FOURTH REPUBLIC
8TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST SESSION
NO. 39

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 24 November, 2015

1. The House met at 11.09 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, 19 November, 2015.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcement**

(*a*) ***Visitors in the Gallery*:**
Mr Speaker recognized the presence of the following:

(*i*) Staff and Students of Visionary Secondary School, Dutse, Abuja;

(*ii*) Members of National Association of Faculty of Administration Students (NAFAS), Nasarawa State University Chapter, Keffi;

(*iii*) Staff and Students of Bafat Victory Academy, Karu, Abuja; and

(*iv*) Staff and Students of Imam Malik Academy, Gwagwalada, Abuja.

(*b*) ***Bereavement*:**
Mr Speaker read a communication from:

(*i*) Hon. Shehu Aliyu Musa (*Bauchi Federal Constituency*), announcing the death of Hon. Mustapha Ahmed, a former Member (Bauchi Federal Constituency, 2007 - 2011), on Thursday, 19 November, 2015.

(*ii*) Hon. Jibril Umar Buba (*Lokoja/Kogi/Koton-Karfi Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of Prince Abubakar Audu, a former Governor of Kogi State (1999 - 2003), on Sunday, 22 November, 2015 at the age of 68 years.

A minute silence observed in honour of the deceased.

(*c*) **A Bill for an Act to authorize the issue from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation the total sum of (₦465,636,926,857) Four Hundred and Sixty-Five Billion, Six Hundred and Thirty-Six Million, Nine Hundred and Twenty-Six Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty- Seven Naira only, of which (₦460,636,926,857) Four Hundred and**

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Sixty Billion, Six Hundred and Thirty-Six Million, Nine Hundred and Twenty-Six Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Seven Naira only, is for additional Recurrent (Non-Debt), while the balance of (₦5,000,000,000) Five Billion Naira only, is for contribution to the Development Fund for additional Capital Expenditure for the year ending on the 31 day of December, 2015 (HB.152).

Mr Speaker recalled that on Thursday, 19 November, 2015, the above Bill was read the Second Time and referred to the Committees on Appropriations, and Finance; he noted the jurisdictional relevance of the Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management on the Bill and, accordingly, ordered that the Committee should be part of the referral.

4. Petitions

The following petitions were presented and laid by:

(*i*) Hon. Chukwukere Austine Ikechukwu (*Ideato North/Ideato South Federal Constituency*), from Ikemcali Legal Associates on behalf of Chiagorom Ohejiagera, praying the House to intervene in his continued detention by Police Officers of SARS, Awkuzu, Anambra State, in total disregard of court judgment ordering his release since November, 2014;

(*ii*) Hon. Shehu Aliyu Musa (*Bauchi Federal Constituency*) from Hassan Mohammed, praying the House to redress the termination of his appointment by the Nigeria Police Force.

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. First Reading of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time* by the Clerk:

(*i*) Anti-Torture Bill, 2015 (HB. 120).

(*ii*) Senior Citizens Centre Bill, 2015 (HB. 121).

(*iii*) National Council for Widows, Dependent Children and Orphans (Establishment, Special Provisions, etc.) Bill, 2015 (HB. 124).

(*iv*) Bio-Fuel Energy Policy Bill, 2015 (HB. 125).

(*v*) National Welfare Trust Fund and Management Commission (NWTFMC) Bill, 2015 (HB. 126).

(*vi*) Independent National Electoral Institute (Establishment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 129).

(*vii*) Nigerian National Heroes Register Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 130).

(*viii*) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2015 (HB. 154).

(*ix*) Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 155).

(*x*) Public Officers Protection Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 157).

6. The Need to Construct Mararaba-Baissa-Gembu Road in Taraba State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the road leading from Mararaba in Donga LGA through Baissa in Kurmi LGA to Gembu in Sardauna LGA, all in Taraba State, which has remained untarred, is a major link between Nigeria and neighboring Republic of Cameroun as well as other Central African countries;

Also notes the strategic importance of the road to the economy of Taraba State in particular and the country in general, as it is the route through which farmers and cattle rearers transport their products to far-flung markets;

Worried that despite the economic benefits of the road and its international importance, it has not attracted any attention from the Federal Government to have the Road tarred, thus bringing untold hardships on the people of the area who are finding it difficult to convey their goods, and the narrow colonial era bridges and culverts on the road now constitute a death trap, resulting to loss of lives and property worth millions of Naira on constant basis;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency to, as a matter of urgency, renovate the Mararaba-Baissa-Gembu road as an interim measure to bring relief to the people of the area; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committees on Works, and Appropriations to ensure the inclusion of the construction of Mararaba-Baissa-Gembu Road in the 2016 budget (*Hon. Hosea Danasabe Charles — Gashaka/Kurmi/Sardauna Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to (**HR. 221/2015**).

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

7. **Deplorable State of Moslem-Idiosan-Ijebu Igbo Road**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Moslem-Idiosan-Ijebu Road, linking Ibadan in Oyo State with Ijebu-Igbo in Ogun State, is a federal Road that has been in a very deplorable condition for many years now without any form of rehabilitation done on it;

Concerned by the worsening state of the road during the rainy seasons due to flooding arising from overflowing of the Foworangun River which results in disconnection of residents from their sources of livelihood and making access to their homes impossible for days on end;

Disturbed that residents and many people in the community are subjected to hardships by having to trek long distances or pay exorbitant fares as most commercial vehicles have abandoned the route, thus leaving a few whose drivers are taking advantage of the situation to exploit the people;

Worried that commercial activities had been grounded as movement of farm produce into Ijebu-Igbo and other commercial centres have become impossible, thus further impoverishing the people whose main source of livelihood is buying and selling of farm produce;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to urgently undertake the reconstruction of Moslem - Idiosan - Ijebu Igbo Road;

(*ii*) also urge the Ministry to expand the bridge across the Foworangun River; and

(*iii*) further urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to immediately channelize the Foworogun River to prevent flooding in the area (*Hon. Olusunbo Olugbemi — Oluyole Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to (**HR. 222/2015**).

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

8. Urgent Need for the Rehabilitation of Beere-Olorunsogo-Akanran-Dagbolu-Ijebu Igbo Road in Oyo State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the deplorable state of Beere-Olorunsogo-Akanran-Dagbolu-Ijebu Igbo Road which is filled with craters that are making the road impassable;

Also notes that this condition was occasioned by years of failure to maintain the road, which led to its degeneration to its present state which is hindering access to the neighbouring communities, especially during harvest and rainy seasons;

Concerned that the numerous potholes and craters on the road have caused accidents that have claimed many lives and have also encouraged the activities of marauders who take advantage of the bad road to rob and maim commuters;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to, as a matter of urgency, embark on sectional and spot rehabilitations on the road as a palliative measure, pending its reconstruction; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Works to ascertain the extent of failure of the road for the purpose of appropriating funds for the rehabilitation of Beere-Olorunsogo-Akanran-Dagbolu- Ijebu Igbo Road in the 2016 Appropriations proposal and report back to the House within eight (8) weeks (*Hon. Taiwo Michael Akintola — Egbeda/Ona-Ara Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to (**HR. 223/2015**).

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

9. Need to Award Contract for the Construction of Panyam-Bokkos-Wamba Road

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that sometime in 2002, the Federal Government awarded the contract for the construction of Panyam-Bokkos-Wamba road to State Company (STATECO) Nigeria Limited for the sum of ₦5.338b and the contractor mobilized to site in 2007;

Also notes that the Federal Government on 9 November, 2012, terminated the contract due to alleged incompetence, poor work record and lack of capacity of the contractor to execute the project effectively, and this was done in accordance with the terms of the Agreement between the Government and the contractor;

Concerned that the Federal Government has failed to re-award the contract to another company, three years after the termination of the earlier contract;

Also concerned that only ₦86m of the total sum paid to the contractor as mobilization fees had so far been recovered while over ₦1bn is still outstanding;

Disturbed that the deplorable nature of the road has posed a major challenge to communities along the road, motorists and other road users;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government to award the contract for the construction of Panyam-Bokkos-Wamba road to a more competent contractor in order to alleviate the sufferings of the people of the area; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committees on Works, and Appropriations to make provisions in the 2016 budget for the project (*Hon. Solomon Bulus Maren — Mangu/Bokkos Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to (**HR. 224/2015**).

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

10. **Call for Investigation of the Violations of the Grant of Right of First Refusal in the Award of Oil and Gas Contracts**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act of 2010 was enacted for the purpose of ensuring that all operators involved in any project in the oil and gas industry consider Nigerian content as an important element of their overall project development and execution;

Observes the perennial breach of section 3 of the Act that provides for the exclusive consideration of Nigerian independent operators who demonstrate ownership of equipment, employment of Nigerian personnel and capacity to execute such jobs, to be given the right of first refusal in the award of oil blocks, oil field licenses, oil lifting and in all projects for which contract is to be awarded in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry;

Deplores the practice where oil and gas contracts are awarded to foreign companies without any visible efforts to execute the contracts for upwards of 3-4 years, to the detriment of indigenous companies, and with dire consequences for the nation's mono-product economy;

Concerned that despite the provisions of the Local Content Law, rather than award the contracts to indigenous companies, the regulatory agencies have left the rigs to rot, for instance, out of nine (9) swamp rigs, only two (2) are functional; out of 37 Land Rigs, only 15 are working; and none of the 6 Jack-up Rigs is working;

Also notes that the continuous breach of the Act has resulted in avoidable loss of substantial revenues for the nation and jobs for the youths because, since 2008, the country ought to be drilling an average of four wells per annum which should have been yielding 3,000 barrels per day, but because of the non-compliance by the relevant authorities, this is not being achieved;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream) to investigate the matter by inviting the Nigerian Content Monitoring Board, the National Petroleum Investments Management Services (NAPIMS), the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to explain the perennial violations of the Local Content Law by not granting right of first refusal to indigenous companies qualified to undertake the jobs and also why the Rigs are not working and report back to the House in five (5) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Lovette Ederin Idisi Ethiope East/Ethiope West Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

(*i*) *Delete* the Prayer and *substitute* as follows:
"Mandate the Committees on Petroleum Resources (Upstream), and Local Content to investigate the matter by inviting the Nigerian Content Monitoring Board, the National Petroleum Investments Management Services (NAPIMS), the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to explain the perennial violations of the Local Content Law by not granting right of first refusal to indigenous companies qualified to undertake the jobs and also why the Rigs are not working and report back to the House in five (5) weeks for further legislative action" (*Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*).

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

(*ii*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*ii*) as follows:
"Mandate the Committee on Interior to investigate the activities of these companies that brazenly violate the provisions of the Local Content Law by ensuring that foreigners are not smuggled to take the positions reserved for Nigerians" (*Hon. Samuel Onuigbo — Ikwunano/Umuahia North/Umuahia South 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 Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act of 2010 was enacted for the purpose of ensuring that all operators involved in any project in the oil and gas industry consider Nigerian content as an important element of their overall project development and execution;

Observed the perennial breach of section 3 of the Act that provides for the exclusive consideration of Nigerian independent operators who demonstrate ownership of equipment, employment of Nigerian personnel and capacity to execute such jobs, to be given the right of first refusal in the award of oil blocks, oil field licenses, oil lifting and in all projects for which contract is to be awarded in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry;

Deplored the practice where oil and gas contracts are awarded to foreign companies without any visible efforts to execute the contracts for upwards of 3-4 years, to the detriment of indigenous companies, and with dire consequences for the nation's mono-product economy;

Concerned that despite the provisions of the Local Content Law, rather than award the contracts to indigenous companies, the regulatory agencies have left the rigs to rot, for instance, out of nine (9) swamp rigs, only two (2) are functional; out of 37 Land Rigs, only 15 are working; and none of the 6 Jack-up Rigs is working;

Also noted that the continuous breach of the Act has resulted in avoidable loss of substantial revenues for the nation and jobs for the youths because, since 2008, the country ought to be drilling an average of four wells per annum which should have been yielding 3,000 barrels per day, but because of the non-compliance by the relevant authorities, this is not being achieved;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Petroleum Resources (Upstream), and Local Content to investigate the matter by inviting the Nigerian Content Monitoring Board, the National Petroleum Investments Management Services (NAPIMS), the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) and the Nigerian

National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to explain the perennial violations of the Local Content Law by not granting right of first refusal to indigenous companies qualified to undertake the jobs and also why the Rigs are not working and report back to the House in five (5) weeks for further legislative action **(HR. 225/2015)**.

11. **Call for Investigation of the Activities of the Nigerian Oil Industry Regulatory Authorities and the Need to Complete all Ongoing and Outstanding Unitization Processes of Straddled Oil and Gas Fields**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that pursuant to the Petroleum (Drilling and Production) Regulation of 1969 and its amendment, section 47 (1) (*a*) and (*b*), 2-5, and the 2008 Guidelines for the unitization of Oil and Gas fields in Nigeria, many oil assets have been found in Nigeria to straddle concession boundaries;

Also notes that companies, local and international that are involved in these assets or that hold legal titles of these blocks have, on many occasions, been locked up in unnecessary and unending legal tussles necessitated primarily at finding means of settling the issues involved therein;

Aware that the main aim of unitization of Oil and Gas assets is to maximize resources involved in the exploration and exploitation of straddled fields, thereby availing government, which is the owner of the assets, to be in advantaged position, by paying only once, the incurred exploration and exploitation expenses;

Concerned that due to the enormity of the resources to be relinquished by a party to the other, the unitization procedure is always volatile and rancorous between those involved, making its outcome to be in most cases inclusive or controversial, especially when the relinquishing party is one of the International Oil majors and the other an indigenous oil company;

Also aware that the regulatory authorities, such as the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), National Petroleum Investments Management Services (NAPIMS), National Petroleum Development Company (NPDC) and Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), empowered by law to regulate the unitization procedure are most often helpless and do not have any definite time frame allocated to conclude the process;

Worried that the indigenous oil exploration and exploitation companies involved in the process of unitization, due to delay and protracted litigations are short-changed and as a result, lose majority of the revenues that would have accrued to them;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream) to investigate the matter and report its finds and recommendations to the House within six (6) weeks (*Hon. Sergious Ose Ogun — Esan North East/Esan South East Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to **(HR. 226/2015)**.

Motion referred to the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream), pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 51 (5).

12. Call to Investigate the Implementation of the Cashless Policy to Ameliorate the Sufferings of Nigerians

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the Cashless Policy which was introduced in 2012 to reduce cash transactions and encourage electronic means of paying for goods and service;

Aware that the policy was meant to check corruption, stop terrorism financing, reduce inflation, circulation of cash, financial crimes and armed robbery by tracking the trails of money and also reduce the huge costs of printing money and the huge security risk of handling cash;

Also aware that the Central Bank carried out massive enlightenment and sensitization campaigns to all segments of the population before the implementation and gave some time to enable banks, financial institutions and businesses to acquire the non-cash platforms like the P.O.S. (Point of Sale) machines and internet funds transfer facilities to support the policy before its implementation;

Concerned that the vision of the Central Bank in introducing the policy is not being adhered to by both the general public and the financial institutions which are empowered to checkmate transactions to or from foreign countries;

Also concerned that the policy is only partially successful in a few cities, as many supermarkets, shops, hotels, etc. not only still transact businesses in cash, but out rightly inform customers that they accept only cash, given that there seems to be no measures in place to compel adherence to the policy;

Disturbed that the installation of Automated Teller Machines (ATM) within the premises of supermarkets, shops, hotels etc to enable citizens withdraw cash to transact businesses is not only counterproductive to the cashless Policy but actually undermines it;

Also disturbed that Nigerians are practically compelled to withdraw huge amounts of cash which incurs higher charges, with the attendant risks, including exposure to armed robbery, being short-changed of the amounts collected and failure of many of the ATMs to dispense cash, etc thus bringing hardships to people;

Further disturbed that presently, Banks do not allow online transactions above S300 and POS transactions above S1,000, daily, thereby encouraging some citizens to resort to the parallel market to procure foreign currency for their needs;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to examine the level of compliance with the policy by business outfits and Government Agencies and explore ways to ensure that facilities are put in place to enable smooth operation of the cashless policy or appropriately, cause a review of the policy to suit the challenges it is facing and report back to the House within eight (8) weeks; and

(*ii*) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria to ensure better implementation, particularly in cities which have Banking services and to review the policy on Foreign Exchange in a manner that will not only continue to protect the country's foreign currency but also ensure that Nigerians realistically and legitimately transact businesses globally (*Hon. Edward Gyang Pwajok — Jos South/Jose East Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:
Insert a new Prayer (*iii*) as follows:
"Urge the Central Bank of Nigeria to increase online transaction from S300 to S500 and Point of Sale (POS) transaction from S1,000 to S5,000 daily" (*Hon. Abdulrazaq Namdas Ganye/Jada/Toungo/Mayo Belwa 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 Cashless Policy which was introduced in 2012 to reduce cash transactions and encourage electronic means of paying for goods and service;

Aware that the policy was meant to check corruption, stop terrorism financing, reduce inflation, circulation of cash, financial crimes and armed robbery by tracking the trails of money and also reduce the huge costs of printing money and the huge security risk of handling cash;

Also aware that the Central Bank carried out massive enlightenment and sensitization campaigns to all segments of the population before the implementation and gave some time to enable banks, financial institutions and businesses to acquire the non-cash platforms like the P.O.S. (Point of Sale) machines and internet funds transfer facilities to support the policy before its implementation;

Concerned that the vision of the Central Bank in introducing the policy is not being adhered to by both the general public and the financial institutions which are empowered to checkmate transactions to or from foreign countries;

Also concerned that the policy is only partially successful in a few cities, as many supermarkets, shops, hotels, etc. not only still transact businesses in cash, but out rightly inform customers that they accept only cash, given that there seems to be no measures in place to compel adherence to the policy;

Disturbed that the installation of Automated Teller Machines (ATM) within the premises of supermarkets, shops, hotels etc to enable citizens withdraw cash to transact businesses is not only counterproductive to the cashless Policy but actually undermines it;

Also disturbed that Nigerians are practically compelled to withdraw huge amounts of cash which incurs higher charges, with the attendant risks, including exposure to armed robbery, being short-changed of the amounts collected and failure of many of the ATMs to dispense cash, etc thus bringing hardships to people;

Further disturbed that presently, Banks do not allow online transactions above S300 and Point of Sale (POS) transactions above S1,000, daily, thereby encouraging some citizens to resort to the parallel market to procure foreign currency for their needs;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to examine the level of compliance with the policy by business outfits and Government Agencies and explore ways to ensure that facilities are put in place to enable smooth operation of the cashless policy or appropriately, cause a review of the policy to suit the challenges it is facing and report back to the House within eight (8) weeks; and

(*ii*) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria to ensure better implementation, particularly in cities which have Banking services and to review the policy on Foreign Exchange in a manner that will not only continue to protect the country's foreign currency but also ensure that Nigerians realistically and legitimately transact businesses globally; and

(*iii*) also mandate the Central Bank of Nigeria to increase online transaction from S300 to S500 and Point of Sale (POS) transaction from S1,000 to S5,000 daily (**HR. 227/2015**).

Motion referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

13. **Call for Establishment of Registry of Convicted Persons**

Order read; withdrawn by leave of the House.

14. **Need for the Federal Government to Curb Population Explosion in Nigeria**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes a report by the United States based Population Reference Bureau (PRB) in its 2011 World Population Data Sheet, released in 2014 that Nigeria's population would be 433 million by 2050, thus making Nigeria the third most populous country in the world by then, behind only India and China and even bigger than the United States of America (USA) but with only a 10 per cent of the land mass of the USA;

Worried that though Nigeria's population has hit the 166 million mark, about five million people are still added to it annually;

Concerned that the National Population Commission does not seem to be alive to its responsibility of researching and monitoring the national population information databank as well as advising the President on population matters;

Also concerned that unbridled population growth puts pressure on the country's finances and infrastructure, especially food, housing, education and health care and is also the catalyst for high unemployment, crime, poverty, among others;

Cognizant of the challenges of countries which have population problems like China (1.4 billion) and India (1.28 billion) and concerned that Nigeria, as a potential third most populous country in the world by 2050, is heading in such direction if it does not immediately commence the implementation of an action plan to curb unbridled population growth;

Resolves to:

Urge the Federal Government to curb population explosion by urgently coming up with a workable population reduction policy and directing the National Orientation Agency (NOA) to educate Nigerians on the benefits of family planning (*Hon. Babatunde Gabriel Kolawole — Akoko South West/Akoko East Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Debate adjourned.

Ordered: *The Committees on Justice, Population, and Rules and Business should examine the motion vis-a-vis the provisions of Order XVIII, Rule* 181 (*d*) *of the Standing Orders as well as extant laws and policies, and report back to the House as soon as possible.*

15. **Need to Investigate the Funds that have Accrued to the National Housing Fund since Inception**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the National Housing Fund was established in 1992 to enable every Nigerian to have access to decent and affordable housing;

Aware that the Act establishing the Fund mandated contribution of 2.5 percent of every worker's salary, thus ensuring an ever growing pool of funds to provide loans to drive the house ownership project by contributors;

Worried that twenty-three (23) years after the establishment of the Fund, there are no visible signs of the envisaged mass housing project, or any known beneficiary of the Scheme, yet the contributions have continued as deductions are still being made at source;

Also worried that such cumulative Funds over the last 23 years ought to have amounted to so much, without its deployment to the purpose for which it was intended;

Considers the fact that some of the contributors would have died without realizing their dreams of owning their own houses and without any refunds, and such unutilized pool of funds, could be very tempting for the administrators of the Scheme;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Housing to obtain from the Federal Mortgage Bank details of the contributions from subscribers since the inception of the Scheme, and determine what use the funds have been put over the years and report back to the House within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Joseph Edionwele — Esan Central/Esan West/Igueben Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

(*i*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*ii*) as follows:
"Mandate the Committee on Housing to investigate the status of deposits by deceased contributors" (*Hon. Babajimi Benson — Ikorodu Federal Constituency*).

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

(*ii*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*iii*) as follows:
"Ensure that those who have contributed up to 10years should be given the option to draw down on their contribution in order to enable them seek alternative housing" (*Hon. Dickson Tarkighir — 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:

Noted that the National Housing Fund was established in 1992 to enable every Nigerian to have access to decent and affordable housing;

Aware that the Act establishing the Fund mandated contribution of 2.5 percent of every worker's salary, thus ensuring an ever growing pool of funds to provide loans to drive the house ownership project by contributors;

Worried that twenty-three (23) years after the establishment of the Fund, there are no visible signs of the envisaged mass housing project, or any known beneficiary of the Scheme, yet the contributions have continued as deductions are still being made at source;

Also worried that such cumulative Funds over the last 23 years ought to have amounted to so much, without its deployment to the purpose for which it was intended;

Considered the fact that some of the contributors would have died without realizing their dreams of owning their own houses and without any refunds, and such unutilized pool of funds, could be very tempting for the administrators of the Scheme;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Mandate the Committee on Housing to obtain from the Federal Mortgage Bank details of the contributions from subscribers since the inception of the Scheme, and determine what use the funds have been put over the years and report back to the House within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action;

(*ii*) also mandate the Committee on Housing to investigate the status of deposits by deceased contributors; and

(*iii*) ensure that those who have contributed up to 10years should be given the option to draw down on their contribution in order to enable them seek alternative housing (**HR. 228/2015**).

16. **Lack of Adequate Borstal Institutions for the Remand and Rehabilitation of Juvenile Offenders:**

Order read; withdrawn by leave of the House.

17. **Consolidation of Bills**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Competition Commission and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 1); and a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Consumer Protection Act, Cap. C25, LFN, 2004, Establish the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission and the Competition and Consumer Protection Tribunal for the Development and Promotion of Fair, Efficient and Competitive Markets in the Nigerian Economy, Facilitate access by all citizens to Safe Products, Secure the Protection of Rights for all Consumers in Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB. 60) be now consolidated" (*Hon. Oker-jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

18. **Consolidation of Bills**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Smooth and Orderly Transfer of Power from one Government to another and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 102); and a Bill for an Act to Provide for, among other things, a Framework for the Documentation and Transmission of Hand over Note from one Administration to Another and to ensure the Publication of same in the Official Gazzette and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 109) be now consolidated" (*Hon. Oker-jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Question put and agreed to.

19. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Lands Registry (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, Cap. F15, LFN, 2004 and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 52) — *Second Reading*.**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Lands Registry (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, Cap. F 15 LFN, 2004 and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 52) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question that the Bill be read a Second Time, put and agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time by the Clerk.

Bill referred to the Committee on Housing.

20. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 25 November, 2015 *at* 10.00 *a.m.* (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.48 *p.m.*

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker