FOURTH REPUBLIC
8TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST SESSION
NO. 44

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 3 December, 2015

1. The House met at 11.00 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 Wednesday, 2 December, 2015.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcement**

(*a*) ***Visitors in the Gallery*:**
Mr Speaker recognized the presence of the Staff and Students of Hope of Destiny International Schools, New-Nyanya, Karu, Nasarawa State.

(*b*) ***Bereavement*:**
Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Garba Datti Muhammed (*Sabon Gari Federal Constituency*), announcing the death of Hon. Mustapha Halliru, a former Member (*Kaduna South Federal Constituency*, 2007 - 2011).

A minute silence observed in honour of the deceased.

4. **Petitions**

(*i*) A petition from Abraham Ebhoaye on the National Pension Commission's application of the new pension scheme rather than the old pension scheme in the calculation of his pension entitlement, was presented and laid by Hon. Joseph Eghoghori Edionwele (*Esan Central/Esan West/Igueben Federal Constituency*);

(*ii*) A petition from Kingdom Human Rights Foundation International on behalf of Caroline Alozie and two others on the failure by the Federal Housing Authority to transfer ownership of houses allocated to them, was presented and laid by Hon. Ezenwa Onyebuchi (*Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*);

(*iii*) A petition from Falana & Falana Chambers on the casual status of some staff in Petroleum Products Pricing and Regulatory Agency (PPPRA), was presented and laid by Hon. Golu Timothy Simon (*Paskshin/Kanke/Kanam Federal Constituency*);

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(*iv*) A petition from Auta B. Salihu and twenty-five others on the violation of Public Service Rules, and the federal character principle in the 2012 – 2014 promotion exercises by the Management of Nigerian Export Promotion Council, was presented and laid by Hon. Johnbull T. Shekarau (*Shendam/Mikang /Qua'an/Pan Federal Constituency*);

(*v*) Hon. Nkem-Abonta Uzoma (*Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency*) presented and laid the following petitions from:

(*a*) Salahudeen Balarabe Yakubu in respect of his disengagement by the Nigeria Export Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA), Abuja in 2007;

(*b*) Emeka Umeagbalaisi on behalf of International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Laws, Anambra State, Nigeria, on their activities of the Electricity Sector Distribution Company against the people of the Southeast, especially in Ogbaru, Onitsha and Ogidi areas;

(*c*) Elisha Umeh, on behalf of Abazuonu Ihitenasa Transformer Users Forum, on the refusal of Enugu Electricity Distribution Company to supply 600 pieces of prepaid Meter already paid for;

(*d*) Wordam Eimdik and two others, on behalf of Coalition of closed unpaid Textile Workers Association of Nigeria on the non-payment of terminal and gratuity benefits by the Board of Directors and Management of Kaduna Textiles Limited, Arewa Textiles Plc, and Finetex and North Limited;

(*e*) Victor Dennis Ekaro, on the refusal of the Nigeria Police Force to investigate the murder of three youth leaders in Ihuono community, Rivers State;

(*f*) The Coalition Group on the selection process, which led to the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor, University of Ibadan, by the Governing Council;

(*g*) Caleb G. Dajan & Co., on behalf Nathaniel Ufaruna and another against the Registrar of Nigerian Institute of Science Laboratory Technology over his 3rd term tenure elongation contrary to the Civil Service Rules;

(*h*) SCA Adiele C. C. on his untimely retirement from service by the Nigerian Customs Service;

(*vi*) A petition from Enoch O. Oyuiyi on behalf of five other officers of the Centre for Management Development (CMD) over their compulsory retirement from service and non-compliance with the decision of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity on 15 April, 2008 and the Industrial Arbitration Panel of 21 February, 2011- was presented and laid by Hon. Akintola Taiwo Michael (*Egbeda/Ona-Ara Federal Constituency*);

(*vii*) A petition from Stephen Mission Horsfall, on behalf of Chiefs of Bile Kingdom, in respect of the military invasion of the Bile Kingdom of Rivers State by unknown armed soldiers, was presented and laid by Hon. Randolph Iwo Oruene Brown (*Degema/Bonny Federal Constituency*);

(*viii*) A petition from Chima Joseph on behalf of the South East Traders Association of Nigeria on the extortion of importers, illegal and fraudulent charges by the Nigerian Customs officers at the Nigeria Seaports/Wharfs, was presented and laid by Hon. Goodluck Opiah (*Ohaji/Egbema/Oguta/Oru West Federal Constituency*);

(*ix*) A petition from Granvill Abibo (SAN) & Co., on behalf of Pubec Oil Services Nigeria Limited on the refusal by Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) to comply with the court order of 12th November, 2015, was presented and laid by Hon. Jerome A. Eke (*Etche/Omuma Federal Constituency*):

(*x*) A petition from Idowu Agboola & Co., on behalf of Wouci Hassan SH on his detention, discontinuance of salary and disengagement from the service of the Nigerian Navy, was presented and laid by Hon. Zakari Muhammed (*Baruten/Kaiama Federal Constituency*);

(*xi*) A petition from Dr S. C. Dika & Company (Barrister, Solicitors & Notary Public) on behalf of the communities, families and people of Egita in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State on the adverse effect of Egi gas blow out on their lives and property, was presented and laid by Hon. Uchechukwu Nnam-Obi (*Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni/Ahoada West Federal Constituency*):

(*xii*) A petition from Egang Agabi & Co. (Legal Practitioners) on behalf of Capt. Balarabe A. Usman on his removal as Director of Security and Safety of Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), was presented and laid by Hon. Jagaba Adams Jagaba (*Kachia/Kagarko Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

6. Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order VIII, Rule 46)

(*i*) *Rampant Change of Names as Published in Newspapers and its Implication on National Security*:

Hon. Danburam Abubakar Nuhu (*Kano Municipal Federal Constituency*) introduced 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 - Agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Rampant Change of Names as Published in Newspapers and Implication of Fraud and the Danger it Poses to National Security:

The House:

Aware **that the** rampant change of names in the Newspapers today is to meet up with the requirement for eligible change of name from your present and known name to any preferable name;

Also aware **that in** changing these names, people must have abandoned the previous identities under which they have lived all their lives;

Further aware that those changing their names may have been doing so for other reasons that might be dubious or pose security challenges;

Equally aware that as part of the requirement to obtain police report and court affidavit, persons seeking to change their names must publish same on the pages of the newspapers;

Concerned that the change of names might be linked to the recent CBN's BVN policy as a way of circumventing the programme;

Also concerned of the frequency and alarming rate of the publications for change of names;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Call on the Police and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to check the antecedents of new applicants for BVNs; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committees on Information Technology, Police Affairs, Judiciary, and Banking and Currency to investigate the issue and report back to the House within 2 weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Danburam Abubakar Nuhu — Kano Municipal Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question agreed to.

The House:

Aware that the rampant change of names in the Newspapers today is to meet up with the requirement for eligible change of name from your present and known name to any preferable name;

Also aware that in changing these names, people must have abandoned the previous identities under which they have lived all their lives;

Further aware that those changing their names may have been doing so for other reasons that might be dubious or pose security challenges;

Equally aware that as part of the requirement to obtain police report and court affidavit, persons seeking to change their names must publish same on the pages of the newspapers;

Concerned that the change of names might be linked to the recent CBN's BVN policy as a way of circumventing the programme;

Also concerned of the frequency and alarming rate of the publications for change of names;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Call on the Police and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to check the antecedents of new applicants for BVNs; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committees on Information Technology, Police Affairs, Judiciary, and Banking and Currency to investigate the issue and report back to the House within 2 weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 258/2015**).

Motion referred to the Committees on Information Technology, Judiciary, Banking and Currency, and Police Affairs.

(*ii*) ***Urgent need on the Management of University of Nigeria (UNN) to Reverse its Policy on the Compulsory Payment of Laptop Fees by its Fresh Students*:**
Hon. Baballe Bashir (*Ungogo/Minjibir Federal Constituency*) introduced 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 — Agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) *to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.*

Urgent need on the Management of University of Nigeria (UNN) to Reverse its Policy on the Compulsory Payment of Laptop Fees by its Fresh Students:

The House:

Notes that Section 18 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) states that government shall direct its policy towards ensuring that there are equal and adequate educational opportunities at all level;

Also notes that Subsection (3) states that government shall strive to eradicate illiteracy, and to this end government shall as and when practicable provide:

(*a*) free, compulsory and universal primary education,

(*b*) free secondary education,

(*c*) free university education, and

(*d*) free adult literacy programme;

Aware that education is to democracy what water is to life;

Concerns that Nigerian are anxious to further their education in order to contribute to national development and become self reliance;

Worried that management of some tertiary institutions are making it difficult for Nigerian who were to further their studies through the introduction of exorbitant fees and other charges;

Disturbed that the management of University of Nigeria (UNN) has introduced compulsory payment of ₦70,000 as laptop fees to its new students; and

Also worried and disturbed that the students find it difficult to cope with the situation.

Resolves to:

(*i*) Mandate the Committee on Tertiary Education to interface with the Management of UNN and National University Commission (NUC) with a view of reversing the decision and report back to the House within 1 week;

(*ii*) urge Legislators both at National and State Houses of Assemblies to rationally engaged the executive arm of Government towards proper funding of education (*Hon. Baballe Bashir —Ungogo/Minjibir Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Section 18 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) states that government shall direct its policy towards ensuring that there are equal and adequate educational opportunities at all level;

Also noted that Subsection (3) states that government shall strive to eradicate illiteracy, and to this end government shall as and when practicable provide:

(*a*) free, compulsory and universal primary education,

(*b*) free secondary education,

(*c*) free university education, and

(*d*) free adult literacy programme;

Aware that education is to democracy what water is to life;

Concerned that Nigerian are anxious to further their education in order to contribute to national development and become self reliance;

Worried that management of some tertiary institutions are making it difficult for Nigerian who were to further their studies through the introduction of exorbitant fees and other charges;

Disturbed that the management of University of Nigeria (UNN) has introduced compulsory payment of ₦70,000 as laptop fees to its new students; and

Also worried and disturbed that the students find it difficult to cope with the situation.

Resolved to:

(*i*) Mandate the Committee on Tertiary Education to interface with the Management of UNN and National University Commission (NUC) with a view of reversing the decision and report back to the House within 1 week;

(*ii*) urge Legislators both at National and State Houses of Assemblies to rationally engaged the executive arm of Government towards proper funding of education **(HR. 259/2015)**.

Motion referred to the Committee on Basic Education Services.

7. Presentation and First Reading of Bills

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

(*i*) Medical Rehabilitation Therapists Registration Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 181).

(*ii*) Fire Arms Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 182).

(*iii*) Orphanage Bill, 2015 (HB. 183).

(*iv*) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2015 (HB. 184).

(*v*) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2015 (HB.185).

(*vi*) National Population Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 186).

(*vii*) National Boundary Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 187).

(*viii*) Internal Loan Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 188).

(*ix*) Customary Court Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 190).

8. Presentation of Report
***Committee on Public Petitions*:**
Report on the Petition by Mr Benett C. Onyejegbu:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Mr Benett C. Onyejegbu against the Bank of Agriculture, Kaduna for non-payment of Pensions Benefits" (*Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency*).

Question agreed to.

Report laid.

9. Business Continued from Assembly to Assembly
***Chartered Institute of Project Management Bill*, 2015 (HB. 18):**
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 Chartered Institute of Project Management Bill, 2015 was awaiting consideration in the Committee of the Whole before the last Assembly ended;

Aware that the said Bill has been regazetted as HB. 18 and read the first time on Tuesday, 13 August, 2015;

Resolves to:

Commit the Bill to the Committee of the Whole for consideration (*Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency*).

Question agreed to.

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

10. Urgent Need to Rehabilitate the Port Harcourt/Aba Express Road
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Port Harcourt/Aba express road connects the South-East and the South-South States which are two industrially and commercially viable zones of the country;

Concerned that the road is currently in a bad state as it is dotted with large potholes and deep gullies which make both human and vehicular movements difficult;

Also concerned that the deplorable state of the road is affecting the socio-economic lives of the people, as transporting people and goods is becoming herculean tasks;

Further concerned that due to the bad state of the road, lives and properties are lost in needless accidents, and commuters are being molested and extorted by unscrupulous miscreants from nearby villages, man hours are being wasted, vehicles damaged and armed robbers attack commuters plying the road;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to commence remedial works on the road to ameliorate the sufferings of the people;

(*ii*) implore the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to undertake a critical study with a view to finding solutions to the continuous degradation of the Road, especially during the rainy seasons; and

(*iii*) mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure strict compliance with the resolution (*Hon. Emerengwa Boniface Sunday — Ikwerre/Emoha Federal Constituency and 1 Other*).

Question agreed to.

(HR. 260/2015)

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

11. **Reconstruction and Dualization of Kaduna-Birnin-Gwari-Funtua, Birnin Gwari-Tegina-Mokwa-Ilorin-Lagos Road**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Kaduna- Birnin-Gwari/Funtua-Birnin-Gwari-Tegina-Mokwa-Jebba-Ilorin-Lagos Road was constructed more than 50 years ago, and since then, has not witnessed any serious maintenance/ rehabilitation;

Aware that the road, which is the shortest link between the Northern and Southern parts of Nigeria, plays significant role in the conveyance of people and goods;

Also aware that rail services used to be the more convenient and cheaper means of conveying people and goods but since its collapse in the 1980s, heavy duty vehicles such as trucks, trailers, and lorries now convey goods through the road networks, thereby exacting heavy pressure on the roads, hence their present poor state;

Concerned that the deplorable condition of the road causes incessant gridlocks and accidents, resulting in loss of lives and properties worth millions of Naira and man hours, on daily basis;

Worried that hoodlums take advantage of the bad state of the road where motorists are compelled to slow down, to rob and kill commuters at will;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government to consider adopting the Public Private Partnership (PPP) policy in road construction and maintenance, and as a pilot scheme, select six key roads across the country, including the road in question, for commencement of the scheme;

(*ii*) also urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), to undertake a rehabilitation of the failed portions of the road as an interim measure; and

(*iii*) further urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to allocate funds in the 2016 Budget proposals for reconstruction and dualization of the Road (*Hon. Hassan Adamu Shekarau — Birnin/Gwari/Giwa Federal Constituency and 6 Others*).

Question agreed to.

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

12. Call for Reconstruction of the Odukpani Axis of the Calabar-Itu Road, Connecting Akwa Ibom State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the complete collapse of the 1km stretch along Okoyong/Okurikang on the Odukpani axis of the Calabar -Itu road has practically brought the social and economic activities in the area to a halt, following the grounding of vehicular movements;

Aware that stranded commuters and drivers of tankers and heavy duty trucks have been thrown into bewilderment as they queue in frustrating traffic hold-ups for more than four hours for a distance of less than one kilometer in the affected portion;

Also aware that these unfortunate but preventable situations, apart from causing untold hardships and frustration to road users, have also increased the rate of accidents leading to loss of lives on a regular basis;

Worried that the condition of the road is frustrating the efforts of the State government in seeking alternative source of revenue and funding for the business of governance and is also hampering the tourism potentials of the State;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Call on the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to urgently undertake rehabilitation works on the road to ameliorate the current frustrations and hardships caused to road users; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committees on Power, Works, Housing, and Appropriations to include the estimates for reconstruction of the road and other Federal roads linking into Cross River State in the 2016 budget (*Hon. Ntufam Eta Mbora — Calabar Municipal/Odukpani Federal Constituency*).

Question agreed to.

(HR. 261/2015)

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

13. Call for Investigation of the Sales of Nigerian Telecommunications (NITEL) and Mobile Telecommunications (MTEL) to NATCOM

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the failure of NITEL and MTEL to live up to the expectations of Nigerians led to their privatization and subsequent sales in December 2014 to a consortium named NATCOM for the sum of $242.3 million;

Concerned that since the sales and subsequent takeover of the companies by NATCOM, lots of controversies have been raised about the processes leading to the sales, particularly about the alleged under-valuation of the companies prior to their sales;

Aware of the huge revenue potentials of communications, especially with Nigeria's huge population of over 170 million and also its capacity to generate employment for the teeming unemployed citizens;

Cognizant of the fact that there is every need to resolve the issues surrounding the sales and takeover of NITEL and MTEL by NATCOM.

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Telecommunications to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the liquidation and takeover of NITEL and MTEL by NATCOM, and report back to the House within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Henry Nwawuba — Mbaitoli/Ikeduru Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Amendment Proposed:
In the Prayer, immediately after the word "Telecommunications", *insert* the words "and Privatization and Commercialization" (*Hon. Mohammed Bago — Chanchaga Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the failure of NITEL and MTEL to live up to the expectations of Nigerians led to their privatization and subsequent sales in December 2014 to a consortium named NATCOM for the sum of $242.3 million;

Concerned that since the sales and subsequent takeover of the companies by NATCOM, lots of controversies have been raised about the processes leading to the sales, particularly about the alleged under-valuation of the companies prior to their sales;

Aware of the huge revenue potentials of communications, especially with Nigeria's huge population of over 170 million and also its capacity to generate employment for the teeming unemployed citizens;

Cognizant of the fact that there is every need to resolve the issues surrounding the sales and takeover of NITEL and MTEL by NATCOM.

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Telecommunications, and Privatization and Commercialization to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the liquidation and takeover of NITEL and MTEL by NATCOM, and report back to the House within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 262/2015**).

Motion referred to the Committees on Telecommunication, and Privatization and Commercialization, pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 51 (5).

14. **Consolidation of Bills**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Youth Service Corps Act, Cap. N84, LFN, 2004 to make it Mandatory for the Service Corps to provide Life Insurance Policy for Corp Members, and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 80); and a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Youth Service Corps Act, Cap. N84, LFN, 2004, to embody certain Provisions Aimed at Enhancing the Welfare needs of Corp Members, enable their Acquisition of Special Business and Commercial Skills and Empower them Financially to be better able to fend for themselves at the end of their services and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 82) be now consolidated" (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

15. **Consolidation of Bills**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission Act, Cap. N117, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 95); and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission Act, Cap. N117 LFN, 2004 and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 180) be now consolidated" (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

16. **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) — *Second Reading*.**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

17. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Chartered Institute of Export and Commodity Brokers of Nigeria and for Other Matters connected Therewith (HB. 85) — *Second Reading*.**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

18. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for Compulsory Teaching of Security and Intelligence Studies in the Syllabus of Secondary Schools in Nigeria and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 123) — *Second Reading*.**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

19. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 8 *December*, 2015 *at* 10.00 *a.m.* (*Hon. Jibril Umar Buba — Deputy House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.30 *p.m.*

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker