FOURTH REPUBLIC
8TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST SESSION
NO. 63

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 17 February, 2016

1. The House met at 11.08 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 16 February, 2016.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Message**
Mr Speaker read a message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as follows:

PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

16*th February*, 2016

Right Honourable Yakubu Dogara,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

Dear Right Hon. Speaker,

REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE FCT 2015 STATUTORY APPROPRIATION ACT TO 31ST MARCH, 2016

I am writing to seek the House of Representatives' approval to extend the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) 2015 Statutory Appropriation Act to 31st March, 2016.

2. *You may recall that the 2015 FCT Appropriation was assented to by my predecessor on 28th May, 2015, the delay affected its implementation in respect of Capital Projects and other expenditure. In this connection, numerous payments for critical and essential projects are outstanding.*

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3. *In view of the foregoing, the House is invited to note that*:

(*i*) *The FCT* 2015 *Statutory Appropriation assented to on* 28*th May*, 2015, *allowed the FCTA only seven* (7) *months in* 2015 *for implementation*;

(*ii*) *To meet its obligations and as permissible by the Constitution, the FCT* 2015 *Appropriation needs to be extended to* 31*st March*, 2016 *as that will enable the FCTA to make payments for various critical and essential ongoing projects towards achieving a better performance in the implementation of Projects for the* 2015 *Statutory Appropriation*.

4. *I have taken the liberty of attaching a draft FCT Appropriation* (*Amendment*) *Bill*, 2015 *for consideration*.

5. *While looking forward to your kind approval of my request, please accept, Right Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my highest esteem at all times*.

Yours Sincerely,

(*Signed*)
Muhammadu Buhari

4. Announcement

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

(*a*) Staff and Students of De Graceland Academy, Karu, Nasarawa State;

(*b*) Staff and Students of E.C.W.A. Staff School, Kagoro, Kaduna State;

(*c*) Members of the National Association of Cross River State Students (NACRISS), University of Abuja; and

(*d*) Staff and Students of Redeemer's Private Secondary School, Living Spring, Karu, Abuja.

(*ii*) ***Bereavement*:**
By leave of the House, Hon. Johnbull Shekarau (*Mikang/Quanpan/Shendam Federal Constituency*) disclosed that the Long Goemai of Shendam, and President of Shendam Traditional Council, Plateau State, Miskoom Hubert Shaldas II (OON), passed away on Sunday, 7 February, 2016 at the age of 77 years. He stated that the Late Long Goemai was an outstanding Nigerian who served in the Nigerian Army. He thus urged the House to observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased and send a condolence delegation to his family.

A minute silence observed in honour of the deceased.

5. Petition
A petition from Bamidele Peter Ifamose, on the abuse of due process by the Management of University of Abuja in the refund of the cost of transporting the corpse of his late wife from the United States of America, was presented and laid by Hon. Israel Ajibola Famurewa (*Atakumosa East/Atakumosa West/Ilesa East/Ilesa West Federal Constituency*).

6. Presentation and First Reading of Bills
The following Bills were read the *First Time* by the Clerk.

(1) Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 389).

(2) Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 390).

(3) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, (Alteration) Bill, 2016 (HB. 391).

(4) Nigerian Legion Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 392).

(5) Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 393).

(6) Flag and Coats of Arms Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 394).

(7) Minerals and Mining Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 395).

(8) Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun Bill, 2016 (HB. 381).

(9) Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 382).

(10) Chartered Institute of Operations Management of Nigeria Bill, 2016 (HB. 383).

(11) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2016 (HB. 384).

(12) Unclaimed Financial Assets Bill, 2016 (HB. 385).

(13) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2016 (HB. 386).

(14) National Productivity Centre Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 387).

(15) National Grazing Routes and Reserve Bill, 2016 (HB. 388).

7. Matter of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order VIII, Rule 46)
***The Alarming Influx of Unidentified Herdsmen into Benue State and the Consequent Threat to Peace, Life and Property*:**
Hon. Mark Terseer Gbillah (*Gwer East/Gwer 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.*

The Alarming Influx of Unidentified Herdsmen into Benue State and the Consequent Threat to Peace, Life and Property:

The House:

Alarmed at the recent influx of hundreds of unidentified herdsmen and their cattle into several towns and villages in Agatu, Buruku, Gwer-West and Makurdi Local Government Areas of Benue State and the reported loss of over 16 lives and millions of Naira worth of property and farmland in the last week due to alleged attacks by these herdsmen on communities in the State;

Aware that it has become a recurring decimal for herdsmen to migrate to Benue and other states in Nigeria every year in search of greener pasture for their cattle and with the absence of designated ranches or grazing reserves these cattle often encroach on cultivated farmland

and water sources of the communities were they graze triggering conflicts that have cost Nigeria thousands of lives and hundreds of millions of Naira in property and farmland in the last couple of years;

Worried that these conflicts have continued unabated across the country particularly in Benue State with no arrests or prosecutions, no record of the identity or nationality of these herdsmen and no intervention from the government or international community for the plethora of internally displaced persons (IDPs) created by these conflicts;

Also worried that with the agitation, anger and complaints emanating from the communities experiencing this recent influx of herdsmen the likelihood of more conflicts is very high and informs the need for very urgent proactive action by the relevant security, law enforcement and intelligence authorities;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, National Security and Intelligence, and Defense to liaise with the Inspector General of Police, the National Director of State Security Services and the Minister of Defense to deploy the relevant operatives and intelligence mechanism to forestall further loss of lives and property and breakdown of law and order by ascertaining the identity and origin of these herdsmen and the perpetrators and sponsors of these conflicts;

(*ii*) also mandate the aforementioned Committees to also appeal to their related agencies to liaise with the affected State Governments on the possibility of creating a joint task force to monitor the influx of these herdsmen and create a database with their identity, origin, quantity of livestock and location within the community; and

(*iii*) further mandate the Committees on NEMA, and IDPs to liaise with their related agencies to provide required assistance to communities affected by these conflicts in line with a resolution passed by this House identifying victims of conflicts with herdsmen also as IDPs (*Hon. Mark Terseer Gbillah — Gwer-East/Gwer-West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question agreed to.

The House:

Alarmed at the recent influx of hundreds of unidentified herdsmen and their cattle into several towns and villages in Agatu, Buruku, Gwer-West and Makurdi Local Government Areas of Benue State and the reported loss of over 16 lives and millions of Naira worth of property and farmland in the last week due to alleged attacks by these herdsmen on communities in the State;

Aware that it has become a recurring decimal for herdsmen to migrate to Benue and other states in Nigeria every year in search of greener pasture for their cattle and with the absence of designated ranches or grazing reserves these cattle often encroach on cultivated farmland and water sources of the communities were they graze triggering conflicts that have cost Nigeria thousands of lives and hundreds of millions of Naira in property and farmland in the last couple of years;

Worried that these conflicts have continued unabated across the country particularly in Benue State with no arrests or prosecutions, no record of the identity or nationality of these herdsmen and no intervention from the government or international community for the plethora of internally displaced persons (IDPs) created by these conflicts;

Also worried that with the agitation, anger and complaints emanating from the communities experiencing this recent influx of herdsmen the likelihood of more conflicts is very high and informs the need for very urgent proactive action by the relevant security, law enforcement and intelligence authorities;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, National Security and Intelligence, and Defense to liaise with the Inspector General of Police, the National Director of State Security Services and the Minister of Defense to deploy the relevant operatives and intelligence mechanism to forestall further loss of lives and property and breakdown of law and order by ascertaining the identity and origin of these herdsmen and the perpetrators and sponsors of these conflicts;

(*ii*) also mandate the aforementioned Committees to also appeal to their related agencies to liaise with the affected State Governments on the possibility of creating a joint task force to monitor the influx of these herdsmen and create a database with their identity, origin, quantity of livestock and location within the community; and

(*iii*) further mandate the Committees on NEMA, and IDPs to liaise with their related agencies to provide required assistance to communities affected by these conflicts in line with a resolution passed by this House identifying victims of conflicts with herdsmen also as IDPs (**HR. 36/2016**).

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

8. Urgent Need to Rehabilitate the Argungu-Yamama-Tago Road

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the deplorable condition of Argungu-Yamama-Tago road which connects Kebbi and Sokoto States is causing enormous hardships to commuters and is adversely affecting the economic and social lives of the people of the two States;

Concerned by the constant loss of lives through accidents occasioned by the large scale degradation of the Road with large portions washed off;

Realizes that only a comprehensive reconstruction of the Road will bring relief to the people of the area;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Call on the Federal Road Maintenance Agency to carry out rehabilitation of failed portions of the Argungu-Yamama-Tago Road as an interim measure, with a view to saving same from complete collapse; and

(*ii*) also call on the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to award contract for the reconstruction of the road in order to end the suffering of the people of the area (*Hon. Hussaini Suleiman Kangiwa — Arewa/Dandi Federal Constituency*).

Question agreed to.

(**HR. 37/2016**).

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

9. **Urgent Need for Completion of Contract for the Rehabilitation of Jega-Maiyama-Koko-Yauri Road:**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Jega-Maiyama-Koko-Yauri Road connects the Western and North Central States to Niger Republic and is therefore of vital economic importance to Nigeria;

Observes that the road, which was constructed more than 40 years ago, is in a very deplorable state with large stretches already washed away by erosion, thus leading to gridlock which is bringing untold hardships to motorists and exposing them to insecurity;

Concerned that given the state of the road, a distance of 45 minutes drive from Jega-Koko takes about 3 hours to cover; while Koko-Yauri, which ordinarily would have taken 30 minutes, at most takes 2hours to cover;

Recalls that in recognition of the importance of the road, the immediate past administration, on 4th January, 2015, awarded a contract to Triacta Nigeria Limited for the rehabilitation of the road, but the contract had since been abandoned;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Works to investigate the abandonment of the contract and interface with the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing and the Federal Ministry of Finance with a view to mobilizing the contractor to site for the completion of the contract in order to ameliorate the hardships of motorists (*Hon. Salisu Garba Koko — Koko-Besse/Maiyama Federal Constituency*).

Question agreed to.

(HR. 38/2016).

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

10. **Urgent Need to Resuscitate the Multi-Billion Naira Federal Government's Investments in the Ikere Gorge Dam in Iseyin Local Government Area of Oyo State**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Ikere Gorge Dam, situated in Iseyin Local Government Area of Oyo State, was initiated by the military regime of Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo (*rtd*) but construction work commenced in 1983 by the administration of Alhaji Shehu Shagari before it was abandoned;

Also notes that the stated reasons for siting the dam in Ikere included provision of water supply to Oke Ogun region of Oyo State, provision of irrigation water for 12,000 hectares of farm land, generation of 6 megawatts of hydroelectricity, supply of 82 million cubic meters (mcm) of raw water through the spill way to Lagos metropolis, production of 17,325 tons of maize, 954 tons of Sorghum and 3,630 tons of cassava tubers annually;

Observes that assessment of the works done so far on the dam in 1998 by the Federal Government shows that civil works were 99.5% completed while mechanical and electrical works were 90% completed (excluding the installation of the power turbines which were procured and supplied but left uninstalled since 1983); and the dam has since been supplying the 82 million cubic meters (mcm) of water annually to Lagos State;

Aware that the Federal Ministries of Power and Water Resources, recently conducted independent studies on dams in the country and found Ikere Gorge Dam to have potential to generate 6mw of electricity in the short run and more than that in the long run;

Also aware that the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission, in its 2013 Public Private Partnership Projects Pipeline Report, identified Ikere Gorge Dam as one of the 10 dams from which 45mw of Hydropower can be generated to ease the power shortage in the country;

Further aware that a number of potential investors have submitted proposals to the Federal Ministries of Power and Water Resources for resuscitation of the dam;

Concerned that potential investors in Ikere Gorge Dam who have successfully run pilot schemes in fishery, irrigation, farming, creation of grazing channels for animal and refurbishment and expansion of the abandoned turbines to generate electricity, have all expressed reservations on the deplorable state of the 32km access road to the Dam site from Iseyin, even though all the bridges and culverts required for the road have long been constructed;

Convinced that the completion of the various project components of the dam will make the Ikere gorge area an agricultural processing zone, provide employment for the teeming unemployed women and youths in the host community, spring up industrial development in the area, and ultimately facilitate the economic and social transformation of Oke Ogun region of Oyo state;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Mandate the Committee on Works to liaise with the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to ensure that the construction of the 32km access road from Iseyin to the dam is captured in the 2016 Appropriations proposal;

(*ii*) urge the Federal Government through the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission and the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to expedite actions on all outstanding works that will lead to the engagement of concessioners for the generation of 6mw of electricity at the Ikere dam;

(*iii*) also mandate the Committee on Water Resources to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and the Ogun/Osun River Basin Development Authority to ensure the completion of all outstanding projects on the Ikere Gorge Dam; and

(*iv*) further mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure implementation (*Hon. Olasupo Abiodun Adeola — Iseyin/Itesiwaju/Kajola/Iwajowa Federal Constituency*).

Question agreed to.

(HR. 39/2016).

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

11. Urgent Need to Investigate the Sale of Eleme Petrochemical Company to Indorama Corporation by the Bureau of Public Enterprises

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

12. Need for Integrated Rural Development in the Country
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Aware that all over the world, the main sectors that drive the development of any nation are the Agricultural, Industrial, Communications, Educational and other allied sectors;

Also aware that many countries have dedicated a specific Ministry to rural development to adequately cater for the needs of the rural areas and correct developmental imbalances;

Concerned that successive Governments had not funded rural developmental projects appropriately, and part of the fallout of this neglect is the abandonment of agriculture, which is mostly practiced in the rural areas;

Worried that in 2012, out of ₦36bn budgeted for capital projects by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, only about ₦3.5bn, which was provided through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) funding and representing about 4 per cent of the entire Ministry's budget for that year, was allocated to rural development;

Also concerned that in the 2013 budget, about ₦39.5bn was budgeted for capital projects but only about ₦2.8bn of this amount, again provided through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) funding to the Ministry and representing about 5.5 per cent of the entire Ministry's budget for the year, was allocated to rural development; and the 2014 and 2015 budgets were not much different from those of the previous years;

Further concerned that these paltry percentages allocated for rural development cannot achieve the purpose, and to compound the situation, the funds hitherto obtained from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) projects have ceased with the winding down of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) projects funding in 2015;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government to give due attention to rural development by increasing the annual budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to accommodate the increasing needs of our rural populace; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Rural Development to investigate the state of rural developmental projects nationwide and the specific programmes geared towards rural development, and report back to the House within four (4) weeks for further legislative inputs (*Hon. Oladipupo O. Adebutu — Ikenne/Sagamu/Remo North Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question agreed to.

The House:

Aware that all over the world, the main sectors that drive the development of any nation are the Agricultural, Industrial, Communications, Educational and other allied sectors;

Also aware that many countries have dedicated a specific Ministry to rural development to adequately cater for the needs of the rural areas and correct developmental imbalances;

Concerned that successive Governments had not funded rural developmental projects appropriately, and part of the fallout of this neglect is the abandonment of agriculture, which is mostly practiced in the rural areas;

Worried that in 2012, out of ₦36bn budgeted for capital projects by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, only about ₦3.5bn, which was provided through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) funding and representing about 4 per cent of the entire Ministry's budget for that year, was allocated to rural development;

Also concerned that in the 2013 budget, about ₦39.5bn was budgeted for capital projects but only about ₦2.8bn of this amount, again provided through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) funding to the Ministry and representing about 5.5 per cent of the entire Ministry's budget for the year, was allocated to rural development; and the 2014 and 2015 budgets were not much different from those of the previous years;

Further concerned that these paltry percentages allocated for rural development cannot achieve the purpose, and to compound the situation, the funds hitherto obtained from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) projects have ceased with the winding down of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) projects funding in 2015;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government to give due attention to rural development by increasing the annual budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to accommodate the increasing needs of our rural populace; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Rural Development to investigate the state of rural developmental projects nationwide and the specific programmes geared towards rural development, and report back to the House within four (4) weeks for further legislative inputs **(HR. 40/2016)**.

Motion referred to the Committee on Rural Development.

13. Urgent Need to Check the Spate of Bombings by Controlling Access to Explosives:

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

14. Need to Invest Pension Funds to meet Nigeria's Infrastructural Challenges:
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Aware that there is a growing concern about the infrastructural decay in all sectors of the country as a result of neglect, ineptitude and lack of planning by successive governments which have far-reaching consequences on the economy of the country;

Notes that in over one decade of the implementation of the Pension Reform Act, the National Pensions Commission has accumulated about ₦5 trillion which is mainly in the vaults of Commercial Banks as free funds characterized by low investment returns and sharp practices by various Pension Fund Administrators;

Observes that in most countries of Europe, Asia and America, Pension Funds are usually invested in provision of infrastructure as a means to regenerate the funds, grow the economy, sustain meaningful development and meet the needs of the citizenry;

Concerned that the consequences of taking offshore loans and facilities to address the infrastructure needs of Nigeria will, in the long run, bring colossal damage to the economy;

Also concerned that the huge infrastructural deficit in all sectors of Nigeria's economy cannot be achieved through Budgetary allocations alone, thus if no concrete and pro-active investment strategies are put in place to comprehensively address these infrastructural challenges, the nation may be thrown into deeper economic crisis;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government to consider investing part of the ₦5 trillion Pension Funds into providing necessary infrastructural facilities in the key sectors of the country;

(*ii*) also urge the relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to study the template of countries in Europe, Asia and America, which invest Pension Funds in meeting their infrastructural challenges/needs, so as to adopt same to suit the nation's needs; and

(*iii*) mandate the Committees on Pensions, Finance, and Capital Market and Institutions to interface with the National Pensions Commission and other stakeholders on the viability of investing Pension Funds in infrastructural facilities (*Hon. Yusuf Ayo Tajudeen — Ijumu/Kabba-Bunu Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out Prayers (*i*) and (*ii*) (*Hon. Leo Ogor — Isoko North/Isoko South Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that there is a growing concern about the infrastructural decay in all sectors of the country as a result of neglect, ineptitude and lack of planning by successive governments which have far-reaching consequences on the economy of the country;

Noted that in over one decade of the implementation of the Pension Reform Act, the National Pensions Commission has accumulated about ₦5 trillion which is mainly in the vaults of Commercial Banks as free funds characterized by low investment returns and sharp practices by various Pension Fund Administrators;

Observed that in most countries of Europe, Asia and America, Pension Funds are usually invested in provision of infrastructure as a means to regenerate the funds, grow the economy, sustain meaningful development and meet the needs of the citizenry;

Concerned that the consequences of taking offshore loans and facilities to address the infrastructure needs of Nigeria will, in the long run, bring colossal damage to the economy;

Also concerned that the huge infrastructural deficit in all sectors of Nigeria's economy cannot be achieved through Budgetary allocations alone, thus if no concrete and pro-active investment strategies are put in place to comprehensively address these infrastructural challenges, the nation may be thrown into deeper economic crisis;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Pensions, Finance, and Capital Market and Institutions to interface with the National Pensions Commission and other stakeholders on the viability of investing Pension Funds in infrastructural facilities (HR. 41/2016).

Motion referred to the Committees on Pensions, Finance, and Capital Market and Institutions.

15. Urgent Need to address the Utilization of the ₦350 Billion Natural Resources Fund (NRF) as a Finance Window for Development of the Solid Minerals Sector
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Natural Resources Development Account was created in 2002 to develop alternative mineral resources with a view to reducing the nation's over reliance on oil;

Recalls that in the 1970s, mining contributed over 10 percent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), but unfortunately today, it contributes a mere 0.3 per cent to the GDP, and sadly, the Natural Resources Fund (NRF) was never accessed by the solid minerals sector, even though the funds in the account were utilized;

Aware that Nigeria's mining potentials are too critical to be ignored, hence the need for a Presidential intervention to harness these huge potentials for socio-economic development;

Also aware that the total accrual to the account between 2002 and 2012 was about Eight Hundred and Seventy-Three Billion Naira (₦873 Billion), while utilization stood at Seven Hundred and One Billion Naira (₦701 Billion), leaving a balance of One Hundred and Seventy-Two Billion Naira (₦172 Billion) by the end of 2012;

Further aware that between 2013 and 2014, the sum of ₦159.6 billion was contributed to the Fund, thus bringing the outstanding balance to about ₦350 Billion;

Concerned that between 2013 and 2015, money was continuously withdrawn from the Fund but no single project in the solid minerals sector was funded with the money;

Worried that a Solid Minerals Development Fund was set up but was never funded;

Disturbed that millions of Nigerians are unemployed and the development of the solid minerals sector which would have been a great source of employment is being denied funding;

Observes that the development of the solid minerals sector will accomplish establishment of livelihoods, poverty reduction through job creation and increase Nigeria's external trade with the resultant increase in foreign exchange earnings;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Public Accounts and Solid Minerals Development to investigate the matter and report back to the House within six (6) weeks, for further legislative action (*Hon. Danlami Mohammad Kurfi — Dutsin-Ma/Kurfi Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:
In the prayer, immediately after the word "on", *leave out* the words "Public Account" and *insert* the word "Steel" (*Hon. Sunday Adepoju — Ibarapa East/Ido Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Natural Resources Development Account was created in 2002 to develop alternative mineral resources with a view to reducing the nation's over reliance on oil;

Recalled that in the 1970s, mining contributed over 10 percent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), but unfortunately today, it contributes a mere 0.3 per cent to the GDP, and sadly, the Natural Resources Fund (NRF) was never accessed by the solid minerals sector, even though the funds in the account were utilized;

Aware that Nigeria's mining potentials are too critical to be ignored, hence the need for a Presidential intervention to harness these huge potentials for socio-economic development;

Also aware that the total accrual to the account between 2002 and 2012 was about Eight Hundred and Seventy-Three Billion Naira (₦873 Billion), while utilization stood at Seven Hundred and One Billion Naira (₦701 Billion), leaving a balance of One Hundred and Seventy-Two Billion Naira (₦172 Billion) by the end of 2012;

Further aware that between 2013 and 2014, the sum of ₦159.6 billion was contributed to the Fund, thus bringing the outstanding balance to about ₦350 Billion;

Concerned that between 2013 and 2015, money was continuously withdrawn from the Fund but no single project in the solid minerals sector was funded with the money;

Worried that a Solid Minerals Development Fund was set up but was never funded;

Disturbed that millions of Nigerians are unemployed and the development of the solid minerals sector which would have been a great source of employment is being denied funding;

Observed that the development of the solid minerals sector will accomplish establishment of livelihoods, poverty reduction through job creation and increase Nigeria's external trade with the resultant increase in foreign exchange earnings;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Steel, and Solid Minerals Development to investigate the matter and report back to the House within six (6) weeks, for further legislative action (**HR. 42/2016**).

Motion referred to the Committees on Solid Minerals Development, and Steel.

15. Consideration of Report

Ad-hoc Committee on the Looming Dispute in the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment:

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

16. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn, and suspend plenary sitting till Tuesday, 23 February, 2016 at 11.00 a.m. to enable Committees engage Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) on the defense of their 2016 budget estimates (Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.17 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker