



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 27 September, 2017

1. The House met at 11.37 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, 26 September, 2017.  
*The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.*
3. **Announcement**  
**Bereavements:**  
Mr Speaker read the following communications from:
  - (i) Hon. Olawale Raji Tasir (*Epe Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of Hon. Stephen Adedapo Banjo, a former member of the House of Representatives (*Epe Federal Constituency* 1999 - 2003), who died on Sunday, 30 July, 2017.
  - (ii) Hon. Essien Ayi Ekpenyong (*Calabar South/Akpabuyo/Bakassi Federal Constituency*), informing the House of the demise of Hon. Bassey Okon, a former Member of the House of Representatives (1964 - 1966), who passed away at the age of 91.*The House observed a minute silence in honour of the deceased.*
4. **Petition**  
A petition from Prof. Godwin Sadoh, on behalf of Leads Scholars on the withholding of their salaries by the National Universities Commission, was presented and laid by Hon. Rita Orji (*Ajeromi/Ifelodun Federal Constituency*).  
*Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.*
5. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**
  - (i) ***Frightening Influx of Small Arms and Light Weapons into the Country:***  
Hon. Obinna Chidoka (*Idemili North/Idemili South 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.*

**Frightening Influx of Small Arms and Light Weapons into the Country:**

The House:

*Concerned* that the Nigerian Customs Service had on four different occasions, this year, intercepted firearms smuggled into the country, totaling 2,671 pieces, with the first firearms seizure in January, the second in May and the third and fourth in September 2017;

*Gravely concerned* that the January 2017 firearms shipment was intercepted by the Nigerian Customs after it was purportedly checked and certified free to go with its deadly cargo, and had indeed left the premises of the Port when it was tracked down, after a tip-off;

*Worried* that the recent firearms seizure, which is the second this month and fourth in 2017, would appear to suggest that the syndicate behind the influx of firearms into the country had stepped up their nefarious trade, with far reaching consequences for our dear nation, as firearms and light weapons are the lifeblood of organised crimes and criminality;

*Also worried* that the recent influx of firearms into the country has confirmed the recent report of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, which identified Nigeria as a destination of choice for smugglers of small arms and light weapons;

*Gravely worried* that the Nigerian Customs Service might not be adequately equipped and/or motivated to handle the influx of small arms and light weapons into the Country, due to absence of functional scanners at the port to enable the agency to effectively scrutinise containers in line with global best practices;

*Determined* to address the menace of influx of firearms into the country to curb crime, criminality and save lives;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) commend the Nigerian Customs Service for the seizure of four shipment of firearms into the country;
- (ii) urge the Nigerian Customs Service and Directorate of State Security and the office of the Attorney General of the Federation to speed up investigations on the firearms seizures and commence prosecution of the culprits to serve as deterrents to others;
- (iii) call on the Nigerian Customs Service and other Regulatory Agencies to intensify ports checks to control the influx of small arms and light weapons into the country; and
- (iv) invite the Nigerian Customs Service and the Director of State Security to brief the House on the comprehensive plan to rid Nigeria of the menace of small arms and light weapons (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

## Debate

— Agreed to.

The House:

*Concerned* that the Nigerian Customs Service had on four different occasions, this year, intercepted firearms smuggled into the country, totaling 2,671 pieces, with the first firearms seizure in January, the second in May and the third and fourth in September 2017;

*Gravely concerned* that the January 2017 firearms shipment was intercepted by the Nigerian Customs after it was purportedly checked and certified free to go with its deadly cargo, and had indeed left the premises of the Port when it was tracked down, after a tip-off;

*Worried* that the recent firearms seizure, which is the second this month and fourth in 2017, would appear to suggest that the syndicate behind the influx of firearms into the country had stepped up their nefarious trade, with far-reaching consequences for our dear nation, as firearms and light weapons are the lifeblood of organised crimes and criminality;

*Also worried* that the recent influx of firearms into the country has confirmed the recent report of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, which identified Nigeria as a destination of choice for smugglers of small arms and light weapons;

*Gravely worried* that the Nigerian Customs Service might not be adequately equipped and/or motivated to handle the influx of small arms and light weapons into the Country, due to absence of functional scanners at the port to enable the agency to effectively scrutinise containers in line with global best practices;

*Determined* to address the menace of influx of firearms into the country to curb crime, criminality and save lives;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) commend the Nigerian Customs Service for the seizure of four shipment of firearms into the country;
  - (ii) urge the Nigerian Customs Service and Directorate of State Security and the office of the Attorney General of the Federation to speed up investigations on the firearms seizures and commence prosecution of the culprits to serve as deterrents to others;
  - (iii) call on the Nigerian Customs Service and other Regulatory Agencies to intensify ports checks to control the influx of small arms and light weapons into the country; and
  - (iv) invite the Nigerian Customs Service and the Director of State Security to brief the House on the comprehensive plan to rid Nigeria of the menace of small arms and light weapons (HR. 73/2017).
- (ii) ***Need to Address the Resurgent Traffic Gridlock in Apapa, Lagos State:***  
Hon. Ayodeji Adebayo (Apapa 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.*

**Need to Address the Resurgent Traffic Gridlock in Apapa, Lagos State:**

The House:

*Notes* that the perennial traffic gridlock in Apapa has subsisted despite efforts of government to find a permanent solution to it;

*Also notes* those economic and vehicular activities in the corridor which is a major gateway to the nation's foremost seaport has been adversely affected by the menace;

*Aware* that in the first two weeks of September alone, over 2,000 trailers, trucks and oil tankers had massively flooded Ikorodu Road all through to Apapa in bid to get into the Port and tank farms to convey commodities to their various destinations;

*Also aware* that in response to the recent blockage of all access roads to Apapa and the intractable traffic gridlock that resulted from it, the Lagos State Government ordered all trailers, trucks and oil tankers to stay off all the roads within the State;

*Further aware* that the Lagos State Government has mobilized resources to ensure articulated vehicles stay away from Lagos until the traffic logjam is resolved while the representative of Apapa Constituency 1 in the State Assembly, Mrs Mojisola Miranda has also raised concerns about the problem;

*Concerned* that breakdown of operations at the Apapa port is touted as the cause of the gridlock which extended from Apapa to Ojuelegba with its attendant dislocation of economic activities;

*Worried* that if something urgent is not done, port activities will be in jeopardy and revenue to the nation's coffers will dwindle astronomically;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to immediately commence the process of relocating tank farms domiciled in the Apapa axis;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream) to liaise with NNPC so as to ensure only tankers with Authority To Load (ATL) be allowed to go into Apapa;
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Ports, Harbours and Waterways to investigate the cause of the dislocation in port operations that had led to the renewed gridlock and report back within three (3) weeks; and
- (iv) also urge the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing and the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) to put pressure on the contractor handling the truck park at Tin Can Island that has been abandoned over the years ensuring site completion (*Hon. Joseph Ayodeji Adebayo — Apapa Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the perennial traffic gridlock in Apapa has subsisted despite efforts of government to find a permanent solution to it;

*Also noted* those economic and vehicular activities in the corridor which is a major gateway to the nation's foremost seaport has been adversely affected by the menace;

*Aware* that in the first two weeks of September alone, over 2,000 trailers, trucks and oil tankers had massively flooded Ikorodu Road all through to Apapa in bid to get into the Port and tank farms to convey commodities to their various destinations;

*Also aware* that in response to the recent blockage of all access roads to Apapa and the intractable traffic gridlock that resulted from it, the Lagos State Government ordered all trailers, trucks and oil tankers to stay off all the roads within the State;

*Further aware* that the Lagos State Government has mobilized resources to ensure articulated vehicles stay away from Lagos until the traffic logjam is resolved while the representative of Apapa Constituency 1 in the State Assembly, Mrs Mojisola Miranda has also raised concerns about the problem;

*Concerned* that breakdown of operations at the Apapa port is touted as the cause of the gridlock which extended from Apapa to Ojuelegba with its attendant dislocation of economic activities;

*Worried* that if something urgent is not done, port activities will be in jeopardy and revenue to the nation's coffers will dwindle astronomically;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to immediately commence the process of relocating tank farms domiciled in the Apapa axis;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream) to liaise with NNPC so as to ensure only tankers with Authority To Load (ATL) be allowed to go into Apapa;
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Ports, Harbours and Waterways to investigate the cause of the dislocation in port operations that had led to the renewed gridlock and report back within three (3) weeks; and
- (iv) also urge the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing and the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) to put pressure on the contractor handling the truck park at Tin Can Island that has been abandoned over the years ensuring site completion (HR. 74/2017).

## 6. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB.1117).
- (2) Nigerian Steel Development Authority Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB.1118).
- (3) Nigerian Bank for Commerce and Industry Act (Repeal) Bill, 2017 (HB.1119).
- (4) Nigerian Council for Management Development Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB.1120).

- (5) Nigerian Customs Service Board Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB.1121).
- (6) Nigerian Dock Labour Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB.1122).
- (7) Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB.1123).
- (8) Nigerian Export Promotion Council Bill, 2017 (HB.1124).
- (9) Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB.1125).
- (10) Nigerian Institute of Animal Science Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB.1126).
- (11) Nigerian Institute of International Affairs Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB.1127).
- (12) Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB.1128).
- (13) Nigerian Institute of Transport Technology Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB.1129).
- (14) Nigerian Law Reform Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB.1130).
- (15) Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB.1131).
- (16) Nigerian Mining Corporation Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB.1132).
- (17) Nigerian National Heroes Register Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB.1133).
- (18) Nigerian Press Council Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB.1134).
- (19) Nigerian Red Cross Society Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB.1135).
- (20) Nigerian Re-Insurance Corporation Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB.1136).
- (21) Nigerian Television Authority Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB.1137).
- (22) Notaries Public Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB.1138).

7. **Presentation of Reports**

- (i) ***Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Need to Investigate the Huge Debts Owed to the Pipelines and Products Marketing Company (PPMC) by Major and Independent Oil Marketers/Sabotage by some Oil Marketers:***  
*Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Need to Investigate the Huge Debts Owed to PPMC by Major and Independent Oil Marketers/Sabotage by some Oil Marketers" (Hon. Abdullahi Mahmud Gaya — Albasu/Gaya/Ajingi Federal Constituency).*

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

- (ii) ***Committee on Finance:***  
*Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Finance on the 2017 Budget of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) (Pursuant to Order Eighteen, Rule 41 (2) (h) of the Standing Orders of the House)" (Hon. Babangida Ibrahim — Kafur/Malumfashi Federal Constituency).*

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

**(iii) Committee on Public Petitions:**

***Report on the Petition by Dr. David Olusegun Agbaja:***

*Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Dr David Olusegun Agbaja against the Nigeria Customs Service on his premature retirement from the Service" (Hon. Uzoma Nkem Abonta — Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency).*

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

**8. A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Health Bill, 2014 to include Free and Compulsory Periodic Medical Tests for Prevalent and Chronic Ailments or Conditions on all Persons Living in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 841) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Health Bill, 2014 to include Free and Compulsory Periodic Medical Tests for Prevalent and Chronic Ailments or Conditions on all Persons Living in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 841) be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Dickson Tarkighir Dominic — Makurdi/Guma Federal Constituency).*

*Debate.*

*Negatived.*

**9. A Bill for an Act to Provide for Parental and Child Control and for Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 73) — Second Reading**

*Order read; deferred by leave of the House.*

**10. A Bill for an Act to Harmonise the Functions of the National Orientation Agency and the National Institute for Cultural Orientation to, Among Other Things, Empower the National Institute for Cultural Orientation to Enlighten the General Public on Federal Government Policies and Programmes and Serve as a focus for Orientation in Cultural Matters for Nigerian Policy Makers and for Related Matters (HB. 231) — Second Reading**

*Order read; deferred by leave of the House.*

**11. Need to Curb Incessant Violation of Traffic Laws by Military Personnel**

*Motion made and Question proposed;*

The House:

*Notes the axiom that no one is above the law;*

*Further notes that the law is no respecter of any person, and therefore every person is bound by the dictates of the laws of the land;*

*Observes the flagrant disregard of traffic laws by military personnel who display acts of intimidation on the roads with blaring sirens, bullying and using horsewhips on other road users and in the process, causing gridlock and commotion on the road;*

*Aware that the military personnel involved in these infractions of traffic laws are usually not sanctioned and even molest traffic enforcement officers who dare to stop them;*

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Chief of Defence Staff and the Service Chiefs to impress it on their personnel the need to obey traffic laws in order to maintain safety on our roads; and
- (ii) Mandate the Committee on Defence to ensure implementation (*Hon. Enitan Dolapo Bada, Lagos Island / Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* the axiom that no one is above the law;

*Further noted* that the law is no respecter of any person, and therefore every person is bound by the dictates of the laws of the land;

*Observed* the flagrant disregard of traffic laws by military personnel who display acts of intimidation on the roads with blaring sirens, bullying and using horsewhips on other road users and in the process, causing gridlock and commotion on the road;

*Aware* that the military personnel involved in these infractions of traffic laws are usually not sanctioned and even molest traffic enforcement officers who dare to stop them;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Chief of Defence Staff and the Service Chiefs to impress it on their personnel the need to obey traffic laws in order to maintain safety on our roads; and
- (ii) Mandate the Committee on Defence to ensure implementation (HR. 75/2017).

## 12. Consideration of Reports

- (i) *A Bill for an Act to Establish the Forest Research Institute of Nigeria and for Related Matters (Committee of the Whole):*  
*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Forest Research Institute of Nigeria; and for Related Matters and approve the recommendations therein" (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report — Agreed to.*

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE FORESTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF  
NIGERIA AND FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS

PART 1 — ESTABLISHMENT, ETC. OF THE FORESTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF NIGERIA

- Clause 1: Establishment, etc. of the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria.**
- (1) There is established a body to be known as the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria in this Bill referred to as "the Institute".
  - (2) The Institute shall have perpetual succession and a common seal which shall be kept in such custody as the Institute may from time to time authorise.
  - (3)
    - (a) The Institute may sue and be sued in its corporate name.
    - (b) The Institute may hold, acquire and dispose of any property, moveable or immovable in carrying out its functions.

**Headquarters of the Institute.**

- (4) The Headquarters of the Institute shall be in Ibadan with Research Outstations and Colleges in all geopolitical zones of the Federation (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 1 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 2: Functions of the Institute.**

- (1) The broad functions of the Institute shall be:
  - (a) research, experimentation, sample application and patenting;
  - (b) education and training with/and by the Colleges; and
  - (c) innovation and technology dissemination through farming systems and extension services.

**Specific Functions.**

- (2)
  - (a) The improvement of the genetic resources of forest trees and the ecosystem for economic development.
  - (b) The improvement of silvicultural practices relating to forest trees of economic importance.
  - (c) The mechanisation and improvement of the methods of cultivating, harvesting, processing, domestication and biotechnological mass production of plant stocks of forest trees of economic importance.
  - (d) Research into the utilisation strategies of forest products, improvement of same, inclusive of forest and processed mill-wood wastes.
  - (e) Studying the ecology of pests and diseases of forest trees and their control.
  - (f) Research into the development of agro-forestry systems for the integration of forest trees of economic importance into farming systems in different ecological zones and its socio-economic effects on the rural populations.
  - (g) Forestry education and training; through its National and Higher National Diploma awarding Tertiary Institutions namely:
    - (i) Federal College of Forestry, Ibadan,

- (ii) Federal College of Forestry, Jos,
- (iii) Federal College of Wildlife Management, New Bussa, Niger,
- (iv) Federal College of Forestry Mechanization, Afaka, Kaduna.
- (h) Forestry extension and dissemination.
- (i) To conduct research into the biodiversity of Nigerian forests in relation to its flora and fauna.
- (j) To conduct research into the different suitable bio diversity and appropriate methods of control of ecological and environmental problems of the country with respect to desertification, soil erosion and deforestation; inclusive of the conservation, protection and management of the coastal mangrove, watershed and sand-dunes.
- (k) To conduct research into the appropriate application of remote sensing and geographical information systems (GIS) for climate change monitoring and adaptation as well as dendrology studies.
- (l) Making suitable arrangements for the application of the results of the research work as per subparagraph (i) above by the Federal and State ministries, agencies and the private sector for the economic development of Nigeria.
- (m) Co-operating with relevant Nigerian and International Universities, Research Institutes and other institutions in the mobilisation of the country's research potential on Forestry for the task of national development and dissemination of research findings on the issues relating to Forestry for the use of policy makers at all levels.
- (n) Doing anything and entering into all professional transaction that will enhance proper discharge of its functions (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 2 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 3: Power of the Institute.**

- (1) The Institute may with the approval of its supervising Ministry/Board enter into association/agreement with the competent authorities of any university or other institution of higher learning or recognized international institutions for the purpose of promoting or furthering mutual co-operation in the field of scientific research in respect of which the Board has responsibility under this Bill.
- (2) The Institute may, at the written request of any government agency, local government authority or private organization; train laboratory, Field Ecology extension and other categories or descriptions of workers relative to their specified fields of research.
- (3) Without prejudice to its research functions, the Institute may produce improved seedlings and other planting materials as part of its research and experimental programmes for use of farmers in different ecological zones of the Federation.

- (4) The Institute shall, when so requested by the Federal Government, government agencies or any of the State or Local Government authorities or any authorized body, provide information or give advice relating to their specified fields of research (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 3 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 4: Governing Board of the Institute**

- (1) There shall be for the Institute, a governing body (herein referred to as the Board) which shall be charged with the administration of government policies.

**Membership of the Board.**

- (2) The Board shall be appointed by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the recommendation of the Minister and shall be evenly distributed among the 6 geo-political zones of the Federation
- (3) The Board shall comprise of 6 members namely:
- (a) a chairman, knowledgeable in forestry and or related discipline;
  - (b) a representative of the Ecological Funds office;
  - (c) a representative of the Supervising Ministry charged with the supervision of forestry matters;
  - (d) 2 other members nominated by the President; and
  - (e) the Director-General of the Institute;
  - (f) the Director General of the Institute shall be the Secretary to the Board;
  - (g) with the exception of the Director-General, membership of the Board shall be on part-time basis.
  - (h) any member of the Board may resign his appointment by a letter addressed to the President through the Minister, and if accepted, the resignation shall take effect from the date the President receives the letter of resignation.

**Tenure of Office.**

- (4) Members of the Board shall unless otherwise provided hold office for a term of four years and may be eligible for for another term of four years and no more (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 4 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 5: Power of the Governing Board.**

- (1) The Governing Board shall have the powers to —
- (a) perform all functions conferred on the Institute by this Bill;
  - (b) formulate policies for the Institute;

- (c) make rules to govern the procedures of its meetings;
  - (d) make recommendation to the Minister on the establishment of specialised Colleges in other parts of the Country as the need arises.
- (2) The provision of the schedule to this Bill shall apply with respect to the proceedings of the Board (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 5 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 6: Director General of the Institute.**

- (1) There shall be a Director-General of the Institute who shall be appointed by the president on the recommendation of the Minister.
- (2) The Director-General shall be —
  - (a) a Research Professor/Director with vast experience in Forestry and or related disciplines;
  - (b) charged with the day to day management of the affairs of the Institute in accordance with such instructions as may from time to time be given to him by the Minister through the Governing Board of the Institute;
  - (c) the Accounting Officer of the Institute;

**Tenure of office of the Director-General.**

- (3) The Director-General of the Institute shall hold office for a term of four years and may be eligible for re-appointment for another four years and no more.

**Staff of the Institute.**

- (4) The Board may appoint such other persons as employees of the Institute either by way of transfer or secondment from any of the public services or any University in the Federation or otherwise, howsoever as it considers necessary.
- (5) The Institute shall operate Research Professorial Cadre system for Researchers/Lecturers and Directorate equivalent system for support services staff such as: The Institute's Secretary for Administration Cadre System, The Institute's Librarians for Library Cadre system, The Institute's Accountant for the Account and Finance Cadre System, The Institute's Auditor for the Audit Cadre System and The Head of Procurement for the Procurement Cadre System.

**Remuneration.**

- (6) The remuneration, conditions of service, and tenure of office of the employees of the Institute shall be determined by the National Income, Salaries and Wages Commission and the Federal Civil Service Commission (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

**Amendment Proposed:**

In subclause (3), immediately after the words “term of”, *leave out* all the other words, and *insert* the following words “five years and no room for renewal” (*Hon. Olabode Ayorinde — Owo/Ose Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.*

*Question that Clause 6 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 7: Provost**

- (1) There shall be a Provost for each of the Colleges of the Institute who shall be appointed by the Minister on the recommendation of the Governing Board.
- (2) The Provost shall be:
  - (a) a Ph.D. holder and must possess a minimum experience as a Senior Lecturer in the field of forestry related disciplines;
  - (b) charged with the day to day management of the Colleges in accordance with such instructions as may from time to time be given to him by the Governing Board and/or the Director General of the institute:
    - (i) design research programmes, the formulation and implementation of research proposals relevant to the Institute;
    - (ii) coordination of Training programmes/research and provisions of intellectual leadership;
    - (iii) collation and interpretation of research data and the preparation of scientific reports;
    - (iv) preparation of annual and quarterly reports in respect of his college;
    - (v) responsibility for college development programmes and planning;
- (3) Provost shall hold office for a non-renewable period of 5 years.
- (4) The governing board shall also recommend the removal of the Provost to the Minister if found incompetent or incapacitated (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 7 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**PART 2 — PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE**

**Clause 8: Professional discipline.**

Every staff shall be well acquainted with the disciplinary procedure entrenched in the Public Service Rules, and any other regulations as may be made by the Board from time to time (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 8 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 9: Penalties for unprofessional Conduct.**

Where —

- (a) a Staff is judged to be guilty of infamous conduct in any professional respect;  
or

- (b) a Staff is found to have contravened provisions of extant Public Service Rules; or
- (c) a Staff that contravene directives issued in government circulars from the supervising Ministry, Federal Civil Service Commission, Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Office of the Head of Service and other Federal Government offices with authority to issue circulars and directives, shall be subjected to disciplinary measures in consonance with the regulations contained therein (*Hqn. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 9 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

#### PART 3 — MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

**Clause 10: Provision of library.**  
The Institute shall —

- (a) provide and maintain a library comprising of books and publications for the advancement of knowledge of Forestry, and such other books and publications as the Board may think necessary for the purpose;

**Research.**

- (b) encourage research into Forestry and allied subjects to the extent that the Board may, from time to time, consider necessary (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 10 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 11: Rules and Regulations.**

- (1) The Minister shall have powers to make rules and regulations under this Bill.
- (2) Regulations made under this Bill shall be published in the Federal Gazette as soon as they are made.
- (3) Rules made for the purposes of this Bill (other than Rules made by the Minister) shall be subject to confirmation by the Institute at its next Annual Farming Systems meeting or at any special meeting of the Institute convened for the purpose, and if not confirmed shall cease to have effect on the day after the date of the confirmation but without prejudice to anything done in pursuance or intended pursuance of any such rules (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 11 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 12: Offences.**

- (1) If any Staff for the purpose of procuring the registration of any name, qualification or other matter:
  - (a) makes a statement which he believes to be false in a particular matter; or
  - (b) recklessly makes a statement which is false in a particular matter, shall be guilty of an offence.

- (2) If a member or any other person employed by or on behalf of the Institute wilfully makes any falsification on any matter, he/she shall be guilty of an offence.
- (3) Any Staff found guilty of an offence under this section shall, after being found guilty by properly constituted Disciplinary Committee, be subjected to relevant punishment stipulated under the Public Service Rule (Discipline) (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 12 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 13: Financial Provision.**

- (1) The Institute shall establish and maintain a Fund into which shall be paid the following:
  - (a) annual subvention from the Federal Government;
  - (b) monetary gifts, research grants/aids and contribution from national and international organizations;
  - (c) internally generated revenue from research breakthroughs, products and services provided by the Institute:
    - (i) the internally generated revenue shall be shared at the ratio of 75%-25% for the Institute and the Federal Government respectively.
    - (ii) the 75% share for the Institute shall be expended on areas that would promote the Institute's mandate
  - (d) loans and other solicited funds received by the Institute; and
  - (e) all other sums accruing to the Institute from time to time.

**Annual Budget.**

- (2) The Institute shall prepare a detailed annual budget of its programmes and activities for the approval of the Governing Board and the Minister.

**Expenditure of the Institute.**

- (3) The Institute shall, from time to time apply the funds at its disposal:
  - (a) to meet the cost of administration of the Institute and its Colleges;
  - (b) for the payment of fees, allowances and benefits of members of the Board;
  - (c) to the payment of functions of the Institute under this Bill or any matter connected to its function;
  - (d) meet any capital expenditure of the Institute;
  - (e) salaries, allowances and benefits of officers and other employees of the Institute;

- (f) to such reasonable travelling and subsistence allowances of the Board, Director-General and other members of staff in respect of time spent on the duties of the Institute as may be determined by the Board and other guidelines of the Institute;
- (g) to maintain any property acquired by or vested in the Institute; and
- (h) implement all or any of the expenditure of the Institute (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 13 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 14: Bank and Account.**

- (1) The Institute shall maintain Bank Account(s) in its name in banks approved by the Board.
- (2) Any funds of the Institute in excess of an imprest to be determined by the Board shall be lodged into the Institute's account (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 14 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 15: Power to Accept Gift.**

- (1) The Institute may accept gifts of land, money or other testamentary dispositions, endowments and contributions, on such terms and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the donor;
- (2) The Institute shall not accept any gift if the conditions attached by the donor are inconsistent with the objectives and functions of the Institute under this Bill (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 15 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 16: Power to Borrow.**

- (1) The Institute may, with the consent of the Minister and on the recommendation of the Board borrow by way of loan, a specified amount as it may require for meeting its obligations and discharging its functions under this Bill.
- (2) No consent or authority shall be required under subsection (1) of this section, if the sum or the aggregate of the sums involved at any time does not exceed such amount as may for the time being specified in relation to the Institute by the Federal Government (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 16 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 17: Annual Estimate, Accounts and Audit.**

- (1) The Institute shall prepare not later than 30th September, an estimate of the expenditure and income of the Institute during the next succeeding year and when prepared, they shall be submitted to the Minister for approval prior to final submission at the National Assembly.

- (2) The Institute shall keep proper books of records and accounts which shall be audited by auditors approved by the Board from the list of auditors in accordance with the guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General for the Federation (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 17 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 18: Annual Report.**

The Institute shall, not later than 6 months after the end of each year, submit to the National Assembly through the Minister, a report on the activities and the administration of the Institute and its Colleges during the immediately preceding year and shall include in the report, the audited accounts of the Institute and its Colleges and the report of the Auditor on the accounts (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 18 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 19: Indemnity of Members.**

No suit, prosecution or legal proceedings shall lie against any officer, member or employee of the Institute for anything which is done in good faith or is intended to be done under this Bill or rules or regulations made thereunder (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 19 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 20: Legal Proceedings and services of summon.**

- (1) A suit shall not be commenced against the Institute before the expiration of a period of one month, after written notice of intention to commence the suit shall have been served on the Institute by the intending plaintiff/claimant or his counsel and the notice shall clearly state the:

- (a) cause of action;
- (b) particulars of the claim;
- (c) name and place of abode of the intending plaintiff/claimant; and
- (d) reliefs which he claims.

- (2) The notice referred to in subsection (1) of this section and any summons, notice or other document required or authorized to be served on the Institute under the provisions of this Bill or any other enactment or law may be served by —

- (a) delivering the same to the office of the Director-General; or
- (b) sending it by registered post addressed to the Director-General at the Headquarter of the Institute (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 20 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 21: Repeal Saving and Transitional Provision.**

- (1) Sections 1 (1) (b) and 3 of the Research Institutes (Establishment, etc.) Order 1975 of Agricultural Research Institute Act, 1973 is repealed.

- (2) Any Statutory functions, right, liability, interest and obligation existing in the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria before the commencement of this Bill shall by virtue of this Bill be deemed to have been assigned and vested in the Institute after the commencement of this Bill.
- (3) All assets, funds, resources and other property which before the commencement of this Bill were vested in the Institute shall by virtue of this Bill be deemed to have been assigned and vested in the Institute after the commencement of this Bill (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 21 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 22: Seal of the Institute.**

The seal of the Institute shall not be affixed on any instrument except with the authority of the Director General (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 22 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 23: Interpretation.**

In this Bill —

"Board" or "Board under this Bill" means the Board established as the governing body of the Institute under the section 3 of this Bill (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Board" or "Board under this Bill" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Director General" means the Director General appointed pursuant to section 5 of this Bill (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Director General" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Institute" means the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria established under this Bill (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the word "Institute" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Colleges" means the Federal Colleges of the Institute under this Bill (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the word "Colleges" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Member" means Member of the Institute (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the word "Member" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Minister" means the Minister charged with the responsibility of handling forestry matters (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the word "Minister" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Supervising Ministry" means the Ministry charged with the responsibility of handling Forestry matters (Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Supervising Ministry" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

*Question that Clause 23 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 24: Short Title.**

This Bill may be cited as the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2017 (Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency).

*Question that Clause 24 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

## SCHEDULE

### Section 4 (2)

#### SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE BOARD AND THE INSTITUTE

##### *Qualifications and Tenure of Office of members*

1. (1) Subject to the provisions of this paragraph, a member of the Board shall hold office from the effective date of the instrument of his/her appointment, or of his/her appointment, as the case may be.
- (2) Any member of the Institute who ceases to be a member thereof shall if he is also a member of the Board, cease to hold office on the Board.

##### *Powers of the Board*

2. The Board shall have powers to do anything which in its opinion is calculated to facilitate the carrying-on of the activities of the Institute as stipulated in the Bill.

##### *Proceedings of the Board*

3. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Board may in the name of the Institute make standing orders regulating the proceedings of the Institute or of the Board, and in the exercise of its powers under this Bill, may set up Committees in the general interest of the Institute and make standing orders therefor.
- (2) Standing orders shall provide for decisions to be taken by a majority of the members, and in the event of equality of votes, the Chairman as the case may be has a second or casting vote.
- (3) Standing orders made for a Committee shall provide that the Committee is to report back to the Board on any matter not within its competence to decide.
- (4) The quorum of the Board shall be four; and the quorum of a Committee of the Board shall be fixed by the Board

*Committees*

4. (1) The Institute may appoint one or more standing or *Ad-hoc* Committees to carry out on its behalf such of its functions as it may determine.
- (2) A Committee appointed under this paragraph shall consist of such number of persons as may be determined by the Institute; and a person other than a member of the Institute shall hold office on the Committee in accordance with the terms of his appointment
- (3) A decision of a Committee of the Institute shall be of no effect until it is confirmed by the Institute.

*(a) Meetings of the Institute*

5. The Board shall convene the Annual Farming Systems meeting of the Institute every year or on such other date as the Board may from time to time appoint, so however that if the meeting is not held within one year after the previous annual meeting, not more than fifteen months shall elapse between the respective dates of the two meetings.

*(b) Meetings of the Board*

6. (1) The Board shall meet not less than twice in any financial year, and subject to the provisions of any standing orders of the Board, it shall meet at other times as it is summoned by the Chairman; and if the Chairman is required to do so by notice in writing given to him by not less than four other members, he shall summon a meeting of the Board to be held within seven days from the date on which notice is given.
- (2) At any meeting of the Board, the Chairman shall preside but in his absence, the members present at the meeting shall appoint one of their numbers to preside at that meeting.
- (3) Where the Board decides to obtain advice of any person on a particular matter, the Board may co-opt him as a member for such period as the Board thinks fit but a person who is a member by virtue of this subparagraph shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Board and shall not count towards a quorum.
- (4) Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this paragraph, the first meeting of the Board shall be convened by the Minister, who may give such directions as deem fit as to the procedure which shall be followed by the Board.

*Miscellaneous*

7. The fixing of the seal of the Institute shall be authenticated by:
  - (i) the Director General of the Institute or officer authorized by the Institute to act in his place for this purpose.
  - (ii) any contract or instrument which, if made or executed by a person not being a body corporate would not be required to be under seal may be made or executed on behalf of the Institute or of the Board as the case may require, by any person generally or specially authorized to Act for that purpose by the Board.
  - (iii) any document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal of the Institute shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be so executed.

8. The validity of any proceedings of the Institute or of the Board or of a Committee of the Board shall not be affected by any vacancy in membership, or by any defect in the appointment of a member of the Institute or of the Board or of a person to serve on the Committee, or by reason that a person not so entitled to do so took part in the proceedings.
9. Any members of the Institute or of the Board, and any person holding office on a Committee of the Board, who has a personal interest in any contract or arrangement being entered into or proposed to be considered by the Board or any committee thereof, shall forthwith declare and disclose his interest in such contract or arrangement to the Board/Management and shall be disqualified to vote on any question relating to such contract or arrangement (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the provisions of the Schedule stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Explanatory Memorandum:**

This Bill seeks to establish the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria to enhance and focus the Institute to deliver on its functions (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*) — *Agreed to.*

**Long Title:**

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*) — *Agreed to.*

*Chairman to report Bill.*

**(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Forest Research Institute of Nigeria; and for Related Matters and approved Clauses 1 - 24, approved the Schedule, and the Long Title of the Bill.

*Question that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of the Whole — Agreed to.*

**(ii) Committee on Federal Capital Territory:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Federal Capital Territory on the Request for Confirmation of Abdullahi Oteh Attah as Chairman of the Federal Capital Territory Internal Revenue Service (FCTIRS) and approve the recommendation therein" (*Hon. Sergius O. Ogun — Esan, Northeast/Esan Southeast Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report — Agreed to.*

**(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)**

*(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)*

**Recommendation:**

"That after a critical scrutiny of Abdullahi Oteh Attah in accordance with Section 3 (2) (a) of the Federal Capital Territory Internal Revenue Service (FCTIRS) Act, 2015, the Committee hereby recommends that the House do consider and approve his appointment as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Capital Territory Internal Revenue Service (FCTIRS) for a term of four (4) years as stipulated in Section 4 (a) of the FCTIRS Act, 2015" (*Hon. Sergius O. Ogun — Esan Northeast/Esan Southeast Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Chairman to report proceedings.*

**(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Federal Capital Territory on the Request for Confirmation of Abdullahi Oteh Attah as Chairman of the Federal Capital Territory Internal Revenue Service (FCTIRS) and approved the Recommendation.

*Question that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of the Whole — Agreed to.*

**(iii) Committee on Federal Capital Territory:**

*Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Federal Capital Territory on the Petition against the Removal of Mrs Boma Averite as Secretary/Board Member of the Federal Capital Territory Internal Revenue Service (FCTIRS) and approve the recommendations therein” (Hon. Sergius O. Ogun — Esan Northeast/Esan Southeast Federal Constituency).*

*Agreed to.*

*Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report — Agreed to.*

**(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)**

*(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)*

**Recommendation (i):**

“That the Federal Capital Territory Internal Revenue Service, being a statutory agency established by an Act of the National Assembly, should henceforth be guided by the law establishing it and conduct all its operations and procedures in conformity with such law (Hon. Sergius O. Ogun — Esan Northeast/Esan Southeast Federal Constituency).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

*Leave out Recommendation (i) (Hon. Chukwuka Onyema Wilfred — Ogbaru Federal Constituency)*

*Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.*

**Recommendation (ii):**

“That the FCTIRS shall enjoy some degree of autonomy and be free from political and administrative interferences” (Hon. Sergius O. Ogun — Esan Northeast/Esan Southeast Federal Constituency).

**Amendment Proposed:**

*Leave out Recommendation (ii) (Hon. Chukwuka Onyema Wilfred — Ogbaru Federal Constituency)*

*Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.*

*Recommendations (iii) and (iv) deferred; the Committee on Federal Capital Territory to liaise with the Committee on Rules and Business to examine the recommendations vis-a-vis the provisions of the Federal Capital Territory Internal Revenue Service (FCTIRS) Act, 2015, to enable the House reconsider the Report on the next legislative day.*

*Chairman to report progress.*

**(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Federal Capital Territory on the Petition against the Removal of Mrs Boma Averite as Secretary/Board Member of the Federal Capital Territory Internal Revenue Service (FCTIRS) and rejected Recommendations (i) and (ii), and deferred consideration of Recommendations (iii) and (iv); the Committee on Federal Capital Territory to liaise with the Committee on Rules and Business to examine the recommendations vis-a-vis the provisions of the Federal Capital Territory Internal Revenue Service (FCTIRS) Act, 2015, to enable the House reconsider the Report on the next legislative day.

*Question that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of the Whole — Agreed to.*

13. That items 8 to 13 on the Order Paper be deferred to another legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (2) (Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency).

14. **Adjournment**

*That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 28 September, 2017 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency).*

*The House adjourned accordingly at 2.27 p.m.*

**Yakubu Dogara**  
*Speaker*

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**CORRIGENDUM**

In the *Votes and Proceedings* of Wednesday, 26 July, 2017, No. 15, page 283, item 3, *leave out* all the words in the Speaker's referral.