



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 5 October, 2017

1. The House met at 11.22 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, 4 October, 2017.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.
 3. **Announcement**
Visitors in the Gallery:
Mr Speaker recognised the presence of the Student Representative Council, *Lagos State Polytechnic*, Ikorodu, Lagos State.
 4. **Defections**
Mr Speaker read the following communications:
 - (i) Hon. Yusuf Ahmed Tijani (*Okene/Ogori-Mangogo Federal Constituency*), intimating the House of his defection from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to the All Progressives Congress (APC); and
 - (ii) Hon. Zaphaniah Jisalo (*Abuja Municipal/Bwari Federal Constituency*), informing the House of his defection from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to the All Progressives Congress (APC).
 5. **Admittance into the Chamber**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do admit into the Chamber, the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and his entourage, pursuant to Order Nineteen, Rule 8 (1)" (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).
- Agreed to.*
6. **Petition**
A petition from Friday Sani, on the alleged assassination attempt on his life by the Aide-De-Camp (ADC) to the Governor of Kogi State, and 4 others, was presented and laid by Hon. Emmanuel Makoji Egwu (*Idah/Igalamela/Ibaji/Ofu Federal Constituency*).
- Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.*

7. Matter of Urgent Public Importance (Order Eight, Rule 4)

Commemoration of the World Teachers Day in Nigeria:

Hon. Omosede Igbinedion (*Ovia North East/Ovia South West Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
- (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (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 Eight, Rule 4 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Commemoration of the World Teachers Day in Nigeria:

The House:

Notes that October 5 of every year is the World Teachers Day; a day set aside to commemorate teachers worldwide;

Also notes that the aim of the day is to mobilize support for teachers and to ensure that the need of future generation are sustainable;

Further notes that according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), World Teachers Day represents a period of awareness, understanding and appreciation of the roles of teachers to education and development;

Aware that schools in remote locations in Nigeria lack adequate teaching staff for a number of reasons. Evidence showed that in Nigeria, incentives, welfare and other ways of motivation for teachers were not accorded any serious attention by the government in such way that it could attract interest in teaching jobs, rather, the incentive and welfare of teachers were mostly left to Parents Teachers Association (PTA) and the rural communities;

Concerned that rural - urban drift of teachers has greatly hampered educational development in the rural communities, thereby affecting performance of teaching and learning in schools;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Ministry of Education to take on policy that will provide allowances and initiate annual retention benefits of 25% of Annual Salary for five years to attract teachers to rural communities; and
- (ii) also urge the Universal Basic Education Commission to liaise with the State Governments with a view to providing incentives to rural teachers (*Hon. Omosede G. Igbinedion — Ovia North East/Ovia South West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that October 5 of every year is the World Teachers Day; a day set aside to commemorate teachers worldwide;

Also noted that the aim of the day is to mobilize support for teachers and to ensure that the need of future generation are sustainable;

Further noted that according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), World Teachers Day represents a period of awareness, understanding and appreciation of the roles of teachers to education and development;

Aware that schools in remote locations in Nigeria lack adequate teaching staff for a number of reasons. Evidence showed that in Nigeria, incentives, welfare and other ways of motivation for teachers were not accorded any serious attention by the government in such way that it could attract interest in teaching jobs, rather, the incentive and welfare of teachers were mostly left to Parents Teachers Association (PTA) and the rural communities;

Concerned that rural - urban drift of teachers has greatly hampered educational development in the rural communities, thereby affecting performance of teaching and learning in schools

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Ministry of Education to take on policy that will provide allowances and initiate annual retention benefits of 25% of Annual Salary for five years to attract teachers to rural communities; and
- (ii) also urge the Universal Basic Education Commission to liaise with the State Governments with a view to providing incentives to rural teachers (**HR. 85/2017**).

8. Presentation of Reports

(i) Committee on Public Petitions:

Report on the Petition by Mrs Elizabeth Modupe Oyeduntan:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Mrs Elizabeth Modupe Oyeduntan against the West African Examination Council (WAEC) on alleged unjust withholding of gratuity and other entitlements" (*Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) Committee on Public Petitions:

Report on the Petition by Mr Philemon Ibrahim Gora:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Mr Philemon Ibrahim Gora against Diamond Bank Plc on the Unlawful Closure of Accounts and Retention of Funds belonging to Cash Flowabi Network Limited by the Management of the Bank, CBN, Nigeria, Police and the Attorney General of the Federation" (*Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

- (iii) **Committee on Public Petitions:**
Report on the Petition by Andoni Stakeholders' Forum and the National Youth Council of Nigeria:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Andoni Stakeholders' Forum and the National Youth Council of Nigeria against the Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on the erroneous spelling of Andoni-Opobo/Nkoro Federal Constituency in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999" (Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

- (iv) **Committee on Public Petitions:**
Report on the Petition by Bar. Uchenna Oparaugo:
- Motion made and Question proposed*, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Bar. Uchenna Oparaugo and Austine C. Uwabuto on behalf of Godwin Ogbogu against Key Stone Bank on alleged unlawful transfer of the sum of \$180,000 (One Hundred and Eighty Thousand Dollars against timely order" (Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

- (v) **Committee on Public Petitions:**
Report on the Petition by Iyoha Iyoke & Co.:
- Motion made and Question proposed*, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Iyoha Iyoke & Co. on behalf of Ambrose O. Imeien against the Medical Department of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) on the Wrongful Dismissal of Ambrose O. Imeien and institutional wickedness of the State Authorities" (Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

- (vi) **Committee on Public Petitions:**
Report on the Petition by Nichodemus Egwueta Eze:
- Motion made and Question proposed*, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Nichodemus Egwueta Eze against the Principal Chief Executive of Petroleum Training Institute, Efurum, Delta State on the unjust treatment" (Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

9. **Discharge of the Committee on Solid Minerals Development on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of a School of Mines and Geological Studies in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area; and for Related Matters (HB. 105), Pursuant to Order Seventeen, Rule 3 (g) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives**
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that the Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of a School of Mines and Geological Studies in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area; and for Related Matters was introduced on November 18, 2015 and read the second time on March 15, 2016;

Recalls that the Bill was referred to the Committee on Solid Minerals Development for further legislative action;

Aware that the Committee is yet to present a report on the Bill, contrary to the provisions of Order Seventeen, Rule 3 (g) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives to wit:

"Any matter referred to any Committee shall be treated within 30 days otherwise the Committee shall stand discharged after 60 days and the matter committed to the Committee of the Whole for consideration";

Resolves to:

Discharge the Committee on Solid Minerals Development of the Bill and commit same to the Committee of the Whole for consideration (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

10. **Deplorable State of Nigeria's Foreign Missions and its Consequences on the Nation's Foreign Policy**
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that Embassies, High Commissions and Missions are the vehicles for the implementation of a Nation's foreign policy and protection of its image;

Also notes that some of the contributory factors to the deplorable conditions of the nation's Embassies and High Commissions, including Chanceries and Residences of the Ambassadors and High Commissioners in cities like Washington D.C., New York, Geneva, London, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Frankfurt, Brasilia, Juba and Johannesburg are poor funding and often times, late remittances of approved funds;

Aware that the funding challenges of the Missions are affecting their operations, thereby resulting in unpaid allowances of home based officers, huge debts owed to service providers, poor representation, low productivity and morale of officers posted to those Missions;

Concerned about the situation where children and wards of the foreign Officers are being sent out of schools for non- payment of school fees and the officials are also being denied medical services due to non - payment of insurance premium;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of the Federal Government to increase funding to the Foreign Missions;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Accountant General of the Federation to ensure direct and timely remittance of funds to Nigeria's Missions;
- (iii) make annual budgetary allocation to enable the Committee on Foreign Affairs carry out oversight functions over the Missions; and
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Foreign Affairs to conduct a Public Hearing on the deplorable state of Nigeria's Foreign Missions and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Nnenna Elendu-Ukeje — Bende Federal Constituency and 21 others*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Prayers (i) and (ii) (Hon Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Embassies, High Commissions and Missions are the vehicles for the implementation of a Nation's foreign policy and protection of its image;

Also noted that some of the contributory factors to the deplorable conditions of the nation's Embassies and High Commissions, including Chanceries and Residences of the Ambassadors and High Commissioners in cities like Washington D.C., New York, Geneva, London, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Frankfurt, Brasilia, Juba and Johannesburg are poor funding and often times, late remittances of approved funds;

Aware that the funding challenges of the Missions are affecting their operations, thereby resulting in unpaid allowances of home based officers, huge debts owed to service providers, poor representation, low productivity and morale of officers posted to those Missions;

Concerned about the situation where children and wards of the foreign Officers are being sent out of schools for non- payment of school fees and the officials are also being denied medical services due to non - payment of insurance premium;

Resolved to:

- (i) make annual budgetary allocation to enable the Committee on Foreign Affairs carry out oversight functions over the Missions; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Foreign Affairs to conduct a Public Hearing on the deplorable state of Nigeria's Foreign Missions and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 86/2017**).

11. **Call on the Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company (IKDC) to Provide Transformers and Prepaid Meters to Consumers**
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that the power sector is one of the most critical sectors in the socio-economic development of any nation;

Also notes that the Ikeja Electricity distribution company is yet to distribute transformers and pre-paid meters to a large percentage of electricity consumers within its jurisdiction;

Concerned that as a result of the delay, output from the distribution company has been low due to usage of inadequate and obsolete transformers inherited from the defunct Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN);

Also concerned that the distribution company has consistently issued unrealistic and often outrageously estimated bills to consumers even when, in most cases, there is inadequate supply of electricity, thus leading to consumers being overcharged for electricity not consumed;

Observes that since the privatization of the power sector, the Distribution Companies have generally performed below expectation in breach of the provisions of the Privatization Agreement between the companies and the Bureau Public Enterprises (BPE);

Aware that the Privatization Agreement contains clauses for revocation of licenses issued in the event of continued breach of the Agreement;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing and the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission to:
 - (a) direct the Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company to procure, distribute and install transformers and prepaid meters for consumers;
 - (b) discontinue forthwith issuance of estimated bills to electricity consumers;
- (ii) call on the Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company to also stop disconnection of consumers' light until prepaid meters are installed; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Privatization and Commercialization, and Power to investigate the non-compliance of Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company with the post-acquisition Agreement with the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Shadimu Mutiu Alao — Oshodi Isolo I Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 87/2017).

Motion referred to the Committees on Privatization and Commercialization, and Power, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

12. Need to Regulate the Movement of Articulated Vehicles on Abuja-Keffi Road

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Recognizes the strategic importance of Abuja-Keffi Road which connects the Federal Capital City to about Eight States of the Federation, a situation that naturally results in traffic congestion on the road;

Concerned that the reckless driving of some articulated truck drivers at all times of the day and night, coupled with lack of maintenance of many of the vehicles, has resulted in avoidable crashes, with attendant deaths of commuters and pedestrians alike;

Observes that the wreckages of vehicles that paint a worrying picture of mishaps on the road abound at nearby police stations;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) to determine the nature of restrictions to be placed on the movements of articulated vehicles to and from Abuja and ensure strict compliance; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Federal Capital Territory to ensure implementation (*Hon. Anayo Nnebe — Awka North/Awka South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Recognized the strategic importance of Abuja-Keffi Road which connects the Federal Capital City to about Eight States of the Federation, a situation that naturally results in traffic congestion on the road;

Concerned that the reckless driving of some articulated truck drivers at all times of the day and night, coupled with lack of maintenance of many of the vehicles, has resulted in avoidable crashes, with attendant deaths of commuters and pedestrians alike;

Observed that the wreckages of vehicles that paint a worrying picture of mishaps on the road abound at nearby police stations;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) to determine the nature of restrictions to be placed on the movements of articulated vehicles to and from Abuja and ensure strict compliance; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Federal Capital Territory to ensure implementation (**HR. 88/2017**).

13. **Call for Removal of Surcharge by the Central Bank of Nigeria on Mutilated Notes**
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that Section 20 of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Act of 2007 provides that the currency Notes and Coins issued by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) shall be the approved medium of exchange, and as a result, should be accepted for all transactions in Nigeria;

Also notes the widespread circulation of dirty, mutilated and worn out Notes contrary to the requirement that they be replaced by Commercial Banks when they are worn out or defaced as long as the Central Bank's and Treasury's serial number can still be seen on the Notes;

Aware that in the past, such notes were replaced by Commercial Banks, but now, the Banks routinely reject torn, defaced and mutilated Notes which customers bring for deposits;

Also aware that despite the regulatory position of the CBN, it is apparently encouraging the outrageous and appalling practice of the Commercial Banks in rejecting the Notes;

Concerned that the continued circulation of worn out, dirty and mutilated Notes calls for concern and also raises the need for close investigation and constant monitoring of the process of destruction of the Notes, as continued printing of new currency Notes without destroying mutilated Notes contributes to the inflationary trend in the economy;

Observes that the practice of rejecting mutilated Notes by Banks is as a result of the refusal of the Central Bank to recycle the old and defaced Notes, and it even imposes ludicrous charges on Commercial Banks, which serve as central collection points for CBN to effectively carry out its functions under Section 18 (d) of the CBN Act;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to stop the imposition of surcharge on Commercial Banks which bring dirty, worn-out and mutilated Notes for destruction and re-issuance of new Notes; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to liaise with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to harness the modalities for handling, returning and destroying damaged and mutilated Notes and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Serghious Oseasochie Ogun — Esan North East/Esan South East Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Section 20 of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Act of 2007 provides that the currency Notes and Coins issued by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) shall be the approved medium of exchange, and as a result, should be accepted for all transactions in Nigeria;

Also noted the widespread circulation of dirty, mutilated and worn out Notes contrary to the requirement that they be replaced by Commercial Banks when they are worn out or defaced as long as the Central Bank's and Treasury's serial number can still be seen on the Notes;

Aware that in the past, such notes were replaced by Commercial Banks, but now, the Banks routinely reject torn, defaced and mutilated Notes which customers bring for deposits;

Also aware that despite the regulatory position of the CBN, it is apparently encouraging the outrageous and appalling practice of the Commercial Banks in rejecting the Notes;

Concerned that the continued circulation of worn out, dirty and mutilated Notes calls for concern and also raises the need for close investigation and constant monitoring of the process of destruction of the Notes, as continued printing of new currency Notes without destroying mutilated Notes contributes to the inflationary trend in the economy;

Observed that the practice of rejecting mutilated Notes by Banks is as a result of the refusal of the Central Bank to recycle the old and defaced Notes, and it even imposes ludicrous charges on Commercial Banks, which serve as central collection points for CBN to effectively carry out its functions under Section 18 (d) of the CBN Act;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to stop the imposition of surcharge on Commercial Banks which bring dirty, worn-out and mutilated Notes for destruction and re-issuance of new Notes; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to liaise with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to harness the modalities for handling, returning and destroying damaged and mutilated Notes and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 89/2017**).

14. Need for the Deployment of Mobile Police Personnel to Quell the Raging Conflict between the Ogobia- Ugboju and Ondo-Ugboju Communities in Otukpo Local Government Area of Benue State

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that intermittent and bloody communal violence which has led to loss of over fifty lives and destruction of properties worth millions of naira, has been lingering for over three years now between Ogobia and Ondo communities of Ugboju in Otukpo Local Government Area of Benue State;

Also notes that a forth night ago, some hoodlums attacked the two Communities, setting several houses ablaze, injuring several persons and killing over ten people, among whom was a retired Army Officer, Major Lawrence Ugbo, who was reportedly locked up in the booth of his car which was set ablaze, leading to his being burnt to ashes;

Aware that the people of Ogobia and Ondo Communities are predominantly farmers, and this needless communal violence has rendered thousands of inhabitants homeless, thereby affecting their farming activities;

Concerned about the palpable tension and apprehension of reprisal attacks as people have continued to flee from both communities to other neighboring communities' thereby posing serious security threat;

Also concerned that the homelessness caused by the burning of houses coupled with the rains has created serious humanitarian crisis in those communities;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to deploy relief materials and other humanitarian assistance to the victims;

- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to, as a matter of urgency, deploy mobile Police men to the communities to maintain law, order and provide security to avert reprisal attacks;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Government to set up a High Powered Panel of Inquiry to investigate the remote and immediate causes of the crisis and to prosecute those behind it; and
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to ensure full compliance and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Ezekiel Awalu Adaji — Ohimini/Otukpo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that intermittent and bloody communal violence which has led to loss of over fifty lives and destruction of properties worth millions of naira, has been lingering for over three years now between Ogobia and Ondo communities of Ugboju in Otukpo Local Government Area of Benue State;

Also noted that a forth night ago, some hoodlums attacked the two Communities, setting several houses ablaze, injuring several persons and killing over ten people; among whom was a retired Army Officer, Major Lawrence Ugbo, who was reportedly locked up in the booth of his car which was set ablaze, leading to his being burnt to ashes;

Aware that the people of Ogobia and Ondo Communities are predominantly farmers, and this needless communal violence has rendered thousands of inhabitants homeless, thereby affecting their farming activities;

Concerned about the palpable tension and apprehension of reprisal attacks as people have continued to flee from both communities to other neighboring communities' thereby posing serious security threat;

Also concerned that the homelessness caused by the burning of houses coupled with the rains has created serious humanitarian crisis in those communities;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to deploy relief materials and other humanitarian assistance to the victims;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to, as a matter of urgency, deploy mobile Police men to the communities to maintain law, order and provide security to avert reprisal attacks;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Government to set up a High Powered Panel of Inquiry to investigate the remote and immediate causes of the crisis and to prosecute those behind it; and
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to ensure full compliance and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 90/2017**).

15. **Call for Review of Nigeria's Continued Membership of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in View of the Clamour to Admit Morocco into the Community**
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was established to, among other things, foster relations and enhance economic stability among member States in the West African region;

Also notes that the Arab Kingdom of Morocco, which is in North Africa and is a member of the Arab Maghreb Union, in June 2017, applied to join the ECOWAS;

Further notes that the Arab Maghreb Union was established to foster relations among Arab nations just as the ECOWAS is for nations in West Africa;

Informed that the ECOWAS Commission is expected to make recommendations on the application, which will be considered at the 52nd Ordinary Session of the meeting of the Organization in December 2017 in Lome, Togo;

Concerned that an ECOWAS institution such as the ECOWAS Parliament has begun to fraternize with Morocco despite the fact that it does not share common boundaries with any ECOWAS member State;

Cognizant that ECOWAS has a large market of over three hundred and forty (340) million consumers, fifty-five percent (55%) of whom are from Nigeria and that this massive market is of great interest to Morocco, which is a key trading partner of the European Union;

Also cognizant that the revised ECOWAS Treaty of 1993 discourages multiple membership by its member States, as this could complicate the move towards both regional and continental integration, thus Morocco does not meet the criteria for admission into the ECOWAS;

Also concerned that since Morocco enjoys a non-tariff economic partnership with the European Union, if it is admitted into the ECOWAS, it will enjoy Free Trade Area status and therefore, European goods will inevitably flood the ECOWAS market through Morocco, thus adversely affecting the production and manufacturing sector of Nigeria and its economy as a whole;

Further concerned that ECOWAS appears determined to go ahead with the admission of Morocco into the Community as a member state to the detriment of Nigeria's economic and political interests;

Aware that Article 91 of the Revised Treaty entitles a member State to withdraw from the Community upon giving to the Executive Secretary one year's notice in writing;

Also aware that for Nigeria to review its relationship and status in ECOWAS, the House of Representatives ought to be well informed for a proper and beneficial decision to be taken in the interest of the country;

Determined to ensure that Nigeria and the West African sub region does not fall prey to a plan that could enslave the citizens and jeopardize the economy of the subregion;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Foreign Affairs to undertake an appraisal of the matter and make recommendations on ways to ensure that Nigeria is protected from any adverse effects that could result from the admission of Morocco into the ECOWAS and report back within two (2) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Bosun George Oladele — Irepo/Orelope/Olorunsogo Federal Constituency and 5 others*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In the Prayer, line 1, immediately after the words "Foreign Affairs", insert the words "Cooperation and Integration in Africa" (*Hon Muhammed Sani Abdu — Alkaleri/Kurfi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was established to, among other things, foster relations and enhance economic stability among member States in the West African region;

Also noted that the Arab Kingdom of Morocco, which is in North Africa and is a member of the Arab Maghreb Union, in June 2017, applied to join the ECOWAS;

Further noted that the Arab Maghreb Union was established to foster relations among Arab nations just as the ECOWAS is for nations in West Africa;

Informed that the ECOWAS Commission is expected to make recommendations on the application, which will be considered at the 52nd Ordinary Session of the meeting of the Organization in December 2017 in Lome, Togo;

Concerned that an ECOWAS institution such as the ECOWAS Parliament has begun to fraternize with Morocco despite the fact that it does not share common boundaries with any ECOWAS member State;

Cognizant that ECOWAS has a large market of over three hundred and forty (340) million consumers, fifty-five percent (55%) of whom are from Nigeria and that this massive market is of great interest to Morocco, which is a key trading partner of the European Union;

Also cognizant that the revised ECOWAS Treaty of 1993 discourages multiple membership by its member States, as this could complicate the move towards both regional and continental integration, thus Morocco does not meet the criteria for admission into the ECOWAS;

Also concerned that since Morocco enjoys a non-tariff economic partnership with the European Union, if it is admitted into the ECOWAS, it will enjoy Free Trade Area status and therefore, European goods will inevitably flood the ECOWAS market through Morocco, thus adversely affecting the production and manufacturing sector of Nigeria and its economy as a whole;

Further concerned that ECOWAS appears determined to go ahead with the admission of Morocco into the Community as a member state to the detriment of Nigeria's economic and political interests;

Aware that Article 91 of the Revised Treaty entitles a member State to withdraw from the Community upon giving to the Executive Secretary one year's notice in writing;

Also aware that for Nigeria to review its relationship and status in ECOWAS, the House of Representatives ought to be well informed for a proper and beneficial decision to be taken in the interest of the country;

Determined to ensure that Nigeria and the West African sub region does not fall prey to a plan that could enslave the citizens and jeopardize the economy of the subregion;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Cooperation and Integration in Africa, to undertake an appraisal of the matter and make recommendations on ways to ensure that Nigeria is protected from any adverse effects that could result from the admission of Morocco into the ECOWAS and report back within two (2) weeks for further legislative action (HR. 91/2017).

16. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Recovery of Public Property (Special Provisions) Act, Cap. R4, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Related Matters (HB. 221) — Third Reading.** *Motion made and Question proposed,* “That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Recovery of Public Property (Special Provisions) Act, Cap. R4, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Related Matters (HB. 221) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

Question agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

17. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Institute for Legislative Studies Act, 2011 to, among Other Things, Change the Name of the Institute from National Institute for Legislative Studies to National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies in order to Empower the Institute to Provide Training and Research Services in Legislative and Democratic Studies and for Related Matters (HB. 827) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Institute for Legislative Studies Act, 2011 to, among Other Things, Change the Name of the Institute from National Institute for Legislative Studies to National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies in order to Empower the Institute to Provide Training and Research Services in Legislative and Democratic Studies and for Related Matters (HB. 827) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

Question agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

18. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Forest Research Institute of Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 41) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Forest Research Institute of Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 41) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

Question agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

19. **A Bill For an Act to Authorize the issue from the Statutory Revenue Fund of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), the Total Sum of ₦152,897,252,696.00 (One Hundred and Fifty-Two Billion, Eight Hundred and Ninety-Seven Million, Two Hundred and Fifty-Two Thousand, Six Hundred and Ninety-Six Naira) only, of which the Sum of ₦75,812,293,039.00 (Seventy-Five Billion, Eight Hundred and Twelve Million, Two Hundred and Ninety - Three Thousand And Thirty -Nine Naira) only, is for Personnel Costs, the Sum of ₦46,487,530,533.00 (Forty-Six Billion, Four Hundred and Eighty-Seven Million, Five Hundred and Thirty Thousand, Five Hundred and Thirty-Three Naira) only, is for Overhead Expenditure, and ₦30,597,429.124.00 (Thirty Billion, Five Hundred and Ninety -Seven Million, Four Hundred and Twenty-Nine Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty-Four Naira) only, is for Capital Expenditure for the Service of the Federal Inland Revenue Service for the Fiscal year Ending 31 December, 2017 — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill For an Act to Authorize the issue from the Statutory Revenue Fund of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), the Total Sum of ₦152,897,252,696.00 (One Hundred and Fifty-Two Billion, Eight Hundred and Ninety-Seven Million, Two Hundred and Fifty-Two Thousand, Six Hundred and Ninety-Six Naira) only, of which the Sum of ₦75,812,293,039.00 (Seventy-Five Billion, Eight Hundred and Twelve Million, Two Hundred and Ninety - Three Thousand And Thirty - Nine Naira) only, is for Personnel Costs, the Sum of ₦46,487,530,533.00 (Forty-Six Billion, Four Hundred and Eighty-Seven Million, Five Hundred and Thirty Thousand, Five Hundred and Thirty-Three Naira) only, is for Overhead Expenditure, and ₦30,597,429.124.00 (Thirty Billion, Five Hundred and Ninety -Seven Million, Four Hundred and Twenty-Nine Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty-Four Naira) only, is for Capital Expenditure for the Service of the Federal Inland Revenue Service for the Fiscal year Ending 31 December, 2017 be now read the Third Time" (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

Question agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

20. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Asset Management Corporation Act to, among other things, Empower the Corporation to obtain Access to any Computer System Component, Electronic or Mechanical Device of any Debtor with a view to Establishing the location of Funds belonging to the Debtor and to obtain Information on the Debtor's Private Account and for Related Matters (HB.1083) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

21. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Marriage Act, Cap. M6, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to reduce the Age for the Issuance of Certificate, Extend the Power to remove a Caveat to Other Courts and Empower the Principal Registrar to Review the Marriage Fees and for Related Matters (HB. 279) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

22. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of FCT Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and to formulate Policies and Guidelines Relating to the Management of Disasters in the FCT and for Related Matters (HB.1087) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of FCT Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and to formulate Policies and Guidelines Relating to the Management of Disasters in the FCT and for Related Matters (HB.1087) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Sergius Ogun Oseasochie — Esan Northeast/Esan Southeast Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

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

23. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal University, Asaba and to make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration, to ensure Equity and Access to Tertiary Education in the country and for Related Matters (HB.1078) — *Second Reading***

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal University, Asaba and to make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration, to ensure Equity and Access to Tertiary Education in the country and for Related Matters (HB.1078) be now read a Second Time” (*Hon. Joan Onyemaechi Mrakpor — Aniocha North/Aniocha South/Oshimili North/Oshimili South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services.

24. **A Bill for an Act to Establish a Nigerian Security Systems Surveillance Regulatory Commission with Powers to Regulate the Installation, Operation and Management of Surveillance Camera Systems in Public Places and for Related Matters (HB. 1080) — *Second Reading***

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

25. **A Bill For an Act to Amend the National Agency for Population Programmes and Development Act, Cap. N2, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Related Matters (HB. 276) — *Second Reading***

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill For an Act to Amend the National Agency for Population Programmes and Development Act, Cap. N2, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Related Matters (HB. 276) be now read a Second Time” (*Hon. Abdulrazak Saad Namdas — Mayo Belwa/Ganye/Jada/Toungo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Population.

26. **A Bill for an Act to Further Amend Section 143 (2) of the Electoral Act, 2010 by inserting a new Sub-section (3) to Address Issues Relating to Remuneration, Salaries, Allowances and Emoluments of Honourable Members of the National Assembly and for Related Matters (HB. 1086) — *Second Reading***

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Further Amend Section 143 (2) of the Electoral Act, 2010 by inserting a new Sub-section (3) to Address Issues Relating to Remuneration, Salaries, Allowances and Emoluments of Honourable Members of the National Assembly and for Related Matters (HB. 1086) be now read a Second Time” (*Hon. Albert Abiodun Adeogun — Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South Federal Constituency and 1 Other*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Electoral and Political Party Matters.

27. Consideration of Reports

That items 19 to 21 on the *Order Paper* be deferred to the next legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (2) (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

28. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 10 October, 2017 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 3.15 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker