FOURTH REPUBLIC
8TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST SESSION
NO. 34

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 10 November, 2015

1. The House met at 11.48 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 Monday, 9 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*) Staff and Students of Visionary Secondary School, Dutse, Bwari, Abuja;

(*ii*) Staff and Pupils of Ideal Nursery and Primary School, Kubwa, Abuja; and

(*iii*) Members of Public Administration Students Association (PASA), Plateau State Polytechnic, Barkin Ladi, Plateau State.

4. **Matter Requiring the Attention of the House**
Hon. Ralphael Nnanna Igbokwe (*Ahiazu Mbaise/Ezinihitte Federal Constituency*) invited the attention of the House to the death of the acting Clerk of Senate, National Assembly, Mr Adedotun Durojaiye, on Friday, 6 November, 2015. He noted that the former Clerk had served the nation meritoriously. He urged the House to convey condolence messages to the Senate and his family members and observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

5. **Petitions**
The following petitions were presented and laid by:

(*i*) Hon. Emmanuel Ekon (*Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency*), from Women Arise for Change Initiative, on behalf of the family of Mr Godwin Udoh, praying the House to investigate the gruesome murder of his wife, Mrs Comfort Udoh by a Police Officer and to ensure that they fulfill their promise to adequately compensate the family;

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(*ii*) Hon. Kwewum Rimamnde Shawulu (*Donga/Ussa/Takun Federal Constituency*), from Anti-Corruption Network asking the House to look into the prosecution of one Ali Gambo and Danladi by the Attorney General of the Federation for corrupt practices and ensure that justice is done in the matter;

(*iii*) Hon. Kwewum Rimamnde Shawulu (*Donga/Ussa/Takun Federal Constituency*), from Anti-Corruption Network, praying the House to investigate the corrupt practices, financial impropriety and abuse of office leveled against the Code of Conduct Tribunal Chairman, Mr Yakubu Danladi Umar with a view to ensuring that justice is done.

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

6. Matter of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order VIII, Rule 46)
***Need to Congratulate the Golden Eaglets of Nigeria on their Victory at the just concluded Under 17 World Football Tournament in Chile*:**
Hon. Henry Nwawuba (*Mbaitolu/Ikeduru 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.*

Need to Congratulate the Golden Eaglets of Nigeria on Their Victory at the Just Concluded under 17 World Football Tournament in Chile:

The House:

Notes that the under 17 football team of Nigeria a.k.a. Golden Eaglets coached by Imo State born Emmanuel Amuneke participated in the 2015 U-17 World Football Championship held in Chile between the 17th day of October and 8th of November, 2015;

Also notes that the Golden eaglets are the defending champions of the U-17 FIFA world football tournament having won the last edition held at the United Arab Emirates in 2013;

Cognizant of the fact that Nigeria won the maiden edition then known as Kodak/JVC FIFA U-16 way back 1985 in the People's Republic of China;

Also cognizant of the fact that the country's Golden Eaglets have now set a record of winning the championship five times namely: China 85, Japan 93, Korea 2007, UAE 2013 and now Chile 2015 and the current squad parades an average age of 16 years 11 months thus making them the youngest squad at the tournament;

Aware of the feat achieved by the Golden eaglet striker Osihmhen Victor of breaking the long standing record of scoring ten goals against the former records of 9 goals held by French Florent Sinama Pongowlle and Ivorien Souleymena Coulibaly;

Also aware that this victory came in midst of disturbing news of inadequate financial releases for the tournament in the 2015 Appropriation Act and other economic and psychological challenges more so at a period when none of our football players was short-listed in the ten nominees for the African Footballer of the year;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Congratulate Coach Emmanuel Amuneke and his entire coaching crew, members of our Golden eaglet's squad for winning the trophy and Victor Osimehen who won the golden boot for highest goals scored and Kelechi Nwakali the Team Captain for winning the Most Valuable Player Award in addition to the trophy;

(*ii*) urge the Federal Executive to ensure appropriate appreciation of the Coach, Team and entire crew of the Golden Eaglets to serve as a motivation and example to other youths of Nigeria in the full realization that there is dignity and reward in labour and service to fatherland; and

(*iii*) also urge the Federal executive to consider their eligibility of the members of the team for national honours and recognition (*Hon. Henry Nwawuba — Mbaitoli/Ikeduru Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

(*i*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*iv*) as follows:
"Urge the Federal Government and the Nigerian Football Authorities to continue to train, groom and retain the team for future and higher national assignment" (*Hon. Raphael Nnanna Igbokwe — Ahiazu Mbaise /Ezinihitte Federal Constituency*).

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

(*ii*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*v*) as follows:
"Mandate the House to invite the victorious Golden Eaglets of Nigeria into the Chamber with the U-17 Trophy for commendation" (*Hon. Ayo Omidiran — Ayedaade/Irewole/Isokan Federal Constituency*).

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

(*iii*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*vi*) as follows:
"Mandate the House to also commend the U-20 National Women's team, the Falconets, for qualifying to represent Africa at the U-20 Women's World Cup 2016" (*Hon. Ayo Omidiran — Ayedaade/Irewole/Isokan Federal Constituency*).

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

(*iv*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*vii*) as follows:
"Mandate the House to further commend the President for his support and encouragement to the team" (*Hon. Ali Wudil Mohammed — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

(v) *Insert* a new Prayer (*viii*) as follows:
"Mandate the House to congratulate and recognize the effort of Mr Wellington Jighere for being the first African and Nigerian to win the World Scrabble Games in far away Perth, Australia" (*Hon. Saheed Akinade Fijabi — Ibadan Southwest/Ibadan Northwest 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 under 17 football team of Nigeria a.k.a. Golden Eaglets coached by Imo State born Emmanuel Amuneke participated in the 2015 U-17 World Football Championship held in Chile between the 17th day of October and 8th of November, 2015;

Also noted that the Golden eaglets are the defending champions of the U-17 FIFA world football tournament having won the last edition held at the United Arab Emirates in 2013;

Cognizant of the fact that Nigeria won the maiden edition then known as Kodak/JVC FIFA U-16 way back 1985 in the People's Republic of China;

Also cognizant of the fact that the country's Golden Eaglets have now set a record of winning the championship five times namely: China 85, Japan 93, Korea 2007, UAE 2013 and now Chile 2015 and the current squad parades an average age of 16 years 11 months thus making them the youngest squad at the tournament;

Aware of the feat achieved by the Golden eaglet striker Osihmhen Victor of breaking the long standing record of scoring ten goals against the former records of 9 goals held by French Florent Sinama Pongowlle and Ivorien Souleymena Coulibaly;

Also aware that this victory came in midst of disturbing news of inadequate financial releases for the tournament in the 2015 Appropriation Act and other economic and psychological challenges more so at a period when none of our football players was short-listed in the ten nominees for the African Footballer of the year;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Congratulate Coach Emmanuel Amuneke and his entire coaching crew, members of our Golden eaglet's squad for winning the trophy and Victor Osimehen who won the golden boot for highest goals scored and Kelechi Nwakali the Team Captain for winning the Most Valuable Player Award in addition to the trophy;

(*ii*) urge the Federal Executive to ensure appropriate appreciation of the Coach, Team and entire crew of the Golden Eaglets to serve as a motivation and example to other youths of Nigeria in the full realization that there is dignity and reward in labour and service to fatherland;

(*iii*) also urge the Federal executive to consider their eligibility of the members of the team for national honours and recognition;

(*iv*) further urge the Federal Government and the Nigerian Football Authorities to continue to train, groom and retain the team for future and higher national assignment;

(*v*) mandate the House to invite the victorious Golden Eaglets of Nigeria into the Chamber with the U-17 Trophy for commendation;

(*vi*) also mandate the House to also commend the U-20 National Women's team, the Falconets, for qualifying to represent Africa at the U-20 Women's World Cup 2016;

(*vii*) further mandate the House to further commend the President for his support and encouragement to the team; and

(*viii*) equally mandate the House to congratulate and recognize the effort of Mr Wellington Jighere for being the first African and Nigerian to win the World Scrabble Games in far away Perth, Australia (**HR. 186/2015**).

7. Devastating Gully Erosion in Nnewi North, Nnewi South and Ekwusigo Federal Constituency of Anambra State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Aware that Anambra State is erosion prone and that Nnewi North, Nnewi South and Ekwusigo Federal Constituency, a commercial zone with lots of manufacturing companies, making it a major contributor to the economy of Nigeria, is being devastated by gully erosion leading to loss of lives, destruction of properties worth millions of Naira, and washing away of farmlands;

Cognizant that the enormity of the devastation has put the menace beyond the capacity of the State Government and Local Councils to cope, hence the need for the intervention of the Federal Government;

Concerned that except a sustainable national strategy is developed and adopted for the containment of the menace, Nnewi North, Nnewi South and Ekwusigo Federal Constituency will continue to lose so much resources as industries and farmlands would continue to be washed away;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Call on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to, as a matter of urgency, intervene and provide relief materials and necessary support to the families that have been displaced from their homes by the erosion menace;

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Environment and Habitat to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Environment and other relevant government agencies to assess the level of the devastation and make provision in the 2016 budget for remediation; and

(*iii*) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure adherence to the above prayers (*Hon. Chris Emeka Azubogu —Nnewi North/ Nnewi South/Ekwusigo Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Motion referred to the Committees on Environment and Habitat, and Legislative Compliance, pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 51 (5) (**HR. 187/2015**).

8. Devastating Gully Erosion along Onitsha-Nkpor-Enugu Expressway, Anambra State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Onitsha-Enugu Expressway links Anambra and Enugu States and that the flyover at Nkpor Junction bye pass was constructed to ease traffic at the busy junction that has a major market around it;

Worried that severe gully erosion has eroded the west-end and cut off a large portion, thereby narrowing the 4-lane road to a single lane;

Also worried that the terminal of the flyover at Nkpor junction by Eddy Motor Park has been eaten up by the erosion, thereby posing threats to commuters and other road users who have to spend hours in the gridlock as a result of the narrowed lane;

Concerned that the adverse effects are bound to increase if urgent measures are not taken to contain the devastating gully erosion, especially as the Christmas Season approaches when many people are expected to travel home for the festivities;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) and the Federal Ministry of Works to immediately commence rehabilitation/reconstruction of the bad spots at Nkpor Junction on the Onitsha-Enugu Expressway;

(*ii*) also urge the Federal Ministry of Environment to include funds for the reclamation of the eroded portion of the Road in the 2016 budget; and

(*iii*) mandate the Committees on Works, FERMA, and Environment and Habitat to assess the situation with a view to averting the complete collapse of the entire road network, and report back to the House within 4 weeks (*Hon. Eucharia Azodo — Aguata Federal Constituency and 2 Others*).

Question put and agreed to.

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), and Environment and Habitat, pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 51 (5) (**HR. 188/2015**).

9. Menacing Coastal Erosion in Anyama-Ogbia Community in Ogbia Federal Constituency of Bayelsa State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Section 20 of the 1999 Constitution provides that the State shall protect and improve the Environment and safeguard the water, air, land, forest and wildlife of Nigeria:

Aware that due to climate change and other environmental factors, the Anyama-Ogbia community in Ogbia Federal Constituency has been subjected to perennial coastal erosion which has adversely affected numerous facilities in the community:

Also aware that the community, which has been having a direct impact of the vagaries of coastal erosion for over a century without any intervention by the Government is faced with its historic sites of great socio-economic importance, such as the first Anglican Church. St James Anglican Church, which has contributed immensely to the spiritual and educational advancement of the community and beyond, being eroded by the erosion;

Concerned about the advice by experts on the dangers of coastal erosion, which if not tackled immediately, may leave the community to be overtaken by the erosion which would destroy houses, the existing oil mill and rice farms, the resultant effect of which will be excruciating on the indigenes, the State and the nation at large, as many people will lose their homes, jobs and means of livelihood:

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Environment and Habitat to visit the community and assess the situation with a view to proffering a lasting solution to the coastal erosion in the Anyama community and report back to the House within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Sodaguwo Adegadiza Festus-Omoni — Ogbia Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

Motion referred to the Committee on Environment and Habitat, pursuant to Order Rule 51 (5) (**HR. 189/2015**).

10. Need to Complete the Construction of Dumne-Shelleng Road Across River Gongola-Bobini-Guyuk to Nasarawo Road in Gombe State

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

11. Call for Investigation of the Contract for the Construction of Cham Dam in Balanga Local Government Area, Gombe State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Cham Dam is a giant irrigation project for farmers under the Upper Benue River Basin Development Authority (UBRBDA) and since the commencement of its construction in the 1990s, the Dam has provided irrigation facilities to farmers and job opportunities for youths who have been engaging in regular and dry season farming;

Also notes that the non-completion of the Dam project led to serious flooding that destroyed farms and properties in the community and the irregular and inadequate maintenance resulted in the eventual collapse of the Dam;

Aware that the contracts for the re-construction and accompanying irrigation project were awarded to Messrs Tylon Construction Company and Suard Construction Firm at the total sum of ₦832,677,743.05 and it was later reviewed to ₦865,508,571.46;

Worried that despite the payment of ₦401,923,318.86 representing 46.5% of the contract sum in 2012, there is practically no work done to justify the huge amount that has been paid to the contractors, and there is now the possibility of an abandonment of the project;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Water Resources to investigate the contract details, funds released and ascertain the level of work done and report back to the House within 4 weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Ali Isa J. C. — Balanga/Biliri Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Cham Dam is a giant irrigation project for farmers under the Upper Benue River Basin Development Authority (UBRBDA) and since the commencement of its construction in the 1990s, the Dam has provided irrigation facilities to farmers and job opportunities for youths who have been engaging in regular and dry season farming;

Also noted that the non-completion of the Dam project led to serious flooding that destroyed farms and properties in the community and the irregular and inadequate maintenance resulted in the eventual collapse of the Dam;

Aware that the contracts for the re-construction and accompanying irrigation project were awarded to Messrs Tylon Construction Company and Suard Construction Firm at the total sum of ₦832,677,743.05 and it was later reviewed to ₦865,508,571.46;

Worried that despite the payment of ₦401,923,318.86 representing 46.5% of the contract sum in 2012, there is practically no work done to justify the huge amount that has been paid to the contractors, and there is now the possibility of an abandonment of the project;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Water Resources to investigate the contract details, funds released and ascertain the level of work done and report back to the House within 4 weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 190/2015**).

12. Need for Transparency and Accountability in the Disbursement of the Victims Intervention Fund

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the senseless killings and destruction of properties in the North-East Zone and other parts of the country by the Boko Haram sect which has resulted in displacement of thousands of persons who have been rendered homeless, jobless and exposed to diseases and starvation;

Recalls that in 2014, the Federal Government initiated a Victims Support Fund managed by a Committee headed by General Theophilus Danjuma (*rtd*) to cater for the needs of victims of terrorism and other forms of violence across the country and the Committee, at a dinner in August 2014, raised over ₦50 billion;

Also aware that the Federal Government has released the sum of ₦5 Billion in 2015 as its contribution to the Fund and that so many other individuals have redeemed their pledges of sums running into Billions of Naira;

Also notes recent reports that the Committee has so far disbursed over ₦500 Million to victims of terrorism while the victims, especially those in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States are crying for assistance and dying in their hundreds without any form of assistance coming their way;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the President of Nigeria to direct for a reappraisal of the modalities for the disbursement of the funds by the Victims Support Fund to ensure probity, accountability and transparency in such a way that stakeholders will play vital roles in determining the actual victims of terrorism and what assistance is to be rendered; and

(*ii*) also urge the Committee to constantly publish in its website, the names and pictures of beneficiaries of the funds, indicating clearly the amount of assistance rendered, and make records of its activities available to the public in its secretariat or registry (*Hon. Asabe Vilita Bashir — Damboa/Gwoza/Chibok Federal Constituency and 1 Other*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

(*i*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*iii*) as follows:
"Mandate the Committee on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to ensure proper supervision, accountability and transparency in the management and disbursement of victims support fund" (*Hon. Ralphael Nnanna Igbokwe — Ahiazu Mbaise/Ezinihitte Federal Constituency*)

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

(*ii*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*iv*) as follows:
"Also urge Mr President to set up a Technical Committee comprising of relevant expertise to work with the victims intervention fund for proper disbursement, transparency and accountability" (*Hon. Salisu Zakari Ningi — Ningi/Warji Federal Constituency*).

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

(*iii*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*v*) as follows:
"Further urge the Executive Arm to ensure that the victims intervention fund is subject to annual audit by the office of the Auditor-General of the Federation" (*Hon. Muhammed Sani Abdu — Alkaleri/Kirfi 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 the senseless killings and destruction of properties in the North-East Zone and other parts of the country by the Boko Haram sect which has resulted in displacement of thousands of persons who have been rendered homeless, jobless and exposed to diseases and starvation;

Recalled that in 2014, the Federal Government initiated a Victims Support Fund managed by a Committee headed by General Theophilus Danjuma (*rtd*) to cater for the needs of victims of terrorism and other forms of violence across the country and the Committee, at a dinner in August 2014, raised over ?50 billion;

Also aware that the Federal Government has released the sum of ₦5 Billion in 2015 as its contribution to the Fund and that so many other individuals have redeemed their pledges of sums running into Billions of Naira;

Also noted recent reports that the Committee has so far disbursed over ₦500 Million to victims of terrorism while the victims, especially those in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States are crying for assistance and dying in their hundreds without any form of assistance coming their way;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Urge the President of Nigeria to direct for a reappraisal of the modalities for the disbursement of the funds by the Victims Support Fund to ensure probity, accountability and transparency in such a way that stakeholders will play vital roles in determining the actual victims of terrorism and what assistance is to be rendered; and

(*ii*) also urge the Committee to constantly publish in its website, the names and pictures of beneficiaries of the funds, indicating clearly the amount of assistance rendered, and make records of its activities available to the public in its secretariat or registry.

(*iii*) mandate the Committee on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to ensure proper supervision, accountability and transparency in the management and disbursement of victims support fund;

(*iv*) further urge Mr President to set up a Technical Committee comprising of relevant expertise to work with the victims intervention fund for proper disbursement, transparency and accountability; and

(*v*) equally urge the Executive Arm to ensure that the victims intervention fund is subject to annual audit by the office of the Auditor-General of the Federation.

Motion referred to the Committee on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) **(HR. 191/2015)**.

13. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Industrial Court Act, 2006 and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 10) — *Second Reading*.**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Industrial Court Act, 2006 and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 10) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Ossai Nichola Ossais — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Bill withdrawn by leave of the House.

14. **A Bill for an Act to Regulate the Manufacture, Importation, Distribution and Quality Control of Fertilizer in Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB. 61) — *Second Reading*.**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Regulate the Manufacture, Importation, Distribution and Quality Control of Fertilizer in Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB. 61) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Gyang Istifanus Dung — Barkin Ladi/Riyom Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

***Ordered*:** *That the Committee on Rules and Business should determine whether there are existing laws on the subject matter and report back to the House as soon as possible*.

15 .Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 11 *November*, 2015 *at* 10.00 *a.m.* (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.32 *p.m.*

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker