HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

NOTICE PAPER

Monday, 18 April, 2016

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

1. **Cail for the Investigation of the Alleged Misappropriation of Pension Fund by the Pension Transitional Arrangement Directorate (PTAD):**
Hon. Sergious Ose Ogun **Hon. Lawal Abubakar Garba:**

The House:

Notes that the Pension Reform Act, 2014 created the Pension Transitional Arrangement Directorate (PTAD) charged, essentially with the responsibility of Managing pension under the Defined Benefit Scheme (DBS) for pensioners who retire before June 2007 and therefore did not transit to the defined contributory pension scheme;

Also notes that the Act empowers the PTAD to oversee the funds, assets or liabilities of all pension officers existing before the coming into force of the Act and also to make budgetary estimates for existing pensioners and officers exempted from the contributory pension scheme under section 5 (1) of the Act;

Further notes that the PTAD is empowered to prepare and submit the monthly payroll of pensioners to the Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation (OAGF) for direct payment from the budgetary allocation maintained with the Central Bank, to pensioners under its jurisdiction;

Aware that one of the main reasons for setting up the PTAD was to address the numerous complaints by pensioners about non-payment or short payment of monthly pensions, removal of names of pensioners from payment vouchers, irregular payment of pensions, etc;

Also aware that the PTAD has recorded some achievements like removal of ghost pensioners from the system, re-enrolling over 4,000 genuine pensioners who were unjustly removed, minimizing loopholes in the payment system to its barest minimum by conducting verification exercises regularly, etc.;

Concerned about allegations against the management of PTAD bothering on misappropriation of pension funds, abuse of office, non-payment of 33% harmonized arrears, short payment / non-payment of monthly pensions, unjustified salaries and allowances of staff of the PATAD, deduction of ₦1 billion PTAD's accounting records and the outrageous payment of ₦500 million as rent for its head office;

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Also concerned that unless there is a strict compliance with the Pension Reform Act, 2014, the nation could be thrown back to the past era that was characterized by irregularities that subjected retirees to enormous hardships and ultimately, negate the objectives of establishing the PTAD;

Resolves to mandate the Committee on Pension to:

(*i*) Audit the assets of pension offices existing before the commencement of the Pension Reform Act, 2014 that were transferred to the PTAD;

(*ii*) investigate the activities of the PTAD in managing the Defined Benefits Scheme (DBS) since inception; and

(*iii*) determine the level of compliance by the PTAD with the Pension Reform Act, 2014 in the execution of its mandate, and report back to the House within six (6) weeks for further legislative action.

2. Need to Tackle the Devastating Gully Erosion in Njikoka/Anaocha/Dunukofia Federal Constituency of Anambra State:
Hon. Ferdinand Dozie Nwankwo:

The House:

Notes that the South eastern part of the country is a rain forest zone that is constantly faced with ecological problems;

Also notes the devastating gully erosion in communities within Njikoka/Anaocha/Dunukofia Federal Constituency, particularly in Enuagu village Enugwu Ukwu in Njikoka, Ududonka (Agulu-Nanka) and Haba Agulu erosion sites; Adazi Nnukwu gully erosion site; Enuabo village Obeledu erosion site; Dunukofia Nkwelle, Umunachi and Ukpo erosion sites;

Aware that the erosion has continued to wreak severe havocs in the communities leading to loss of lives, properties worth millions of naira and farmlands, while displacing families;

Concerned that the enormity of the devastation has put the menace beyond the capacity of the Local and State Governments; hence the need for intervention of the Federal Government to arrest the situation;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Mandate the Committee on Environment and Habitat to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Environment to include contracts for the control of gully erosion in any supplementary budget for 2016;

(*ii*) urge the Ecological Fund Office to take measures aimed at controlling the menace;

(*iii*) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to, as a matter of urgency, send relief materials to victims of the erosion.

3. Call for Creation of an Electronic Database for all Public and Civil Servants in Federal Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies:
Hon. Tony Nwulu:

The House:

Notes that one of the major problems bedeviling Nigeria's public service is the scourge of ghost workers, which constitutes a huge drain on the national economy and contributes significantly to the burgeoning recurrent expenses;

Aware that the recent verification exercise conducted for retired military personnel led to the reduction in the number of military pensioners by 19,203, translating to a downward revision of monthly pensions expenses by ₦575 million; and also that the introduction of the Integrated Personnel Information System (IPPIS) saved the Government a huge sum of N208 Billion;

Recalls the recent revelation by the Hon. Minister for Finance, Mrs Kemi Adeosun that 23,000 ghost workers were detected in the payrolls of Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs);

Concerned that the syndrome of ghost workers essentially represents dysfunctionality in governance and leads to deprivation of other Nigerians the opportunity of gaining employment as the ghost workers take up the wages those other Nigerians would have earned, if employed;

Also concerned that the existence of ghost workers is attributed to the weaknesses created by lack of scientific and verifiable bureaucratic database;

Worried that the syndrome of ghost workers is so entrenched in the Nigerian bureaucracy that the three tiers of government in the nation loses billions of Naira monthly to ghost workers;

Resolve to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government to initiate a mechanism that would lead to the creation of an electronic database for all public and civil servants in the Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government; and

(*ii*) urge the Committee on Public Service Matters to ensure compliance.

4. Urgent Need for the Rehabilitation of Uyo Ndiya/Eket Ndiya, Etinan, Mkpat Enin, Ikot Abasi, Port Harcourt Road:
Hon. Samuel Ikon:

The House:

Notes that Uyo Ndiya Eket Ndiya, Etinan, Mkpat Enin, Ikot Abasi, Port Harcourt Road is a major highway linking Akwa Ibom, Rivers and Bayelsa States;

Also notes the deplorable nature of the road and that the collapse of Ndiya bridge by Ikot Mfon has stalled movement of persons and vehicles, thereby cripping commercial activities in those communities;

Concerned that the deplorable condition of the road has given armed bandits the opportunities to attack travelers and are posing risks to Banks and prime business outfits located on the highway;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to commence the reconstruction of the road to ease the sufferings of the people;

(*ii*) also urge the Inspector-General of Police to put in place security measures in those areas to safeguard the lives and properties of people;

(*iii*) mandate the Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission to ensure compliance.

5. Call for Provision of Relief Materials to Victims of Communal Clashes and Rainstorm in Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency:
Hon. Peter Akpatason:

The House:

Aware that on Tuesday 15th March, 2016, Ikakumo and neighboring communities in Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency were ravaged by a devastating rainstorm;

Also aware of the communal clashes between Erhurun and Okpella communities on 21 February, 2016 and Ekpedo and Bekuma Communities on 30 March, 2016, which resulted in loss of lives and damage to several houses, thus rendering many people homeless, and they are presently taking refuge in make shift and unbefitting accommodation arrangements under severe weather conditions;

Disturbed that if relief materials and other necessary supplies are not urgently provided, they will suffer avoidable health hazards from further rainfall and severe heat waves;

Resolves to:

Urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently provide relief materials for the displaced victims in those communities.

6. Urgent Need to Eradicate Malaria Using the Dichloro-Diphenyl-Trichloroethane (DDT):
Hon. Christopher Ngoro Agibe:

The House:

Notes that malaria, which is usually transmitted by mosquito bites, is an endemic disease in Nigeria which geographical location makes the climate suitable for malaria transmission such that, about 97% of the population is at risk;

Also notes that malaria is a major health challenge which puts enormous pressure on the nation's overstretched health system as it is responsible for 70% of all out patient cases and 30% of all hospitalization in the country and about 300,000 people die of malaria annually with 65% of these death being children under the age of 5, and the yearly economic loss due to malaria has been put at 480 billion Naira, arising from costs of treatment, loss of man hours and other indirect costs;

Convinced that malaria is a disease that can be eradicated through the elimination of mosquitoes (vector) which is responsible for its transmission, as many nations of the World have either done so or seeking to do so;

Aware that during the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Malaria Eradication program between 1959 and 1969, DDT was successfully used to permanently eliminate malaria in many regions, like Southern Europe, North America, the Caribbean, some parts of Asia and South/Central America;

Dismayed that Nigeria currently has no malaria-eradication policy or sustainable program, but is more concerned with preventive and curative measures such as the use of mosquito-treated nets, insecticides and pharmaceutical products, among others- which have done little to affect the grim statistics surrounding the health scourge;

Also aware that the United States of America, Sri-Lanka, Equador, Australia and some European Nations have used DDT to control the breeding of mosquitoes; and that South Africa, Kenya, Zambia, Uganda and Zimbabwe, of recent have all used DDT to great effects, with some of them, notably South Africa, reducing malaria by as much as 90%; thus tending towards the eradication of the disease;

Further aware that the use of DDT to control the breeding of mosquitos is however enmeshed in controversy over its unproven adverse effects on the environment, thus leading to its ban in 2004 by the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, but in 2006, the same Convention permitted the use of DDT for the control of mosquitoes and in fact granted exemptions to China, India and Russia to produce the chemical for this specific purpose; and has further extended the grants of exemptions to 29 other countries, (all in the tropical region) who requested for the exemption for DDT use, for disease control;

Conscious that although the use of DDT for malaria control is allowed under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Western Europe and the United States of America however, discourage its use by developing nations through the denial of health-sector funding by the World Bank, the World Health Organisation, and the United States Agency for International Development, as Zimbabwe, Uganda and South Africa who have used DDT, found out to their dismay;

Cognizant that such posturing is probably to ensure that there continues to be a market for its big pharmaceutical companies which stand to lose in the event that mosquitoes and malaria are eliminated;

Also cognizant that it costs about two dollars (or six hundred naira) a year to spray a house with DDT, whereas the substitutes for DDT which are less efficient are ironically much more expensive and it is also noteworthy that spraying DDT twice yearly can cut down infection of malaria by close to 90%;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Ministry of Health and the Centre for Disease Control and other related agencies to move the national malaria plan from the prevention stage to the eradication stage;

(*ii*) mandate the Federal Ministry of Health to include DDT in its malaria eradication program plan;

(*iii*) also mandate the Federal Ministry of Health, in conjunction with the Federal Ministry of Environment, to make arrangements for the procurement and effective deployment of DDT for the eradication of mosquitoes and thus control the scourge of malaria;

(*iv*) also urge the Federal Ministry of Environment to make adequate regulations and supervision to avoid illegal diversion of DDT for agricultural uses; and

(*v*) also mandate the Committee on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Control and legislative Compliance to ensure compliance.

7. Deplorable State Of Okene-Obehira-Magongo-Lampese-Ibillo-Ekor-Ikiran-Ishua Road:
Hon Peter Ohiozojeh Akpatason:

The House:

Notes that due to persistent rainfall and consequent erosion, the Okene - Obehira - Magongo - Lampese - Ibillo- Ekor- Ikiran - Ishua Road traversing Kogi, Edo and Ondo States has become almost impassable;

Aware that the Road, which connects the Northern States to South-West, and South-South parts of the country, is crucial to the socio-economic development of these areas and the frequency of heavy duty vehicles plying the road demands its constant maintenance to stem the tide of deterioration;

Concerned that the deplorable state of the Road has caused a number of accidents leading to loss of lives and properties, as well as unquantifiable loss of man-hours;

Worried that the bad spots on the Road have become safe haven for armed robbers to harass, kill and dispossess business men and travelers of their valuables;

Concerned that if urgent remedial measures are not taken soon to repair the Road, the sufferings of travelers will continue;

Resolves to:

Urge the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to, as a matter of urgency, embark on the rehabilitation of the Road.

8. Urgent Need to Investigate the Face-off between the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) over Allegations of Impropriety in the Financial Statements of Stanbic IBTC:
Hon. Albert Abiodun Adeogun:

The House:

Notes the report in the media of the petition by shareholders of Stanbic IBTC that the Bank, in its 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 financial statements, accrued some monies to meet unapproved transactions with the foreign technical partners of the Bank which were not properly disclosed;

Also notes that the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria (FRC) had commenced investigations into those allegations of financial impropriety by directing the Bank to withdraw the misleading financial statements for 2013 and 2014 and also suspending its Chairman, the Chief Executive Officer and a Director of the accounting firm, the KPMG;

Concerned that the suspensions of the key officials of the Bank have adversely impacted on the market capitalization of shares of the Stanbic IBTC which have fallen from ₦230 billion to ₦207 billion;

Also concerned that shareholders investments could be jeopardized if the Bank continues to experience fall in the price of its shares which could be reminiscent of the 2008 recession in the capital market which resulted into 70% loss of shareholders' investments from which the capital market has not recovered;

Worried that the ongoing supremacy battle between the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria (FRC) over the matter may have deleterious effects on the financial sector which is the heart beat of the Nigerian economy given its fragile and oil dependent nature;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Banking and Currency and Capital Market and Institutions to investigate the on-going power tussle between the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) over the allegations of financial impropriety made in the financial statements of Stanbic IBTC for 2013 and 2014, and report back to the House within six (6) weeks for further legislative action.

9. Controlling Noise Pollution in Nigeria.
Hon. Hassan Saleh:

The House:

Notes that recent researches have shown that short exposures to noise (in excess of about 100db) causes adverse effects on foetus, headache and dizziness, dilatoriness in intestine, stomach problems and bad sight to the extent that they could eventually become incurable;

Also notes that the rising level of noise pollution in Nigeria, especially in the urban and semi urban cities, have resulted in temporary discomfort and serious impact on the health and quality of lives of the citizens as the Nigerian Hearing and Speech Association (NIHSA) has linked the growing hearing difficulties being experienced by Nigerians to noise pollution;

Aware that the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) is charged with responsibility to make regulations for the control of noise in the country as provided for in section 22 of its enabling Act, 2007;

Concerned that despite the existence of the Agency the level of noise pollution has become worrisome as it keeps creating increasing environmental hazards to the health of the citizenry and, the World Health Organization (WHO) had noted the number of people suffering hearing impairments has grown from 42 Million in 1985 to 360 Million in 2011 out of which 32 Million are children under the age of 15;

Also concerned that the tolerable noise level in industrial areas is between 80 to 90 decibel while that of Nigeria is close to 150 decibel which is the level for the likely occurrence of deafness and when noise from industries, construction sites, religious and club houses exceed the recommended level of decibel defined by environmental and health authorities, it amounts to pollution and thus affects the health of the populace;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) to live up to expectation by reviewing its regulatory and monitoring policies to ensure compliance with International Standard for noise level;

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Environment and Habitat to interface with all the relevant stakeholders on how to develop a comprehensive noise pollution abatement policy, and report back to the House within 6 weeks.

10. Call for an End to the Deconstruction of Nigeria's Flag:
Hon. Sam I. Onuigbo:

The House:

Notes that National symbols are important instruments for creating and sustaining a people's identity and Nations take their Flags and other National symbols seriously;

Aware that the National Flag and the Coat of Arms are two entirely different National Heritage symbols with separate essence, identities and representations which are distinct from each other;

Also aware that the appropriate colours and design conceived by the designer of the National Flag, Pa Michael Taiwo Akinkunmi, in 1959, were green and white without the embellishment of the Coat of Arms on the Flag;

Further aware that the two green colours on the left and right in the National Flag represent Nigeria's vast forests, agricultural potentials, abundant national wealth and its lush and arable vegetation, while the white at the center represents peace and unity;

Cognizant that a person's identification with his/her Nation begins to take root during childhood which experiences are usually the bedrock upon which self-identity and National consciousness are built, but this is hardly the case with Nigeria;

Concerned that a great percentage of our school children sing the lines of the National Anthem wrongly and cannot even establish the correct nature of the National Flag as a separate National symbol from the Coat of Arms and what each of them represents and as such, get confused over the true identity of the National Flag as a result of the embellishment of the Coat of Arms on the Flag, thereby deconstructing the Flag;

Worried that the deconstruction of the National Flag is not limited to the public alone, as it is also being like perpetrated by Government Institutions;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government to direct the National Orientation Agency (NOA) to embark upon public enlightenment and re-orientation on the need to put an end to the deconstruction of the Nigerian Flag;

(*ii*) also urge the Government to mandate the Agency to be the only source of obtaining the national Flag so as to ensure that the correct format of the Flag is produced; and

(*iii*) mandate the Committees on Information, National Orientation, Ethics and Values, and Legislative Compliance to ensure implementation.

11. Call for Decongestion of Abuja Municipal Area Council by Relocating some Government Agencies and Departments to the Area Councils:
Hon. Lovette Ederin Idisi:

The House:

Aware that the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja is divided into six 6) Area Councils, namely Abuja Municipal, Bwari, Gwagwalada , Kwali, Kuje and Abaji Area Councils;

Also aware that over 95% (Ninety-five percent) of the Federal Government establishments, embassies, States liaison offices and major private companies are located in the Abuja Municipal Area Council which is not more than 3-4 kilometers in radius, consequently, 95% of the workforce of the Federal Capital Territory carry out their works within the FCT metropolis, as a result of which there is an unacceptably high volume of human and vehicular movements within the Abuja Municipal Area Council which projects a bad image of the city to visitors and tourists;

Cognizant that the huge population within Abuja Municipal Area Council has overstretched the amenities thereby causing congestion, unhygienic environment, threats to lives and properties and constant disruption of social lives and business activities which negatively affect the productivity of workers and other residents;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Call on the Federal Capital Territory Administration to decongest the Abuja Municipal Area Council by relocating some establishments to the Area Councils; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committees on FCT and FCT Area Councils to liaise with the Federal Capital Territory Administration to ensure adherence.