

Hon. Sodaguno A. Festus Omoni (*Ogbia Federal Constituency*) observed that her privilege as a member of the House was breached by the Committee on Rules and Business for its apparent unwillingness to put her motion on recent flooding that ravaged some communities in her Constituency on the Notice Paper of the House.

Responding to the observation of Hon. Sodaguno A. Festus Omoni, the Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business, Hon. Orker-Jev recalled that the House resolved on Tuesday, 6 October, 2015 amongst other things, that all cases of flooding problems should be submitted to the office of the Clerk for transmission to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) for appropriate intervention. He stated that the decision of the House on the said date automatically precludes the sponsorship of any motion on flood related matters.

Mr Speaker confirmed the averment of the Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Business on the matter and therefore ruled that the privilege of Hon. Sodaguno A. Festus Omoni was not in any way breached by the action of the Committee.

7. **Need for Legislative Appraisal of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Programmes:** *Motion made and Question proposed*:

The House:

Notes that Nigeria was one of the 189 Countries/Signatories to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Programmes at the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in September 2000;

Also notes that the key areas the programmes cover include eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reduction of child mortality rate, improving maternal health, combating HIV-AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development;

Further notes that in order to continue with the vision, the MDGs programmes metamorphosed into Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which were adopted by the UN General Assembly in September, 2015;

Concerned that there is an urgent need to review the implementation plan in order to ensure efficient sustainability of the programmes;

Also concerned that some of the construction projects undertaken under the Millennium Development Goals programmes have been abandoned at various stages of completion following the metamorphosis to the Sustainable Development Goals, and many of the contractors of those projects are being owed for jobs duly completed, while some of the projects that were completed, have neither been equipped nor put into use;

Aware that the intervention of the Legislature, matched with adequate funding and political commitment, will ensure that those abandoned projects are completed;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to ensure compliance and report back to the House within 6 weeks (*Hon. Chukwuka W. Onyema — Ogbaru Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out all the words in the Prayer and *substitute* as follows:
"Mandate the Committee on Sustainable Development Goals to liaise with the Agency and come up with the list of ongoing projects that seem to be abandoned and report back to the House within 4 weeks" (*Hon. Binta Bello — Kaltungo/Shongom Federal Constituency*).

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

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

The House:

Noted that Nigeria was one of the 189 Countries/Signatories to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Programmes at the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in September 2000;

Also noted that the key areas the programmes cover include eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reduction of child mortality rate, improving maternal health, combating HIV-AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development;

Further noted that in order to continue with the vision, the MDGs programmes metamorphosed into Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which were adopted by the UN General Assembly in September, 2015;

Concerned that there is an urgent need to review the implementation plan in order to ensure efficient sustainability of the programmes;

Also concerned that some of the construction projects undertaken under the Millennium Development Goals programmes have been abandoned at various stages of completion following the metamorphosis to the Sustainable Development Goals, and many of the contractors of those projects are being owed for jobs duly completed, while some of the projects that were completed, have neither been equipped nor put into use;

Aware that the intervention of the Legislature, matched with adequate funding and political commitment, will ensure that those abandoned projects are completed;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Sustainable Development Goals to liaise with the Agency and come up with the list of ongoing or projects that seem to be an abandoned and report back to the House within 4 weeks (**HR. 174/2015**).

8. Business Continued from Assembly to Assembly:
***Environmental Health Officers (Registration, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill*, 2015 (HB. 29):**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that pursuant to Order XII, Rule 96 of the Standing Orders of the House, the legislative business of the House which, though completed and laid in the House by a Committee of the House which remain undetermined at the end of the Assembly shall be resumed and proceeded with in the next Assembly in the same manner as if the tenure of the Assembly had not come to an end, if the House resolves in affirmative that such Bills, upon being re-gazetted, be reconsidered in the Committee of the Whole without being commenced *de novo*;

Also notes that the Environmental Health Officers (Registration, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 was awaiting consideration in the Committee of the Whole before the last Assembly ended;

Aware that the said Bill has been re-gazetted as HB. 29 and read the first time on Tuesday, 13 September, 2015;

Resolves to:

Commit the Bill to the Committee of the Whole for consideration (*Hon. Gideon Lucas Gwani — Kaura Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Bill committed to Committee of the Whole pursuant to Order XII, Rule 96.

9. **Rehabilitation of Dilapidated Sections and Expansion of Narrow and Dangerous Bridges along Zaria-Funtua-Sokoto Road**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the economic importance of the Zaria-Funtua-Gusau-Sokoto Road to the Zamfara-Sokoto-Kebbi axis of the North-Western part of the country, as it facilitates the movement of people and goods, but concerned that many sections have dilapidated and hardly motorable, particularly the Zaria-Funtua-Gusau axis;

Informed that Dan-Marke bridge along the Road collapsed twice in less than two months as a result of flooding and some other bridges like the Kadauri and Mayanchi are at the risk of collapsing, considering the fact that the area is prone to erosion;

Concerned that despite the persistent cries of the residents and commuters in the past several years, nothing has been done by successive Governments to remedy the situation, which is inflicting untold hardships on the residents and commuters and also retarding economic and commercial activities, as well as increasing insecurity in the area;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to immediately embark on repairs of the affected sections of the road in order to ease the hardships of travellers; and

(*ii*) also urge the Federal Ministry of Works to appropriate funds in the 2016 budget for reconstruction of the dilapidated sections of the road and collapsed Dan- Marke bridge and also assess the state of Kadauri and Mayanchi bridges and take appropriate measures to avoid their also collapsing (*Hon. Abdulmalik Zubairu Bungudu — Bugudu/Maru 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. 175/2015**).

10. **Urgent Need for the Completion of the Abandoned Omotosho-Epe-Ajah 135km, 330kv Double Circuit Transmission Line and award of Contract for the Construction of the 330/132/33kv Substation Project to Address the Problem of Electricity Supply in Epe and its Environs**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the travails of the people of Epe Federal Constituency comprising Epe, Eredo, Agbowa, Ejirin and other communities with a population of over 500,000 who have been living in perpetual darkness for about ten (10) years now owing to lack of electricity supply from the national grid;

Also notes that the overloaded and overstretched 33KV line from Egbin Thermal substation is the only source of electricity supply to Epe and its environs and accounts for the erratic power supply as a result of frequent breakdowns which has negatively affected the socio-economic life of the people as local industries and businesses have all shut down or resorted to the use of generators at very exorbitant costs;

Worried that if urgent measures are not taken to address the situation, high level of unemployment, youth restiveness, hooliganism, cultism and other social vices will continue to be on the increase;

Aware that the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) sometime in December 2010, through its 10 GW Grid expansion plan awarded to KEC Construction Company Ltd the construction of Omotosho-Epe-Ajah 135 KM, 330 KV Double Circuit Transmission line at a contract sum of USD24,650,255.24 or ₦1,627,303,799.79, in an attempt to address the problem and the project officially commenced in June 2011;

Also aware that the second segment of the contract which is Epe 330/132/33 KV substation project estimated to cost ₦6,500,000,000 has not been awarded even though the host community has provided the land required for the project and the Lagos State Government has given the necessary approval for the use of the land;

Concerned that despite the importance of the project, it has remained abandoned since year 2012 at only 27% completion after an advance payment of USD3,697,538.29 or ₦244,095,569.97 had been made to the contractor; and now, the estimated cost of completion of the project is ₦6 billion;

Also concerned that the non-completion of the project will lead to a complete collapse of the economy of the entire Epe Federal Constituency and other towns within and outside Lagos State expected to be served by the project, with very adverse socio-economic and political consequences on the people;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Mandate the Committee on Power to investigate the cause of the abandonment of the Omotosho-Epe-Ajah 135 Km, 330 KV Double Circuit Transmission Line project at only 27% completion and the total power outage in Epe over the past ten (10) years;

(*ii*) urge the Ikeja Distribution Company to urgently take measures to restore electricity supply to Epe Federal Constituency pending the completion of the Omotosho Power Project which is expected to provide permanent solution; and

(*iii*) implore the Federal Ministry of Power and the Transmission Company of Nigeria to make adequate provisions in the 2016 budget for award of contract for the construction of the 330/132/33 KV substation at Epe and the completion of the abandoned Omotosho-Epe-Ajah 135 Km, 330 KV Double Circuit Transmission Line project (*Hon. Wale Raji — Epe Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Motion referred to the Committee on Power, pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 51 (5) **(HR. 176/2015).**

11.Call for Investigation of the Activities of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) with a view to repositioning its Operations for a more comprehensive and Affordable Health Insurance for Nigerians

Order read; withdrawn by leave of the House.

12. Illegal Employment of Casual Labourers by Employers of Labour contrary to the Labour Act

Order deferred to enable the Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business determine whether action had been concluded on the Motion or otherwise.

13. Need to Ensure the Proper Execution of the Contract for Dredging of the Calabar Port Channel

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

14. The Need for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to Comply with the Mandate of Creating Additional State Constituencies in Accordance with the Provisions of the 1999 Constitution

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Section 91 of the Constitution of Nigeria, 1999 states that subject to the provisions of this Constitution, a House of Assembly of a 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 states 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 Sections 112, 113 and 114 of the Constitution;

Disturbed that people of some States may not be well represented at the moment going by the requirements 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 provision 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 additional 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 Houses of Assembly is multiplied by three or four times the number of seats at the 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 (*Hon. Francis Charles Uduyok — Ikot Abasi/Mkpat Enin/Eastern Obolo Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

(*i*) In Prayer (*i*), line 2, immediately after the word "States", *leave out* the words "of Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Bayelsa, Sokoto, Jigawa, Kogi, Imo, and Benue" (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

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

(*ii*) *Leave out* Prayer (*i*) and *substitute* as follows:
"Urge the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to reactivate all the suppressed State Constituencies and create more in States that have grown in population to reflect the sizes of such areas (*Hon. Hassan Saleh — Ado/Ogbadibo/Okpokwu Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

(*ii*) *Leave out* Prayer (*ii*) (*Hon. Hassan Saleh — Ado/Ogbadibo/Okpokwu Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and negatived.

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

The House:

Noted that Section 91 of the Constitution of Nigeria, 1999 states that subject to the provisions of this Constitution, a House of Assembly of a 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 noted Section 112 which states 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 Sections 112, 113 and 114 of the Constitution;

Disturbed that people of some States may not be well represented at the moment going by the requirements 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 provision 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;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Urge the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as a matter of urgency to commence the creation of additional State Constituencies in the affected States, so as to ensure that the number of seats at the Houses of Assembly is multiplied by three or four times the number of seats at the 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:

Motion referred to Committee on Electoral Matters (**HR. 177/2015**).

15. Urgent Need for the Cleanup of Wreckages of Military Hardwares and Landmines in the North East Zone:
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the successes recorded by the Nigerian Armed Forces and other security operatives in the fight against the Boko Haram Sect in the North-East has led to the recovery of several Local Government Areas previously under the control of the insurgents, 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 retaking 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 insurgents litter 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 hardwares 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 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 obligations on members of the United Nations (UN) to prevent the generation of hazardous wastes and the rehabilitation of contaminated sites as a consequence of war or adverse effects on the environment;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government to, as a matter of urgency, clear all the wreckages of military hardwares scattered across the recovered territories of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States and also assist the victims and families of landmine explosions in the North-East zone; and

(*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 (*Hon. Kamale Adamu Dali Usman — Madagali/Michika Federal Constituency and* 1 *Other*)

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out Prayer (*ii*) and *substitute* as follows:
"Urge the Military High Command to set up a Command in all the captured territories in order to monitor, check and protect the environment from further occurrences" (*Hon. Mohammed Nur Sheriff — Bama/Ngala/Kalabalge Federal Constituency*).

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

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

The House:

Noted that the successes recorded by the Nigerian Armed Forces and other security operatives in the fight against the Boko Haram Sect in the North-East has led to the recovery of several Local Government Areas previously under the control of the insurgents, 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 retaking 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 insurgents litter 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 hardwares 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 security and welfare of the people as the primary purpose of government;

Recalled that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janerio, Brazil, 3 to 14 June, 1992 imposed obligations on members of the United Nations (UN) to prevent the generation of hazardous wastes and the rehabilitation of contaminated sites as a consequence of war or adverse effects on the environment;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government to, as a matter of urgency, clear all the wreckages of military hardwares scattered across the recovered territories of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States and also assist the victims and families of landmine explosions in the North-East zone and

(*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.

Motion referred to Committees on Defence, and Army (**HR. 178/2015**).

16. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of a Palm Oil Development Fund, which shall be responsible for the Development, Coordinating and Encouraging the Exportation and Utilization of Palm Oil in Nigeria; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 45)**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

17. **Adjournment**

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 5 November, 2015 *at* 10.00 *a.m.* (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.28 *p.m.*

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker