FOURTH REPUBLIC
8TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST SESSION
NO. 83

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 20 April, 2016

1. The House met at 11:15 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, 19 April, 2016.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

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

(*a*) Students of the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Humanities, Management & Social Science, Federal University, Kashere, Gombe State; and

(*b*) Members of the Faculty of Business Administration Students Association, Imo State University, Owerri, Imo State.

4. **Admittance into the Chamber**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do admit into the Chamber, Hon. Munah E. Pelham - Youngblood, a member of the House of Representatives, Capital Hill, Monrovia, Liberia, pursuant to Order XIX, Rule 217 (1) (*xi*) of the Standing Orders" (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

5. **Petition**
A petition from Suleiman Aduke Theresa on the discontinuance of her monthly pension by the Pension Transitional Arrangement Directorate (PTAD), was presented and laid by Hon. Jimoh A. Olajide (*Lagos Mainland Federal Constituency*) .

Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

(*i*) ***Breach of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Internal Revenue Service Act*, 2015:**

Hon. Abdulrazaq Namdas (*Mayo Belwa/Ganye/Jada/Toungo 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, Rules 46 (3) and 49 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) *and* 49 *to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.*

Breach of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Internal Revenue Services Act, 2015:

The House:

Notes that the House in the 6th Assembly had passed a Bill for an Act establishing the FCT Inland Revenue Services and its Management Board, in concurrence with the Senate;

Also notes that the President assented to the Bill on 27 February, 2015 and it has since become Law of the Federation;

Further notes that the Act authorises the FCT to establish an Inland Revenue Service to collect all forms of taxes and levies for the FCT;

Worried that the Minister of FCT has signed a comprehensive agreement with the Federal Inland Revenue Service to collect taxes for the FCT, in breach of the existing Law;

Resolves to:

Invite the Minister of the FCT to appear before the Committee on FCT to explain the reason for taking such steps and show cause why he will not reverse this clear breach of the Law and to report to the House in two weeks (*Hon. Abdulrazak Namdas — Mayo Belwa/Ganye/Jada/Toungo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the House in the 6th Assembly had passed a Bill for an Act establishing the FCT Inland Revenue Services and its Management Board, in concurrence with the Senate;

Also noted that the President assented to the Bill on 27 February, 2015 and it has since become Law of the Federation;

Further noted that the Act authorises the FCT to establish an Inland Revenue Service to collect all forms of taxes and levies for the FCT;

Worried that the Minister of FCT has signed a comprehensive agreement with the Federal Inland Revenue Service to collect taxes for the FCT, in breach of the existing Law;

Resolved to:

Invite the Minister of the FCT to appear before the Committee on FCT to explain the reason for taking such steps and show cause why he will not reverse this clear breach of the Law and to report to the House in two weeks (**HR. 134/2016**).

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

(*ii*) ***Need to Investigate the Utilization of* 10 *Billion Naira to Fight Insecurity in the Country and* 8 *Billion Naira for Upgrade of Police Training Schools, in Readiness for the Forthcoming Recruitment of Police Personnel in Nigeria*:**
Hon. Johnbull Shekarau (*Shendam/Mikang/Qua'an/Pan 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, Rules 46 (3) and 49 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) *and* 49 *to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.*

Need to Investigate the Utilization of 10 Billion Naira to Fight Insecurity in the Country and 8 Billion Naira for Upgrade of Police Training Schools and Colleges in Readiness for the Forthcoming Recruitment of Police Personnel in Nigeria:

The House:

Notes that the President, Commander in Chief of the country, Mohammed Buhari recently released about 10 Billion Naira only to the Inspector General of Police, Mr Solomon Arase to combat the spate of insecurity in Nigeria;

Also notes that the Inspector General of Police in a recent interactive session with the House Committee on Police Affairs claimed that more equipment including surveillance cameras had been procured and deployed across the nation for the purpose of checking the spate of Kidnaping and other violent crimes in the country;

Aware that the rate of kidnaping, profile murders and other crimes in Nigeria are presently on the increase;

Also aware that there are not enough equipment and surveillance cameras deployed by the Inspector General of Police to facilitate the reduction of violent crimes in the country;

Further notes that the President released over 8 Billion Naira to facilitate the proposed recruitment of the 10,000 Police personnel in Nigeria;

Worried that until date, the Police Training Colleges are still in a dilapidated condition and infested with rodents, not conducive for the effective training of Police recruits;

Concerned that the Police Service Commission, whose jurisdiction it is to organise the recruitment have commenced the processes of recruitement without corresponding preparation by the Nigeria Police Force;

Resolves to:

Mandate the House Committee on Police Affairs to conduct a holistic investigation of the utilization of the sums of ₦10 Billion and ₦8 Billion released to the Nigeria Police Force to fight insecurity and for effective recruitment of Police personnel in Nigeria respectively and to report back to the House within 2 weeks (*Hon. Johnbull T Shekarau — Shendam/Mikang/Qua'an/Pan Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the President, Commander in Chief of the country, Mohammed Buhari recently released about 10 Billion Naira only to the Inspector General of Police, Mr Solomon Arase to combat the spate of insecurity in Nigeria;

Also noted that the Inspector General of Police in a recent interactive session with the House Committee on Police Affairs claimed that more equipment including surveillance cameras had been procured and deployed across the nation for the purpose of checking the spate of Kidnaping and other violent crimes in the country;

Aware that the rate of kidnaping, profile murders and other crimes in Nigeria are presently on the increase;

Also aware that there are not enough equipment and surveillance cameras deployed by the Inspector General of Police to facilitate the reduction of violent crimes in the country;

Further noted that the President released over 8 Billion Naira to facilitate the proposed recruitment of the 10,000 Police personnel in Nigeria;

Worried that until date, the Police Training Colleges are still in a dilapidated condition and infested with rodents, not conducive for the effective training of Police recruits;

Concerned that the Police Service Commission, whose jurisdiction it is to organise the recruitment have commenced the processes of recruitement without corresponding preparation by the Nigeria Police Force;

Resolved to:

Mandate the House Committee on Police Affairs to conduct a holistic investigation of the utilization of the sums of ₦10 Billion and ₦8 Billion released to the Nigeria Police Force to fight insecurity and for effective recruitment of Police personnel in Nigeria respectively and to report back to the House within 2 weeks (**HR. 135/2016**).

Motion referred to the Committee on Police Affairs.

7. Presentation and First Reading of Bills

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

(1) National Boundary Commission Task Force (Establishment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 486).

(2) Special Maximum Security Prisons (Establishment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 487).

(3) Community Service Bill, 2016 (HB. 488).

(4) National Oil and Gas Museum and Research Centre (Establishment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 489).

(5) Digital Rights and Freedom Bill, 2016 (HB. 490).

(6) Institute of Chartered Corporate Marketing and Management of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 491).

(7) Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 492).

(8) Indigenes (Status Confirmation) Bill, 2016 (HB. 493).

(9) National Universities Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 494).

(10) National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB.495).

8. **Need to Rescind the House Decision on the Transfer of the Nigerian Shippers Council (NSC) from the Committee on Ports, Harbours and Waterways to the Committee on Marine Safety, Education and Administration, Pursuant to Order 9, Rule 57 (6) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives:**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Recalls that on Thursday, 8 October, 2015, the House considered the Report of the Committee on Rules and Business on the amendment of the Standing Orders of the House, wherein the Nigerian Shippers Council (NSC) was assigned to the Committee on Ports, Harbours and Waterways to oversee;

Also recalls that on Wednesday, 23 March, 2016, the House also considered the Report of the Committee on Rules and Business on further amendment of the Rules wherein oversight of the Nigerian Shippers Council (NSC) was transferred to the Committee on Marine Safety, Education and Administration, and Marine Services was deleted;

Aware that Marine Services, defined as "port-related activities to ensure seamless flow of vessel traffic in Port approaches and Harbours and their safe stay at berth when moored or at anchor", are co-ordinated by the Marine Services Department of the Federal Ministry of Transportation, which requires vigorous oversight functions by the Committee responsible for Ports and Harbours;

Also aware that the Nigerian Shippers Council (NSC) is a key agency in the ports and cargo administration of the maritime sector, and that the NSC, by its history, enabling law, operations and funding are rooted in Ports, Harbours and Waterways Committee, given its original mandate as the protector of the interests of the shippers or cargo owners using the ports or as an intermediary between the shippers/cargo owners, shipping companies and its newest mandate as Ports Economic Regulator;

Convinced that it is in recognition of this symbiotic relationship between the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) and the Nigerian Shippers Council (NSC) that the NSC is funded mainly by the NPA through 2% contribution of the Port Development Levy, and the operation of the NSC, including international cargo tracking and port regulation can only be effectively and efficiently carried out when the NPA and NSC are not only funded together from the same source, but also have the same Committee carrying out oversight functions over them;

Resolves to:

Rescind its decision of Wednesday, 23 March, 2016 transferring the Nigerian Shippers Council (NSC) from the oversight functions of the Committee on Ports, Harbours and Waterways and also deleting Marine Services, and restore them to the Committee on Ports, Harbours and Waterways (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question agreed to.

The House:

Recalled that on Thursday, 8 October, 2015, the House considered the Report of the Committee on Rules and Business on the amendment of the Standing Orders of the House, wherein the Nigerian Shippers Council (NSC) was assigned to the Committee on Ports, Harbours and Waterways to oversee;

Also recalled that on Wednesday, 23 March, 2016, the House also considered the Report of the Committee on Rules and Business on further amendment of the Rules wherein oversight of the Nigerian Shippers Council (NSC) was transferred to the Committee on Marine Safety, Education and Administration, and Marine Services was deleted;

Aware that Marine Services, defined as "port-related activities to ensure seamless flow of vessel traffic in Port approaches and Harbours and their safe stay at berth when moored or at anchor", are co-ordinated by the Marine Services Department of the Federal Ministry of Transportation, which requires vigorous oversight functions by the Committee responsible for Ports and Harbours;

Also aware that the Nigerian Shippers Council (NSC) is a key agency in the ports and cargo administration of the maritime sector, and that the NSC, by its history, enabling law, operations and funding are rooted in Ports, Harbours and Waterways Committee, given its original mandate as the protector of the interests of the shippers or cargo owners using the ports or as an intermediary between the shippers/cargo owners, shipping companies and its newest mandate as Ports Economic Regulator;

Convinced that it is in recognition of this symbiotic relationship between the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) and the Nigerian Shippers Council (NSC) that the NSC is funded mainly by the NPA through 2% contribution of the Port Development Levy, and the operation of the NSC, including international cargo tracking and port regulation can only be effectively and efficiently carried out when the NPA and NSC are not only funded together from the same source, but also have the same Committee carrying out oversight functions over them;

Resolved to:

Rescind its decision of Wednesday, 23 March, 2016 transferring the Nigerian Shippers Council (NSC) from the oversight functions of the Committee on Ports, Harbours and Waterways and also deleting Marine Services, and restore them to the Committee on Ports, Harbours and Waterways **(HR. 136/2016)**.

9. Need to Tackle the Devastating Gully Erosion in Njikoka/Anaocha/Dunukofia Federal Constituency of Anambra State

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

10. 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

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

11. Need to Investigate the Abandonment of the 2x60 MVA and 132/33KV Sub-Station at Ogbomosho and 2x132KV Sub-Station line Bays Extension at Ganmo, Ilorin
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that there cannot be any meaningful development in any community without a steady power supply as households and industries depend on it for sustenance and growth of the economy;

Aware that the contracts for the construction of 2x60 MVA and 132/33KV sub-station at Ogbomoso and 2x132KV sub-station line bays extension at Ganmo were awarded in 2008 to Messrs Cart Lark International Limited;

Worried that a huge amount of tax payers' money to the tune of (₦1,869,151,440) One Billion, Eight Hundred and Sixty-Nine Million, One Hundred and Fifty-One Thousand, Four Hundred and Forty Naira only had been appropriated between year 2010 -2013 for the projects but the construction works have stalled since 2013 and the consequent unstable power supply is worsening the state of the already under-developed communities;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Power to investigate the abandonment of the projects with a view to seeing to their completion, and report back to the House within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Odebunmi Olusegun Dokun — Ogo-Oluwa/Surulere Federal Constituency*).

Question agreed to.

(**HR. 137/2016**).

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

12. Investigation of the Alleged Misappropriation of Pension Fund by the Pension Transitional Arrangement Directorate (PTAD)
Motion made and Question proposed:

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 offices 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;

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 (*Hon. Lawal Abubakar Garba — Yola North/Yola South/Gire Federal Constituency and* 1 *other*).

Debate.

Question agreed to.

The House:

Noted 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 noted that the Act empowers the PTAD to oversee the funds, assets or liabilities of all pension offices 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 noted 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;

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;

Resolved 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 (**HR. 138/2016**).

Motion referred to the Committee on Pensions.

13. Need to Eradicate Malaria Using the Dichloro-Diphenyl-Trichloroethane (DDT)
Motion made and Question proposed:

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;

Acknowledges 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*) further mandate the Committees on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Control, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Christopher Ngoro Agibe — Boki/Ikom Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out Prayers (*ii*) - (*v*), and *insert* a new Prayer (*ii*) as follows:
"Mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, and HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Control to consider the efficacy of DDT in the eradication of malaria and report back to the House within 3 weeks" (*Hon. Kingsley Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted 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 noted 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;

Acknowledged 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%;

Resolved 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; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, and HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Control to consider the efficacy of DDT in the eradication of malaria and report back to the House within 3 weeks (**HR. 139/2016**).

Motion referred to the Committees on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Control, and Legislative Compliance.

14. Control of Noise Pollution in Nigeria
Motion made and Question proposed:

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 is having 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 that the number of people suffering from 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; and

(*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 (*Hon. Hassan Saleh — Ado/Ogbadibo/Okpokwu Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question agreed to.

The House:

Noted 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 noted that the rising level of noise pollution in Nigeria, especially in the urban and semi urban cities, have resulted in temporary discomfort and is having 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 that the number of people suffering from 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;

Resolved 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; and

(*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 (**HR. 140/2016**).

Motion referred to the Committee on Environment and Habitat.

15. Call for Creation of an Electronic Database for all Public and Civil Servants in Federal Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

16. Call for Decongestion of Abuja Municipal Area Council by Relocating some Government Agencies and Departments to the Area Councils

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

17. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 21 *April*, 2016 *at* 11.00 *a.m.* (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.23 *p.m.*

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker