FOURTH REPUBLIC
8TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST SESSION
NO. 61

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 28 January, 2016

1. The House met at 11.01 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, 27 January, 2016.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcement**
(*i*) ***Visitors in the Gallery*:**
Mr Speaker recognized the presence of the following visitors:

(*i*) Staff and Students of Grand Regal International School, Gwarimpa, Abuja;

(*ii*) Staff and Students of J. K. People's Comprehensive Academy, Karu, Nasarawa State;

(*iii*) Members of the National Association of Kwara State Students (NAKSS), University of Abuja Chapter; and

(*iii*) Staff and Students of Sokoga British School, Keffi, Nasarawa State.

(*ii*) ***Bereavement*:**
Mr Speaker read the following communications from:

(*i*) Hon. Ahmed Garba Bichi (*Bichi Federal Constituency*), announcing the death of Hon. Ahmed Haladu, a former Member (*Bichi Federal Constituency*, 2003 - 2007), which occurred on Thursday, 7 January, 2016.

(*ii*) Hon. Tarkighir Dickson Dominic (*Makurdi/Guma Federal Constituency*), announcing the death of Hon. Ugba Uych, a former Member (*Markurdi/Guma Federal Constituency*, 1979 - 1983), which occurred on Wednesday, 13 January, 2016.

A minute silence observed in honour of the deceased.

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4. Petitions

(*i*) A petition from Solomon David Kantiyok on the termination of his appointment by the Keystone Bank Plc, was presented and laid by Hon. Sunday M. Katung (*Zango Kataf/Jaba Federal Constituency*);

(*ii*) A Petition from Nichodemus Egwuatu Eze, Esq. on the falsification of public records, negligence, discrimination and corruption at Petroleum Training Institute, Efurrun, Delta State, was presented and laid by Hon. Agbo Dennis Nnamdi (*Udenu/Igbo-Eze North Federal Constituency*):

(*iii*) A Petition from Ajayi Emmanuel O. on behalf of some Staff of the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) on the termination of their appointments, was presented and laid by Hon. Segun Adekola Alexander (*Ekiti South West/Ikere/Ise/Orun Federal Constituency*):

(*iv*) Two Petitions from Engineer Ogunleye Oluwaseun, on behalf of the concerned back up contract Staff of Warri Refinery and Petrochemical Limited on their condition of service, were presented and laid by Hon. Akinfolarin Mayowa Samuel (*Ileoluji-Okeibo/Odigbo Federal Constituency*) and Hon. Segun Adekola Alexander (*Ekiti South West/Ikere/Ise/Orun Federal Constituency*):

(*v*) A Petition from International Society for Social Justice and Human Rights (ISSJHR), Port Harcourt, on behalf of Chief Omenazu Jackson on threat to his life by Chigonum Ahiaha, was presented and laid by Hon. Emmanuel Ekon (*Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency*):

(*vi*) A petition from Ahmed A. Abbas and 25 others on their dismissal as employees of Staff School, Federal Polytechnic, Mubi, was presented and laid by Hon. Adamu Kamale (*Madagali/Michika Federal Constituency*);

(*vii*) A petition from Jimmy Godwin on the termination of his appointment by the Federal High Court, was presented and laid by Hon. Emmanuel Akpan (*Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency*);

(*viii*) A Petition from Stella Chinyere Udu & Co. on behalf of Festus Eda Ijere, on the termination of his appointment by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) without entitlements, was presented and laid by Hon. Akinlaja Iranola Joseph (*Ondo East Federal Constituency*):

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. Privilege (Order VI, Rule 20)

Hon. Yakubu Barde (*Kajuru/Chikun Federal Constituency*) informed the House that on 23 and 24 January, 2016, Hon. Mohammed Abubakar (*Igabi Federal Constituency*) granted a press interview to the Liberty Radio Station, Kaduna and alleged that the Members of the House of Representatives collected fifty million Naira (₦50m) and one hundred and fifty (150) motorcycle each from the Leadership of the House for distribution to their constituents. He stated that he did not collect any money or motorcycle from anybody for distribution to his constituents. He noted that the allegation was a breach of his privilege and that of the House, and therefore called on the House to investigate the matter.

Matter referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges; to report back within four weeks.

6. Presentation of Report

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the report on the Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges Act, Cap. D9. Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004" (*Hon. Jibril Umar Buba – Lokoja/Kogi/Koton Karfi Federal Constituency*)

Question agreed to.

Report laid.

Mr Speaker Ordered copies to be circulated to Members.

7. Consolidation of Bills

(*i*) *Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Private Guards Companies Act, Cap. P30 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria,2004; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 225); and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Private Guards Companies Act, Cap. P30, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, Relating to their Licencing, Regulation; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 348) be now consolidated" (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(*ii*) *Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Electoral Act of 2010 to Empower Elections Tribunals and Courts to declare Candidates who scored the Second Highest Votes as Winners of Elections when the Tribunal or Court finds/Holds that the Winner of the Election is Unqualified for the Election *ab initio*; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 165); a Bill for an Act to Amend the Electoral Act, 2010, to ensure that all Political Parties are Gender Sensitive and to Eliminate all forms of Discrimination in all Political Parties; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 174); and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Electoral Act, No. 64, 2010 to include the Use of Card Reader as Part of the Act and clearly specify the Tenure of Office of the Secretary of the Commission; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 220) be now consolidated" (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

8. A Bill for an Act to Establish the National Council of Traditional Rulers in the Federal Republic of Nigeria; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 113) — *Second Reading.*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Council of Traditional Rulers in the Federal Republic of Nigeria; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 113) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umuneochi Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Debate Adjourned.

Mr Speaker ordered the Committees on Rules and Business, and Justice to further examine the Bill vis-a-vis the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and report their findings to the House early.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (Establishment, etc.) Act, 2002 and Establish the Federal Roads Authority to Promote a Safe and Efficient Management of Federal Roads Network; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 21) — *Second Reading*.**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (Establishment, etc.) Act, 2002 and Establish the Federal Roads Authority to Promote a Safe and Efficient Management of Federal Roads Network; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 21) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Gideon Gwani — Kaura Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question that the Bill be read a Second Time — Negatived.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Establish a Public Service Commission for the Federal Capital Territory; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 310); and a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Capital Territory Civil Service Commission; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 167) — *Second Reading*.**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish a Public Service Commission for the Federal Capital Territory; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 310); and a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Capital Territory Civil Service Commission; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 167) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Herman Hembe — Konshisha/Vandekiya Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question that the Bill be read a Second Time — Agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time by the Clerk.

Bill referred to the Committee on Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

11. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Centre for Agricultural Mechanization Act, Cap. N13, LFN, 2004 to provide for Private Sector participation, promotion of Commercial Agriculture; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 94); and a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Centre for Agricultural Mechanization Act, Cap. N13, LFN, 2004 to provide for Private Sector participation, promotion of Commercial Agriculture; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 93) — *Second Reading*.**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Centre for Agricultural Mechanization Act, Cap. N13, LFN, 2004 to provide for Private Sector participation, promotion of Commercial Agriculture; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 94); and a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Centre for Agricultural Mechanization Act, Cap. N13, LFN, 2004 to provide for Private Sector participation, promotion of Commercial Agriculture; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 93) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Abudullahi Umar Faruk — Bunza/Birnin Kebbi/Kalgo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question that the Bill be read a Second Time — Agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time by the Clerk.

Bill referred to the Committee on Agricultural Production and Services.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (Establishment) Act, 2005 and Enact the Public Private Partnership Regulatory Commission Act, 2016 to strengthen and enhance the Supervisory Role of the Commission and effectively position it in Regulating the participation of the Public and Private Sectors in enhancing of Construction, Dev elopment, Designing Operation or Maintenance of Infrastructure or Development Projects of the Federal Government through Public Private Partnership Arrangements; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 358) — *Second Reading*.**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (Establishment) Act, 2005 and Enact the Public Private Partnership Regulatory Commission Act, 2016 to strengthen and enhance the Supervisory Role of the Commission and effectively position it in Regulating the participation of the Public and Private Sectors in enhancing of Construction, Development, Designing Operation or Maintenance of Infrastructure or Development Projects of the Federal Government throug h Public Private Partnership Arrangements; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 358) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Abdulmumin Jibrin — Bebeji/Kiru Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question that the Bill be read a Second Time — Agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time by the Clerk.

Bill referred to the Committee on Works.

13. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Police Procurement Fund for the Procurement of Law Enforcement Equipment to assist the Nigerian Police Force in the protection of lives and Property; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 314) — *Second Reading*.**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Police Procurement Fund for the Procurement of Law Enforcement Equipment to assist the Nigerian Police Force in the protection of lives and Property; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 314) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question that the Bill be read a Second Time — Agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time by the Clerk.

Bill referred to the Committee on Police Affairs.

14. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Food, Drugs and Related Products (Registration, etc.) Act, Cap. F33, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to increase the Fine and Confer Jurisdiction on the High Court of the States to try Offences under the Act; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 359) — *Second Reading*.**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

15. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria Act, 1973, and Re-Enact the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria Bill, 2015; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 41) — *Second Reading*.**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria Act, 1973, and Re-Enact the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria Bill, 2015; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 41) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Davematics Emmanuel Ombugadu — Akwanga/Nasarawa Eggon/Wamba Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question that the Bill be read a Second Time — *Agreed to.*

Bill read the Second Time by the Clerk.

Bill referred to the Committee on Environment and Habitat.

16. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Education (National Minimum Standards and Establishment of Institutions) Act, Cap. E3, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 62); and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Education (National Minimum Standards and Establishment of Institutions) Act, Cap. E3, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Review the Punishment for Offences provided, add Government to the Bodies that may contravene the Laws and to Review Financial Requirements for Establishing Institutions; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 139)** — ***Second Reading.***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Education (National Minimum Standards and Establishment of Institutions) Act, Cap. E3, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 62); and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Education (National Minimum Standards and Establishment of Institutions) Act, Cap. E3, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Review the Punishment for Offences provided, add Government to the Bodies that may contravene the Laws and to Review Financial Requirements for Establishing Institutions; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 139) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Edward Gyang Pwajok — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question that the Bill be read a Second Time — Agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time by the Clerk.

Bill referred to the Committee on Tertiary Education.

17. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Utilities Charges Commission Act, Cap. U17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Review Upwards the Fines Stipulated for Offences under the Act; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 244)** — ***Second Reading.***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Utilities Charges Commission Act, Cap. U17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Review Upwards the Fines Stipulated for Offences under the Act; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 244) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Chukwukere Austine Ikechukwu - Ideato North/Ideato South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question that the Bill be read a Second Time — Agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time by the Clerk.

Bill referred to the Committee on Power.

18. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Psychiatric Hospitals Management Board Act, Cap. P34, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 352)** — ***Second Reading.***

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

19. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Commodity Board Act, Cap. C17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to make the Board more Responsive to its mandate; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 349) — *Second Reading*.**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Commodity Board Act, Cap. C17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to make the Board more Responsive to its mandate; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 349) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Abubakar Ahmad Yunusa – Yamaltu/Deba Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question that the Bill be read a Second Time – Agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time by the Clerk.

Bill referred to the Committee on Agricultural Production and Services.

20. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Mathematical Centre Act, Cap. N58, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, to Provide Additional Appointments and Other Conditions of Service and Establish Zonal Offices in the Six Geopolitical Zones; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 355) — *Second Reading*.**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

21. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Loans (State Development) Act, Cap. L16, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 360) — *Second Reading*.**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

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

(*i*) ***Need to Investigate the Alleged Corruption, Malpractices and Breach of Due Process in the Award of Oil Prospecting Licence (OPL) 245 and Recover Looted Funds*:**
Hon. Daniel O. Reyenieju (*Warri 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*.

Need to Investigate the Alleged Corruption, Malpractices and Breach of Due Process in the Award of Oil Prospecting Licence (OPL) 245 and Recover Looted Funds:

The House:

Aware that Oil Prospecting Licence (OPL) 245 is a potentially highly lucrative oil bloc encompassing a massive area of about 1,958 square kilometers, with two deepwater fields namely Etan and Zabazaba and is estimated to hold up to 9.2billion barrels of crude oil;

Observes that the award of the Licence and its surrounding circumstances is deeply shrouded in scandals of corruption, bribery and breach manifest breach of due process which has resulted, and will continue to result in the loss of revenue to Nigeria measured hundreds of billions of Naira;

Worried that despite growing international condemnation-about the process leading to the award of OPL 245, the Nigerian Government, including the Legislature, appears to be aloof, or unable to come to grips with the murky nature of the award:

Observes that the failure to take the necessary steps has meant that money due to Nigeria are being ordered by foreign courts to be transferred to other foreign courts. For example in March 2014 a UK Court ordered that the sum of $110m of funds relating to OPL 245 be transferred to Switzerland and another UK Court is withholding another $85m;

Concerned that if the legal aspect relating to OPL 245 is not critically examined and addressed through our justice system, foreign governments and courts will not take us seriously and the funds will be lost to Nigeria;

Mindful of the urgent need to conduct an in-depth and comprehensive inquiry into the entire process and circumstances surrounding OPL 245 and pursue a resolution to a logical conclusion;

Resolves to:

(*a*) Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee of Inquiry to

(*i*) examine the process leading to, and circumstances surrounding, the award of OPL 245;

(*ii*) identify culpability of any persons, groups, companies or organisations in relation to OPL 245;

(*iii*) consider what legal actions should be taken locally and internationally for the recovery of money due to Nigeria,

and report to the House within 6 weeks;

(*b*) urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to refrain from taking any further steps on OPL 245 pending the final resolution on the matter from this House (*Hon. Daniel O. Reyenieju — Warri Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question agreed to.

The House:

Aware that Oil Prospecting Licence (OPL) 245 is a potentially highly lucrative oil bloc encompassing a massive area of about 1,958 square kilometers, with two deepwater fields namely Etan and Zabazaba and is estimated to hold up to 9.2billion barrels of crude oil;

Observed that the award of the Licence and its surrounding circumstances is deeply shrouded in scandals of corruption, bribery and breach manifest breach of due process which has resulted, and will continue to result in the loss of revenue to Nigeria measured hundreds of billions of Naira;

Worried that despite growing international condemnation-about the process leading to the award of OPL 245, the Nigerian Government, including the Legislature, appears to be aloof, orunable to come to grips with the murky nature of the award;

Observed that the failure to take the necessary steps has meant that money due to Nigeria are being ordered by foreign courts to be transferred to other foreign courts. For example in March 2014 a UK Court ordered that the sum of $110m of funds relating to OPL 245 be transferred to Switzerland and another UK Court is withholding another $85m;

Concerned that if the legal aspect relating to OPL 245 is not critically examined and addressed through our justice system, foreign governments and courts will not take us seriously and the funds will be lost to Nigeria;

Mindful of the urgent need to conduct an in-depth and comprehensive inquiry into the entire process and circumstances surrounding OPL 245 and pursue a resolution to a logical conclusion;

Resolved to:

(*a*) Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee of Inquiry to

(*i*) examine the process leading to, and circumstances surrounding, the award of OPL 245;

(*ii*) identify culpability of any persons, groups, companies or organisations in relation to OPL 245;

(*iii*) consider what legal actions should be taken locally and internationally for the recovery of money due to Nigeria,

and report to the House within 6 weeks;

(*b*) urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to refrain from taking any further steps on OPL 245 pending the final resolution on the matter from this House (**HR. 24/2016**).

(*ii*) ***Call on Government to Halt Mass Retrenchment of Teachers and Workers of University Staff Secondary Schools and Primary Schools in Nigeria*:**
Hon. Babatunde Gabriel Kolawole (*Akoko South East/Akoko South West 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.*

Call on Government to a Halt on Mass Retrenchment of Teachers and Workers of University Staff Secondary Schools and Primary Schools in Nigeria:

The House:

Notes that Teachers and general workers of University Staff Secondary Schools and Primary Schools are employees of the Government of the Federation through the Universities that engaged their service;

Also notes that these teachers and general workers have long been engaged and have put in many years in the service of their fatherland ranging between 10 years and 30 years or more in the case of some of them;

Aware of the recent Government Policy of divesting itself from the University staff secondary schools and primary Schools funding with the attendant implication of laying-off all the teachers and general workers of these schools;

Also aware of the economic reality of the moment and the general economic hardship people are going through today in Nigeria as a result of' lack of gainful employment and underemployment, which will be worsened by the decision of the government to close all these schools;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Hon Minister of Education to meet with the Committee on Tertiary Education to throw light on this policy somersault and hasty decision of throwing out thousands of workers from gainful employment; and

(*ii*) also urge the Federal Government through the Ministry of Education to put on hold this decision while efforts should be made to absorb the affected teachers and workers into the mainstream University staff pool (*Hon. Babatunde Gabriel Kolawole — Akoko South East/South West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Teachers and general workers of University Staff Secondary Schools and Primary Schools are employees of the Government of the Federation through the Universities that engaged their service;

Also noted that these teachers and general workers have long been engaged and have put in many years in the service of their fatherland ranging between 10 years and 30 years or more in the case of some of them;

Aware of the recent Government Policy of divesting itself from the University staff secondary schools and primary Schools funding with the attendant implication of laying-off all the teachers and general workers of these schools;

Also aware of the economic reality of the moment and the general economic hardship people are going through today in Nigeria as a result of' lack of gainful employment and underemployment, which will be worsened by the decision of the government to close all these schools;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Urge the Hon Minister of Education to meet with the Committee on Tertiary Education to throw light on this policy somersault and hasty decision of throwing out thousands of workers from gainful employment; and

(*ii*) also urge the Federal Government through the Ministry of Education to put on hold this decision while efforts should be made to absorb the affected teachers and workers into the mainstream University staff pool (**HR. 25/2016**).

Motion referred to the Committee on Tertiary Education.

***Motion made and Question proposed*, "That Order VIII, Rule 46 (4) be suspended to enable the House take more than 2 Motions on Matters of Urgent Public Importance" (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).**

Question agreed to.

(iii) *Urgent Need to the Establish National Stem Cell/Bone Marrow Transplant Centre in Zaria*:

Hon. Garba Datti Muhammad (*Sabon Gari 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 to Establish a National Stem Cell/Bone Marrow Transplant Centre in Zaria:

The House:

Worried with the growing population of Sickle Cell Disease carriers in the country especially among children, with the attendant rise in child mortality rate.

Disturbed by the non-availability of any known curative treatment of this lifelong disease except the stem cell marrow transplant remedy which neither the public or the private hospital across the country can boast of a well equipped unit dedicated for the handling of this life threatening ailment and the less privileged can't afford the expensive medical care bill abroad;

Aware that currently, there are only two centres (Ibadan and Benin) that provide this specialised treatment in Nigeria;

Considers it imperative and expedient that another Hacrnopoictic Stem cell Transplant Centre be established in Zaria,. fully equipped and staffed to effectively I ackle the menace of this killer disease in the North++ and reduce the turnover rate of medical tourism abroad in search of treatment;

Resolves to:

Urge the Federal Government of Nigeria through the Ministry of Health, to establish a National Stem Cell/Bone Marrow Transplant Centre at the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital in Zaria without delay (*Hon. Garba Datti Muhammad — Sabon Gari Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question agreed to.

The House:

Worried with the growing population of Sickle Cell Disease carriers in the country especially among children, with the attendant rise in child mortality rate.

Disturbed by the non-availability of any known curative treatment of this lifelong disease except the stem cell marrow transplant remedy which neither the public or the private hospital across the country can boast of a well equipped unit dedicated for the handling of this life threatening ailment and the less privileged can't afford the expensive medical care bill abroad;

Aware that currently, there are only two centres (Ibadan and Benin) that provide this specialised treatment in Nigeria;

Considered it imperative and expedient that another Haernopoietic Stem cell Transplant Centre be established in Zaria, fully equipped and staffed to effectively I ackle the menace of this killer disease in the North++ and reduce the turnover rate of medical tourism abroad in search of treatment;

Resolved to:

Urge the Federal Government of Nigeria through the Ministry of Health, to establish a National Stem Cell/Bone Marrow Transplant Centre at the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital in Zaria without delay (**HR. 26/2016**).

(*iv*) ***Urgent Need to Open the Madagali-Gwoza Road which are Bordering Towns in Adamawa and Borno States to Allow Free Movement of Persons, Food and Medical Supplies into Gwoza Township*:**
Hon. Asabe Vilita Bashir (*Damboa/Gwoza/Chibok 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 to Open the Madagali-Gwoza Road which are Bordering Towns in Adamawa and Borno States, to Allow Free Movement of Persons, Food Medical Supplies into Gwoza Towns:

The House:

Commends the President and Commander in Chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces President Mohammadu Buhari, for his leadership qualities especially in keeping to his promise to Nigerians to defeat the Boko Haram Sect by all means;

Notes with deep sense of appreciation, the bravery, sacrifice and level of success recorded by the Nigerian military in the prosecution of the war against Boko Haram sect that has been degraded;

Aware that having almost decimated the boko haram sect, the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from Gwoza Local Government in Borno State who sought refuge in Adamawa, Bauchi, Gombe States and Maiduguri are returning in large numbers to Gwoza Local Government Area to rebuild their homes and communities. With the appreciable level of peace recorded, both Federal and State Governments are encouraging the IDPs to return to their communities which have been recaptured by the Nigerian Army. Just few days back, the Nigerian Police led by DIG arrived Gwoza Local Government in their bid to return and establish their presence in the Local Government Area;

Also aware that the Madagali-Gwoza, a 25 kilometer road linking Adamawa and Borno States was and has remained closed by the military since the attainment of relative peace in the area and the returning IDPs are only allowed to use the road either in the company of the military or to trek;

Concerned about the hardship occasioned by the continued closure of that road even now that the danger posed by Boko Haram is drastically reduced and the IDPs are returning to their communities to rebuild their homes and gather the shattered pieces of their lives;

Also concerned that the IOPs that have already returned are blocked from accessing foodstuff and medication by the continued closure of the road, they depend on government for food and medical supplies which is grossly inadequate;

Worried that if the road is not opened and security check-points mounted to check movement of people and goods, intending IDP returnees will be discouraged from returning to their communities;

Also worried that the few terrorist members who hide in the hills take undue advantage of the dead silence on that road to occasionally plant bombs (IEDs) for the security on patrol;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Nigerian Military to open the Madagali-Gwoza road during the day between 7.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. to allow easy movement of persons, foodstuff and medication into Gwoza Township;

(*ii*) also urge the Nigerian Military to mount security check-points along Madagali-Gwoza with intensified military patrol to ensure that the road remains safe;

(*iii*) mandate the Committee on Defence to liaise with the Security Chiefs in Borno State to see to the implementation of the above resolutions; and

(*iv*) observe a minute silence in honour of the departed souls in Chibok who were killed in a suicide bombing yesterday (*Hon. Asabe Vilita Bashir — Damboa/Gwoza/Chibok Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question agreed to.

The House:

Commended the President and Commander in Chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces President Mohammadu Buhari, for his leadership qualities especially in keeping to his promise to Nigerians to defeat the Boko Haram Sect by all means;

Noted with deep sense of appreciation, the bravery, sacrifice and level of success recorded by the Nigerian military in the prosecution of the war against Boko Haram sect that has been degraded;

Aware that having almost decimated the boko haram sect, the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from Gwoza Local Government in Borno State who sought refuge in Adamawa, Bauchi, Gombe States and Maiduguri are returning in large numbers to Gwoza Local Government Area to rebuild their homes and communities. With the appreciable level of peace recorded, both Federal and State Governments are encouraging the IDPs to return to their communities which have been recaptured by the Nigerian Army. Just few days back,

the Nigerian Police led by DIG arrived Gwoza Local Government in their bid to return and establish their presence in the Local Government Area;

Also aware that the Madagali-Gwoza, a 25 kilometer road linking Adamawa and Borno States was and has remained closed by the military since the attainment of relative peace in the area and the returning IDPs are only allowed to use the road either in the company of the military or to trek;

Concerned about the hardship occasioned by the continued closure of that road even now that the danger posed by Boko Haram is drastically reduced and the IDPs are returning to their communities to rebuild their homes and gather the shattered pieces of their lives;

Also concerned that the IOPs that have already returned are blocked from accessing foodstuff and medication by the continued closure of the road, they depend on government for food and medical supplies which is grossly inadequate;

Worried that if the road is not opened and security check-points mounted to check movement of people and goods, intending IDP returnees will be discouraged from returning to their communities;

Also worried that the few terrorist members who hide in the hills take undue advantage of the dead silence on that road to occasionally plant bombs (IEDs) for the security on patrol;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Urge the Nigerian Military to open the Madagali-Gwoza road during the day between 7.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. to allow easy movement of persons, foodstuff and medication into Gwoza Township;

(*ii*) also urge the Nigerian Military to mount security check-points along Madagali-Gwoza with intensified military patrol to ensure that the road remains safe;

(*iii*) mandate the Committee on Defence to liaise with the Security Chiefs in Borno State to see to the implementation of the above resolutions; and

(*iv*) observe a minute silence in honour of the departed souls in Chibok who were killed in a suicide bombing yesterday (**HR. 27/2016**).

Motion referred to the Committee on Defence.

A minute silence observed in honour of the deceased.

(*v*) ***Need to Curb the Spate of Kidnapping, Armed Robbery and Killing in Aba, Abia State*:** Hon. Prestige Ossy (*Aba North/Aba South 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.

Need to Curb the Spate of Kidnaping, Armed Robbery and Killing in Aba, Abia State:

The House:

Worried that the spate of kidnaping, killing and armed robbery in and around Aba Metropolis' in recent times is rapidly on the increase;

Also worried that on the average five (5) persons are kidnapped, robbed or maimed in and around the Aba Metropolis on daily basis;

Further worried that in the last two weeks prominent businessmen, Doctors, Politicians, Lawyers just to mention a few, including children and relations of both the high and mighty and the less and under privileged have unfortunately fallen victims of these heinous acts;

Concerned that on Sunday, 24th January, 2016, a well-known supermarket along the ever busy Ogbor Hill and Arise Plaza both in Aba were robbed amidst heavy shooting and this regrettably result in the death of 5 persons including 2 Police Inspectors attached to the Azuka Police station in Aba, Abia State;

Also concerned that these acts of kidnaping, armed robbery and killing of innocent people in Aba, Abia State are perpetrated in broad day light, notably between 9.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.;

Aware that **Chief Ogbo**, the owner of Righteous Supermarket, **Dr Kamalu**, the Managing Director of Nazareth Hospital, **Barr. Ogunji** and a popular Electronic dealer simply known as **Asaa** are among innocent Nigerians who have been kidnaped in Aba, Abia State in January 2016;

Also aware that on Tuesday, 26th January, 2016, four (4) persons were kidnaped in broad day light within a space of 45 minutes at several strategic locations along Azikiwe Road in Aba, Abia State;

Worried that the perpetrators of these ungodly acts more often than not are armed with sophisticated weapons and they create panic in the entire city of Aba and its environs by their sporadic shootings in the process of perpetrating their evil deeds;

Further concerned that those who have been kidnaped were forced to part with huge amounts of money as ransom to the kidnappers or face brutal killing in the hands of their kidnappers. On the average, a total of over Three Hundred Million Naira (N300,000, 000) have been paid as ransom to these kidnappers and this is enough to crumble the economy of the city which will undoubtedly affect the nation's economy;

Also worried that as a result of these ungodly acts, the entire people of Aba and its environs are now living in great fear and anxiety. As a matter of fact, there has been a massive exodus of people, goods and services from Aba which hitherto is the commercial nerve centre of the East and Nigeria in general all these in attempt to avoid being maimed or kidnaped;

Recalls that in 2012, armed bandits and kidnappers besieged the city of Aba and its environs and unleashed untold terror, harm, fear and hardship on the good and peace loving people of Aba;

Also recalls that it took the timely intervention of Federal Government's deployment of soldiers and Anti-terrorist troops and battle ready policemen to purge the city of Aba and its environs of these deadly thugs and criminals;

Aware that unless battle ready and well-armed policemen and Military personnel are drafted to arrest the ugly situation in and around the Aba Metropolis, the situation will grow from bad to worse;

Also aware that if the situation is not arrested, Aba which is undoubtedly known for huge commercial activities and a huge revenue generating source for the country will become a shadow of itself and this will greatly have a negative impact on the nation's economy;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Prevail on the Chief of Army Staff and the Inspector General of Police to swiftly wade into the situation by deploying well-armed and battle ready soldiers and Policemen to Aba and its environs; and

(*ii*) urge the mobile telephone service providers, i.e. MTN, Globacomm, Airtel, Etisalat amongst others to create an enabling and accessible platform where people with vital security information can disclose them to appropriate security agencies and assist in tracking and determining the actual location of suspected criminal and kidnappers who use their mobile telecommunication networks in contacting family and friends of kidnaped victims for ransom (*Hon. Prestige Ossy — Aba North/South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out all the words in Prayer (*ii*) and substitute as follows:
"Urge the National Communications Commission (NCC) to create an enabling and accessible platform where people with vital security information can disclose them to appropriate security agencies and assist in tracking and determining the actual location of suspected criminal and kidnappers who used their mobile telecommunication networks in contacting family and friends of kidnapped victims for ransom" (*Hon. Aminu Shagari — Yabo/Shagari Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Worried that the spate of kidnaping, killing and armed robbery in and around Aba Metropolis' in recent times is rapidly on the increase;

Also worried that on the average five (5) persons are kidnapped, robbed or maimed in and around the Aba Metropolis on daily basis;

Further worried that in the last two weeks prominent businessmen, Doctors, Politicians, Lawyers just to mention a few, including children and relations of both the high and mighty and the less and under privileged have unfortunately fallen victims of these heinous acts;

Concerned that on Sunday, 24th January, 2016, a well-known supermarket along the ever busy Ogbor Hill and Arise Plaza both in Aba were robbed amidst heavy shooting and this regrettably result in the death of 5 persons including 2 Police Inspectors attached to the Azuka Police station in Aba, Abia State;

Also concerned that these acts of kidnaping, armed robbery and killing of innocent people in Aba, Abia State are perpetrated in broad day light, notably between 9.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.;

Aware that **Chief Ogbo**, the owner of Righteous Supermarket, **Dr Kamalu**, the Managing Director of Nazareth Hospital, **Barr. Ogunji** and a popular Electronic dealer simply known as **Asaa** are among innocent Nigerians who have been kidnaped in Aba, Abia State in January 2016;

Also aware that on Tuesday, 26th January, 2016, four (4) persons were kidnaped in broad day light within a space of 45 minutes at several strategic locations along Azikiwe Road in Aba, Abia State;

Worried that the perpetrators of these ungodly acts more often than not are armed with sophisticated weapons and they create panic in the entire city of Aba and its environs by their sporadic shootings in the process of perpetrating their evil deeds;

Further concerned that those who have been kidnaped were forced to part with huge amounts of money as ransom to the kidnappers or face brutal killing in the hands of their kidnappers. On the average, a total of over Three Hundred Million Naira (N300,000, 000) have been paid as ransom to these kidnappers and this is enough to crumble the economy of the city which will undoubtedly affect the nation's economy;

Also worried that as a result of these ungodly acts, the entire people of Aba and its environs are now living in great fear and anxiety. As a matter of fact, there has been a massive exodus of people, goods and services from Aba which hitherto is the commercial nerve centre of the East and Nigeria in general all these in attempt to avoid being maimed or kidnaped;

Recalled that in 2012, armed bandits and kidnappers besieged the city of Aba and its environs and unleashed untold terror, harm, fear and hardship on the good and peace loving people of Aba;

Also recalled that it took the timely intervention of Federal Government's deployment of soldiers and Anti-terrorist troops and battle ready policemen to purge the city of Aba and its environs of these deadly thugs and criminals;

Aware that unless battle ready and well-armed policemen and Military personnel are drafted to arrest the ugly situation in and around the Aba Metropolis, the situation will grow from bad to worse;

Also aware that if the situation is not arrested, Aba which is undoubtedly known for huge commercial activities and a huge revenue generating source for the country will become a shadow of itself and this will greatly have a negative impact on the nation's economy;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Prevail on the Chief of Army Staff and the Inspector General of Police to swiftly wade into the situation by deploying well-armed and battle ready soldiers and Policemen to Aba and its environs; and

(*ii*) urge the National Communications Commission (NCC) to create an enabling and accessible platform where people with vital security information can disclose them to appropriate security agencies and assist in tracking and determining the actual location of suspected criminal and kidnappers who used their mobile telecommunication networks in contacting family and friends of kidnaped victims for ransom (**HR. 28/2016**).

Motion referred to the Committees on Army, and Police Affairs.

(*vi*) ***Urgent Need to Stop Incessant Armed Robbery Attacks, Abductions and Kidnappings in Birnin Gwari/Giwa Federal Constituency of Kaduna State*:**
Hon. Hassan Adamu Shekarau (*Birnin/Gwari/Giwa 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 to Stop Incessant Armed Robbery Attacks, Abductions and Kidnapings in Birnin Gwari/Giwa Federal Constituency of Kaduna State:

The House:

Notes the high level of insecurity affecting six of the seven States in the North West including Niger State in North Central Zone;

Also notes that Birnin Gwari/Giwa Federal Constituency is the worst heat by the activities of high way armed robber, kidnappers and cattle rustlers. Between 2012 and 2015, more than 500 lives were lost in Birnin Gwari local alone, while more than 100 lives were lost in Giwa Local Government area. Also more than 10,000 cows were stolen within the period under review;

Aware of the effort of Kaduna Sate Governor Mallam Nasiru El-Rufai in conjunction with other Governors in North West Zone by putting in place a joint task force saddled with the responsibility of getting rid of all hoodlums who wreaked havoc on innocent citizens in the zone;

Also aware that such efforts yielded temporary positive result by giving succur to peasant farmers to returned to their farms;

Worried by the emergence of new insecurity situation in the area which has taken a more terrible dimension ranging from abductions, armed robbery, kidnapings and constant killings of innocent citizen by unknown gun men on daily basis;

Also worried that the village head of Takama was kidnapped on 14th January, 2016 and is still in the hands of his abductors. Three days later, three other notable people were also kidnaped in Damari Village in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area;

Further worried that the youths leader of Galadimawa together with a business man were also kidnaped in Giwa Local Government Area. During this attack two sons of the business man were also killed. More worrisome is the recent killing of the village head of Kadage in Giwa Local Government on 1 th January, 2016 when he resisted an attempt to be kidnaped;

Concerned about the incessant robbery attacks on Kaduna-Birnin Gwari road, Funtua-Birnin Gwari road and Zaria-Galadima-Kidandan-Dogon Dawa road. Recently on 6th January, 2016 three people were killed by armed robbers and two female students were abducted along Kaduna Birnin Gwari high way;

Also concerned that the activities of Armed Robbers, cattle rustlers and kidnappers have adversely affected the socio-economic lives of the people in the area;

Further concerned that if quick and drastic action is not taken against these bandits who numbered in thousand and possessed sophisticated weapons ranging from AK 47, Machine Guns, and Rocket Launchers. The scenario currently being witnessed in the North East Zone may repeat itself in the North West Zone;

Cognizant of the constitutional responsibility of Government to provide adequate security to it citizen;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge all the relevant security agents to take urgent concrete steps to restore normalcy through constant patrol and surveillance in the area so as to stop incessant robbery and other heinous crimes be devilling the area;

(*ii*) also urge the Military Command to station a permanent military base at a very strategic locations within the Federal Constituency for quick rapid response to any possible attack by the bandits; and .

(*iii*) mandate the Committees on Defence, Army, Police, and Public Safety and Intelligence to ensure compliance (*Hon. Hassan Adamu Shekarau — Birnin/Gwari/Giwa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question agreed to.

The House:

Noted the high level of insecurity affecting six of the seven States in the North West including Niger State in North Central Zone;

Also noted that Birnin Gwari/Giwa Federal Constituency is the worst heat by the activities of high way armed robber, kidnappers and cattle rustlers. Between 2012 and 2015, more than 500 lives were lost in Birnin Gwari local alone, while more than 100 lives were lost in Giwa Local Government area. Also more than 10,000 cows were stolen within the period under review;

Aware of the effort of Kaduna Sate Governor Mallam Nasiru El-Rufai in conjunction with other Governors in North West Zone by putting in place a joint task force saddled with the responsibility of getting rid of all hoodlums who wreaked havoc on innocent citizens in the zone;

Also aware that such efforts yielded temporary positive result by giving succur to peasant farmers to returned to their farms;

Worried by the emergence of new insecurity situation in the area which has taken a more terrible dimension ranging from abductions, armed robbery, kidnapings and constant killings of innocent citizen by unknown gun men on daily basis;

Also worried that the village head of Takama was kidnapped on 14th January, 2016 and is still in the hands of his abductors. Three days later, three other notable people were also kidnaped in Damari Village in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area;

Further worried that the youths leader of Galadimawa together with a business man were also kidnaped in Giwa Local Government Area. During this attack two sons of the business man were also killed. More worrisome is the recent killing of the village head of Kadage in Giwa Local Government on 1 th January, 2016 when he resisted an attempt to be kidnaped;

Concerned about the incessant robbery attacks on Kaduna-Birnin Gwari road, Funtua-Birnin Gwari road and Zaria-Galadima-Kidandan-Dogon Dawa road. Recently on 6th January, 2016 three people were killed by armed robbers and two female students were abducted along Kaduna Birnin Gwari high way;

Also concerned that the activities of Armed Robbers, cattle rustlers and kidnappers have adversely affected the socio-economic lives of the people in the area;

Further concerned that if quick and drastic action is not taken against these bandits who numbered in thousand and possessed sophisticated weapons ranging from AK 47, Machine Guns, and Rocket Launchers. The scenario currently being witnessed in the North East Zone may repeat itself in the North West Zone;

Cognizant of the constitutional responsibility of Government to provide adequate security to it citizen;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Urge all the relevant security agents to take urgent concrete steps to restore normalcy through constant patrol and surveillance in the area so as to stop incessant robbery and other heinous crimes be devilling the area;

(*ii*) also urge the Military Command to station a permanent military base at a very strategic locations within the Federal Constituency for quick rapid response to any possible attack by the bandits; and

(*iii*) mandate the Committees on Defence, Army, Police, and Public Safety and Intelligence to ensure compliance (**IIR. 29/2016**).

Motion referred to the Committees on Defence, Army, Police Affairs, and Interior.

23. Call for Completion of the Rehabilitation/Expansion Work and Provision of Pedestrian Bridges on the Lagos/Ibadan/Sagamu/Benin Expressways

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

24. Call for Dualisation of Federal Roads in Maiduguri Township and its Environs

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the 8km Federal Road that leads from Kano Motor Park Junction to Federal Road Safety Commission Junction through the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Depot down to Open Air Theatre junction and the 8km Federal Road that leads from Customs Office round-about down through CBDA and Lake Chad Research Institute up to Muna Garage, are the busiest roads in Maiduguri and Jere townships;

Aware that these roads are of huge economic significance as they are the only gateways for delivery of petroleum products to and from NNPC Depot and also through which truckloads of livestock, agro-products and other goods are transported to and from the Central African Republic, Chad, Cameroon, etc.;

Concerned that apart from a number of State Government offices located along these Roads, other Federal Government establishments like NNPC, FRSC, NDLEA, Lake Chad Research Institute, among others are also located along these roads, which exposes the staff of these organisations and other road users to risks of accidents due to the narrowness of the roads compared to the heavy vehicular movements recorded daily on them;

Cognizant that dualisation of the roads will significantly reduce the daily loss of lives and damage to properties from accidents on the roads, as well as ease the difficulties being experienced by road users;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Mandate the Committees on Works and Appropriations to appropriate money in the 2016 Budget for the dualisation of Federal Roads in Maiduguri and Jere townships; and

(*ii*) also mandate the Committees on Works, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Ayuba Mohammed Bello — Jere Federal Constituency*).

Question agreed to.

(HR. 30/2016).

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, and Appropriations, pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 51 (5).

25. Urgent Need for the Construction of a Bridge across River Benue at Ibi in Taraba State
Motion made and Question Proposed:

The House:

Notes that Ibi town located at the South bank of River Benue is one of the oldest settlements and a major commercial town in Taraba State and is known for production of varieties of fish and farm produce such as maize, guinea corn, beans, yam, rice, etc.;

Also notes that Ibi town, which shares boundary with Plateau State, is located along a major interstate route linking Taraba, Plateau, Nasarawa, Bauchi, Gombe, Kaduna and Benue States, thus forming the major arterial North East - North Central Trunk A Road in the country;

Observes that the Federal Road constructed in 1973 which was expected to link Ogoja in Cross River State, Katsina-Ala in Benue State, Wukari-Ibi in Taraba State and then to Shendam in Plateau State was terminated at Ibi due to the absence of a bridge across River Benue at Ibi;

Worried that the absence of the bridge has caused untold hardships to the inhabitants of Ibi town in particular, and the people of Wukari/Ibi Federal Constituency, in general as commuters have to use canoe, locally constructed ferry or engine-powered boats to cross to and from Shendam area in Plateau State into Taraba State, which usually leads to loss of lives and valuable time;

Aware that a bridge across River Benue at Ibi would reduce traffic on River Benue Bridge at Makurdi, thereby enhancing the life span of the bridge;

Also aware that the Federal Ministry of Works, in 2004, awarded the engineering design contract for the bridge to Messrs ICECON Nigeria Limited (Engineering Consulting Firm); but there has been no budgetary provision for the construction of the bridge till date;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Works, and Appropriations to appropriate money for the construction of a bridge across River Benue at Ibi in the 2016 budget estimates (*Hon Usman Danjuma Shiddi — Ibi/Wukari Federal Constituency and 4 others*).

Question agreed to.

(HR. 31/2016).

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, and Appropriations, pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 51 (5).

26. Call for Reconstruction of Takum-Bissaula Road

Motion made and Question Proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Takum-Bissaula road is a 70 kilometer Trunk A East - West road that connects three Local Government Areas of Takum, Ussa and Kurmi in Taraba State and links Nigeria with Cameroun through Bissaula, a border town;

Recalls that a contract was awarded in 1997 to Adeda Ventures at the cost of ₦134,219,445.75 (One Hundred and Thirty-Four Million, Two Hundred and Nineteen Thousand, Four Hundred and Forty-Five Naira, Seventy-Five Kobo) to construct the road but the Contractor constructed only two kilometers and abandoned the work after having collected ₦80,000,000.00 (Eighty Million Naira) of the contract sum;

Concerned that the collapse of the road has adversely affected the livelihood of the people and is preventing easy evacuation of food and crops from the area.

Worried that owing to the deplorable condition of the road, smuggling activities has increased over the years as Customs Officers stationed in the area cannot carry out their lawful duties effectively since they cannot use their operational vehicles to patrol and prevent the illicit activities of smugglers who use motorcycles to operate;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Works, and Appropriations to appropriate money in the 2016 budget for the reconstruction of the road (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question agreed to.

(HR. 32/2016).

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, and Appropriations, pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 51 (5).

27. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn, and suspend plenary till Tuesday, 16 February, 2016 at 11.0 a.m., to enable Committees engage Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) on the defense of their 2016 Budget Estimates (Hon. Umar Jibril Baba — Deputy House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.43 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker