



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 4 July, 2019

1. The House met at 12.08 p.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, 3 July, 2019.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. **Oaths of Allegiance and Membership**
A Member-elect Jaafaru Iliyasu (*Magama/Rijau Federal Constituency*) took and subscribed to the Oaths of Allegiance and Membership as prescribed by law.

4. **Privilege (Order Six, Rule 2)**
Hon. Benjamin Kalu (*Bende Federal Constituency*), drew the attention of the House to an incident that took place during plenary session on Wednesday, 3 July, 2019, where a Member attempted to forcefully seize the Mace while the Speaker was in the Chair. He considered the action of the Member as undermining the provisions of Section 19 (b) of the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act, Cap. L12, LFN, 2004, and the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives. He viewed the action as a breach of his privilege and that of the House and prayed that the matter be investigated to forestall a reoccurrence.

Mr Speaker ruled that an Ad-hoc Committee on Ethics and Privileges would be constituted to investigate the matter.

5. **Announcement**

(a) **Visitors in the Gallery:**

Mr Speaker recognised the presence of the following:

- (i) Staff and Students of *Solid Fundamentals Montessori Academy, Nursery, Primary and Secondary School*, New-Karu, Nasarawa State;
- (ii) Staff and Students of *Rahinna Model School, Primary and Secondary School*, Jikwoyi, Abuja; and

(iii) Staff and Students of *Polymath International Academy*, Bwari, Abuja.

(b) **Majority Leadership:**

Mr Speaker announced the names of the Majority Leadership of the House as follows:

(1)	Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado	—	<i>House Leader</i>
(2)	Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno	—	<i>Chief Whip</i>
(3)	Hon. Peterson Akpatason	—	<i>Deputy House Leader</i>
(4)	Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha	—	<i>Deputy Chief Whip</i>

6. **Petition**

A petition from Ariremako Femi, on the termination of his appointment by the Federal Road Safety Commission, was presented and laid by Hon. Taiwo Olukemi Oluga (*Ayedaade/Irewole/Isokan Federal Constituency*).

Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions (when constituted).

7. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**

(i) ***Flood Disaster in Kankia/Kusada/Ingawa Federal Constituency in Katsina State:***

Hon. Abubakar Yahaya Kusada (*Kankia/Kusada/Ingawa 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.

Flood Disaster in Kankia/Kusada/Ingawa Federal Constituency in Katsina State

The House:

Notes that a torrential rain on Saturday, 17 June, 2019, flooded Kusada, Kankia and other places in Kankia Local Government Area, and Yandoma town and surrounding villages in Ingawa Local Government Area of Katsina State;

Aware that the flood destroyed about 10,000 houses and displaced most of the nearly one million habitants in the areas and as a result, schools, clinics, markets and farmlands were completely submerged cutting residents off from their means of livelihood;

Worried by the imminent humanitarian and environmental crisis as a result of the disaster;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send relief materials to the victims in the form of mattresses, pillows, blankets, roofing sheets, cement, various foodstuffs, etc.; and
- (ii) send a delegation to commiserate with the victims (*Hon. Abubakar Yahaya Kusada — Kankia/Kusada/Ingawa Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 8/08/2019).

Motion referred to the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness (when constituted), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

(ii) *Appeal for Urgent Intervention in Ecologically Deprived Areas and Communities Ravaged by Flood in Ifako-Ijaiye Federal Constituency:*

Hon. James Adisa Owolabi (*Ifako-Ijaiye 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.

Appeal for Urgent Intervention in Ecologically Deprived Areas and Communities Ravaged by Flood in Ifako-ijaiye Federal Constituency:

The House:

Aware that Lagos State is located along the coastal line and has had a protracted history of environmental challenges partly due to excessive rainfall that results in perennial flooding, especially in areas within Ifako-Ijaiye Federal Constituency;

Notes that the disaster which has been ravaging the communities overtime has been heightened by the recent heavy downpour and the attendant erosion is causing untold hardship and damages on lives and properties in the area, including homes, schools, etc.;

Informed that the recent flooding devastated the people of Osunkeye Ajakaiye in Idiagbon of Ward B in Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government Area, resulting in loss of lives and destruction of properties;

Concerned that the perennial ecological disaster is degenerating into an emergency situation as the environmental degradation situation of the area continues to escalate with the increasing downpour;

Also aware that the Local Government has carried out a survey of its environs on the ecologically depressed communities aimed at facilitating an urgent and immediate intervention in this regard; however the pathetic situation requires urgent intervention commensurate with the travails of the people.

Resolves to:

Urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing, the Federal Ministry of Environment, and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to intervene in the menace and bring succor to the communities (*Hon. James Adisa Owolabi — Ifako-Ijaiye Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 9/07/2019).

Motion referred to the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness (when constituted), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9(5).

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (4) to enable it take more than 2 matters of urgent public importance" (Hon. Mouhammed Gudaji Kazaure — Kazaure/Roni/Gwiwa/Yankashi Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

(iii) *Need for Upward Review of Salaries and Allowances of Federal and State Judicial Officers:* Hon. Mouhammed Gudaji Kazaure (Kazaure/Roni/Gwiwa/Yankashi 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 for Upward Review of Salaries and Allowances of Federal and State Judicial Officers:

The House:

Notes that Section 84 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that there shall be paid to the holders of the offices mentioned in this Section such salaries and allowances as may be prescribed by the National Assembly, but not exceeding the amount as shall have been determined by the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission;

Aware that members of Federal and State Judiciaries are among the officers listed as entitled under first line charge in accordance with sub-section 4 of the section above;

Further aware that while the Legislature and the Executive are enjoying the full benefits as stipulated therefore, the judiciary have not enjoyed the same benefits;

Conscious that while the Judicial Officers in other climes are adequately remunerated, the Nigerian judicial officers are poorly remunerated;

Worried at the spate of corruption within the Nigerian judiciary owing to their poor remuneration;

Also worried that the salaries and allowances payable to the Federal and State judicial officers were last renewed in 2008.

Resolves to:

Mandate an *Ad-hoc* Committee on Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission, the office of the Accountant-General of the Federation and the Ministry of Justice to invite the relevant authorities with a view to ensure full implementation of the provision of the law to ensure that the salaries and allowances of Federal and State Judicial Officers are reviewed upwards (*Hon. Mouhammed Gudaji Kazaure — Kazaure/Roni/Gwiwa/Yankashi Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words in the Prayer and *insert* as follows:

"Mandate the Committee on Judiciary (when constituted) to investigate the matter" (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Section 84 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that there shall be paid to the holders of the offices mentioned in this Section such salaries and allowances as may be prescribed by the National Assembly, but not exceeding the amount as shall have been determined by the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission;

Aware that members of Federal and State Judiciaries are among the officers listed as entitled under first line charge in accordance with sub-section 4 of the section above;

Further aware that while the Legislature and the Executive are enjoying the full benefits as stipulated therefore, the judiciary have not enjoyed the same benefits;

Conscious that while the Judicial Officers in other climes are adequately remunerated, the Nigerian judicial officers are poorly remunerated;

Worried at the spate of corruption within the Nigerian judiciary owing to their poor remuneration;

Also worried that the salaries and allowances payable to the Federal and State judicial officers were last renewed in 2008.

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Judiciary (when constituted) to investigate the matter (**HR. 10/07/2019**).

(iv) Need to Investigate the Crisis Surrounding the Inauguration of Bauchi State 9th Assembly and Circumstances that Led to the Emergence of Two Presiding Officers:

Hon. Kani Abubakar Faggo (*Shira/Giade 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 Investigate the Crisis Surrounding the Inauguration of Bauchi State 9th Assembly and Circumstances that Led to the Emergence of Two Presiding Officers:

The House:

Notes that on Thursday, 20 June, 2019, the inauguration of the 9th Assembly of Bauchi State took place with the bizarre emergence of two elected Speakers;

Also notes that one of the elected Speakers, Abubakar Suleiman was elected by only 11 members;

Informed that despite the fact that the Proclamation issued by the Governor of Bauchi State in accordance with Section 150 (3) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) stated that the inaugural session of the House shall take place on Thursday, 20 June, 2019 at 10.00 a.m., a group of 11 Lawmakers allegedly loyal to some powerful individuals in the State, sneaked into the Chambers in the wee hours of Thursday, 20 June, and conducted the inaugural session at about 6.00 a.m.; electing Abubakar Suleiman of APC as Speaker and Ahmed Kawule of the PDP as Deputy Speaker;

Also informed that when the other 21 APC Lawmakers arrived the precinct of the State Assembly at about 9.00 a.m., they were locked out and forcibly prevented from gaining access into the Chamber; a situation that forced them to hold their own separate inaugural session outside the Chamber electing their own Speaker, Kawuwa Shehu Damina and Deputy Speaker, Tukur Ibrahim;

Aware that Separation of Powers and Independence of the Legislature is a cardinal principle of a vibrant democracy and therefore, any executive interference in the emergence of presiding officers of the House will be detrimental to the principle of Separation of Powers, and Parliamentary Independence;

Also aware that Section 92 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 stipulates that *there shall be a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker of a House of Assembly who shall be elected by the members of the House from among themselves*;

Concerned that, 11 Members, out of a 31-Member Assembly cannot be seen to fulfill the import and intendment of the Constitutional provisions in Section 92 (1);

Also concerned that, in the absence of a lawful inauguration in accordance with the Constitutional provisions of Section 2 (1) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), all actions purportedly carried out or to be carried out by the Governor and Government of Bauchi State without the approval of a properly constituted Legislature, shall be null and void and of no effect;

Worried that this incident if left unresolved, might set a dangerous precedence that may undermine attempts to institutionalize sound democratic culture and good governance in State Legislatures;

Resolves to:

- (i) condemn the unfortunate circumstances leading to the emergence of two presiding officers in the inaugural session of Bauchi State House of Assembly; and

- (ii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the unfortunate circumstances leading to the emergence of two elected Speakers on the inaugural day of the Bauchi State House of Assembly on 20 June, 2019, and report back within one (1) week (*Hon. Kani Abubakar Faggo — Shira/Giade Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on Thursday, 20 June, 2019, the inauguration of the 9th Assembly of Bauchi State took place with the bizarre emergence of two elected Speakers;

Also noted that one of the elected Speakers, Abubakar Suleiman was elected by only 11 members;

Informed that despite the fact that the Proclamation issued by the Governor of Bauchi State in accordance with Section 150 (3) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) stated that the inaugural session of the House shall take place on Thursday, 20 June, 2019 at 10.00 a.m., a group of 11 Lawmakers allegedly loyal to some powerful individuals in the State, sneaked into the Chambers in the wee hours of Thursday, 20 June, and conducted the inaugural session at about 6.00 a.m.; electing Abubakar Suleiman of APC as Speaker and Ahmed Kawule of the PDP as Deputy Speaker;

Also informed that when the other 21 APC Lawmakers arrived the precinct of the State Assembly at about 9.00 a.m., they were locked out and forcibly prevented from gaining access into the Chamber; a situation that forced them to hold their own separate inaugural session outside the Chamber electing their own Speaker, Kawuwa Shehu Damina and Deputy Speaker, Tukur Ibrahim;

Aware that Separation of Powers and Independence of the Legislature is a cardinal principle of a vibrant democracy and therefore, any executive interference in the emergence of presiding officers of the House will be detrimental to the principle of Separation of Powers, and Parliamentary Independence;

Also aware that Section 92 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 stipulates that *there shall be a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker of a House of Assembly who shall be elected by the members of the House from among themselves*;

Concerned that, 11 Members, out of a 31-Member Assembly cannot be seen to fulfill the import and intendment of the Constitutional provisions in Section 92 (1);

Also concerned that, in the absence of a lawful inauguration in accordance with the Constitutional provisions of Section 2 (1) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), all actions purportedly carried out or to be carried out by the Governor and Government of Bauchi State without the approval of a properly constituted Legislature, shall be null and void and of no effect;

Worried that this incident if left unresolved, might set a dangerous precedence that may undermine attempts to institutionalize sound democratic culture and good governance in State Legislatures;

Resolved to:

- (i) condemn the unfortunate circumstances leading to the emergence of two presiding officers in the inaugural session of Bauchi State House of Assembly; and
- (ii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the unfortunate circumstances leading to the emergence of two elected Speakers on the inaugural day of the Bauchi State House of Assembly on 20 June, 2019, and report back within one (1) week (HR. 11/07/2019).

Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Crisis Surrounding the Inauguration of Bauchi State 9th Assembly and Circumstances that Led to the Emergence of Two Presiding Officers:

Mr Speaker announced Membership of the Committee as follows:

(1)	Hon. Abubakar Fulata	—	<i>Chairman</i>
(2)	Hon. Olododo Abdulganiyu Saka	—	<i>Member</i>
(3)	Hon. Tunji-Ojo Olubunmi	—	<i>Member</i>
(4)	Hon. Benjamin Kalu	—	<i>Member</i>
(5)	Hon. Jaha Ahmadu Usman	—	<i>Member</i>
(6)	Hon. Julius Ihonvbere	—	<i>Member</i>
(7)	Hon. Sarkin Adar Musa	—	<i>Member</i>
(8)	Hon. Abubakar Yarima Idris	—	<i>Member</i>
(9)	Hon. Bamidele Yusuf	—	<i>Member</i>
(10)	Hon. Darlington Nwokocha	—	<i>Member</i>
(11)	Hon. John Dyegh	—	<i>Member</i>
(12)	Hon. Umyime Josiah Idem	—	<i>Member</i>

8. Privilege (Order Six, Rule 2)

Hon. Daniel Effiong Asuquo (*Akamkpa/Biase Federal Constituency*), referred the House to the sitting of Wednesday, 3 July, 2019, where some Members protested the Hon. Speaker's announcement of the Minority leadership which threw the House into a rowdy session. He viewed the incident as a breach of his privilege and apologised on behalf of those involved in the rowdiness. He underscored the need for Members to uphold the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 and the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives and stressed that the Minority Parties strongly support the Speaker and the Leadership of the House.

Mr Speaker noted the point of order and thanked the Member for the maturity exhibited, saying that the House had resolved to set up an Ad-hoc Committee on Ethics and Privileges to investigate the incident, in line with its procedures, in order to protect the integrity of the legislature as an Institution. He also noted that the Committee when constituted would discharge its mandate except the House rescinds its decision on the matter of privilege raised by Hon. Benjamin Kalu.

Ad-hoc Committee on Ethics and Privileges:

Mr Speaker announced the composition of the Committee as follows:

(1)	Hon. Peter Akpatason	—	<i>Chairman</i>
(2)	Hon. Makki Yalleman	—	<i>Member</i>
(3)	Hon. James Faleke	—	<i>Member</i>
(4)	Hon. Igariwey Iduma	—	<i>Member</i>
(5)	Hon. Nnoli Nnaji	—	<i>Member</i>
(6)	Hon. Adeyemi Akeem Adeniyi	—	<i>Member</i>
(7)	Hon. Onanuga Adewunmi Oriyomi	—	<i>Member</i>
(8)	Hon. Saad Abdulkadir	—	<i>Member</i>
(9)	Hon. Tijjani Ahmed	—	<i>Member</i>
(10)	Hon. Yusuf Buba	—	<i>Member</i>
(11)	Hon. Dederi Haruna Isa	—	<i>Member</i>

9. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) North Central Development Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 23).
- (2) Local Industry Patronage Bill, 2019 (HB.24).
- (3) Crime and Criminal Tracking System Bill, 2019 (HB.25).
- (4) Anatomy Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB.26).
- (5) Marriage Act (Amendment) Bill 2019 (HB.27).
- (6) Casino Taxation Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB.28).
- (7) Export Prohibition Act (Repeal) Bill, 2019 (HB.29).
- (8) Investment and Security Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 30).
- (9) Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB.31).
- (10) Regional Centre for Oral Health Research and Training Initiatives (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2019 (HB.32).
- (11) Certified Council of Allied Dental Health Professionals (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.33).
- (12) Nigeria Export Processing Zones Authority Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2019 (HB.34).
- (13) Investment and Security Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB.35).
- (14) National Crop Varieties and Livestock Breeds Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB.36).
- (15) FCT HIV/AIDS Control Agency Bill, 2019 (HB.37).
- (16) Chartered Institute of Export and Commodity Brokers of Nigeria Bill, 2019 (HB.38).
- (17) National Primary Health Care Development Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB.39).
- (18) Commodities Exchange Bill, 2019 (HB. 40).
- (19) Emergency Communication Bill, 2019 (HB. 41).
- (20) Telecommunications Facilities (Lawful Interception of Information) Bill, 2019 (HB. 42).
- (21) Satellite Towns Development Agency Bill, 2019 (HB. 43).

10. Fuel Tanker Explosion at Ahumbe Community in Gwer-East Local Government Area of Benue State that Claimed Over Fifty (50) Lives

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

11. Need to Investigate the Menace of Call Masking/Call Refilling in the Country

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

12. **Need to Combat the Rising Cases of Banditry, Kidnapping and Cattle Rustling Across several Local Government Areas of Sokoto State**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Isa, Sabon Birni, Wurno, Rabah, Goronyo, Gada, Tambuwal, Kebbe, Tangaza, Gudu, Tureta, Bonica and Dange-shuni Local Government Areas of Sokoto State have been experiencing series of attacks by invading bandits for a long period of time leading to loss of lives of many innocent people and confiscation of properties including livestock, foodstuff, other essential commodities and displacement of thousands of villagers, including women and children;

Also notes that those attacks have adversely affected agricultural and economic activities in the communities, thereby making farming and other business activities almost impossible;

Informed that the attacks by those invading bandits cut across other States of Zamfara, Katsina and Kaduna, thereby creating livelihood crisis in the whole of the North-West Geo-Political Zone of the Country, a situation that has led the people to live in fear and uncertainty in the Internally Displaced Persons Camps (IDPs) established in various locations across the Local Government Areas;

Acknowledges the efforts so far made by the Government of Sokoto State in supporting security agencies to provide protection for the communities, provision of foodstuff, shelter, medication and other life requirements at various times;

Concerned about the consequences of those prolonged attacks and displacement of the people from their communities, including destruction of infrastructure, closure of primary schools and increasing rate of poverty and unemployment;

Also concerned that access roads in those Local Government Areas have been blocked by the bandits as people from several communities are not able to travel to and from Sokoto, the State capital and farmers from those areas are no longer able to go to their farms as the poor farmers are required to pay levies to the bandits before being allowed to go to their farms, a development that could result into famine;

Further concerned that in villages of Tsamaye, Labau, Bore, Tagirke, Mazau, Dankure, Katsalle, Burkasuma, Satiru, Kamarawa, Arume, Yergebe, Surrudawa, Girmashe, Tsabre, Modachi and Bargaja across Ulalle, Gatawa, Isa and Bafarawa Districts, over 170 people have been killed, 230 injured and about 140 kidnapped over the period.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials for the communities;
- (ii) also urge the Inspector-General of Police and other Security Agencies to flush out the bandits, kidnappers and cattle rustlers and arrest the ugly situation in the Local Government Areas;
- (iii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to pay a condolence visit to the Government and people of Sokoto State (*Hon. Muhammad Saidu Bargaja — Isa/Sabon Birni Federal Constituency and 5 others*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (iii) and *insert* as follows:
“write a letter of condolence to the Government and people of Sokoto State” (Hon. Simon Mwadkwon — Barkin-Ladi/Riyom Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (iv) as follows:
“Urge the State Government to liaise with security agencies to provide security to farmers, to avert possible food shortage” (Hon. Abubakar Yahaya Kusada — Kankia/Kusada/Ingawa Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Notes that Isa, Sabon Birni, Wurno, Rabah, Goronyo, Gada, Tambuwal, Kebbe, Tangaza, Gudu, Tureta, Bonica and Dange-shuni Local Government Areas of Sokoto State have been experiencing series of attacks by invading bandits for a long period of time leading to loss of lives of many innocent people and confiscation of properties including livestock, foodstuff, other essential commodities and displacement of thousands of villagers, including women and children;

Also notes that those attacks have adversely affected agricultural and economic activities in the communities, thereby making farming and other business activities almost impossible;

Informed that the attacks by those invading bandits cut across other States of Zamfara, Katsina and Kaduna, thereby creating livelihood crisis in the whole of the North-West Geo-Political Zone of the Country, a situation that has led the people to live in fear and uncertainty in the Internally Displaced Persons Camps (IDPs) established in various locations across the Local Government Areas;

Acknowledges the efforts so far made by the Government of Sokoto State in supporting security agencies to provide protection for the communities, provision of foodstuff, shelter, medication and other life requirements at various times;

Concerned about the consequences of those prolonged attacks and displacement of the people from their communities, including destruction of infrastructure, closure of primary schools and increasing rate of poverty and unemployment;

Also concerned that access roads in those Local Government Areas have been blocked by the bandits as people from several communities are not able to travel to and from Sokoto, the State capital and farmers from those areas are no longer able to go to their farms as the poor farmers are required to pay levies to the bandits before being allowed to go to their farms, a development that could result into famine;

Further concerned that in villages of Tsamaye, Labau, Bore, Tagirke, Mazau, Dankure, Katsalle, Burkasuma, Satiru, Kamarawa, Arume, Yergebe, Surrudawa, Girnash, Tsabre, Modachi and Bargaja across Ulalle, Gatawa, Isa and Bafarawa Districts, over 170 people have been killed, 230 injured and about 140 kidnapped over the period.

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials for the communities;

- (ii) also urge the Inspector-General of Police and other Security Agencies to flush out the bandits, kidnappers and cattle rustlers and arrest the ugly situation in the Local Government Areas;
- (iii) write a letter of condolence to the Government and people of Sokoto State; and
- (iv) urge the State Government to liaise with security agencies to provide security to farmers, to avert possible food shortage (HR. 12/07/2019).

13. Need for the Federal Government to Intervene in the Unwarranted Harassment, Intimidation and Persecution of Professor Austin Uzoma Nwagbara and Other Nigerians by Ghanaian Authorities

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the United Nations Charter on Human and Fundamental Rights guarantees the right to freedom of opinion and expression as a fundamental human right;

Also notes recent media reports on the termination of the appointment of Professor Austin Nwagbara, a professor of English Language who was on sabbatical at the University of Education, Winneba, Ghana over comments he made in a video about the educational systems in Ghana and Nigeria;

Informed that Article 3 of the Kampala Declaration on Intellectual Freedom and Social Responsibility states that "No African intellectual shall, in any way, be persecuted, harassed or intimidated for reasons only of his or her intellectual work, opinion, gender, nationality or ethnicity";

Also informed that Article 4 of the Kampala Declaration provides that "Every African intellectual shall enjoy the freedom of movement within his or her country and freedom to travel outside and re-enter the country without let, hindrance or harassment and that no administrative or any other action shall directly or indirectly restrict this freedom on account of a person's intellectual opinions, beliefs or activity";

Concerned that the intimidation, harassment and unlawful detention of Professor Nwagbara is a gross violation of his fundamental human right as well as the Kampala Declaration on Intellectual Freedom and Social Responsibility;

Also concerned about the incessant intimidation and harassment of Nigerians carrying on their legitimate businesses in Ghana, and if not addressed, may pose dire consequences for Nigeria-Ghana Relations and the Ghanaian Community in Nigeria;

Resolves to:

- (i) condemn, in strong terms, the unwarranted harassment, intimidation and illegal detention of the erudite Professor Austine Uzoma Nwagbara by Ghanaian Authorities;
- (ii) urge the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission to intervene in the matter and ensure that other Nigerians living in Ghana are not denied their fundamental human rights;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Diaspora (when constituted) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Bamidele Salam — Ede North/Ede South/Egbedore/Ejigbo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the United Nations Charter on Human and Fundamental Rights guarantees the right to freedom of opinion and expression as a fundamental human right;

Also noted recent media reports on the termination of the appointment of Professor Austin Nwagbara, a professor of English Language who was on sabbatical at the University of Education, Winneba, Ghana over comments he made in a video about the educational systems in Ghana and Nigeria;

Informed that Article 3 of the Kampala Declaration on Intellectual Freedom and Social Responsibility states that "No African intellectual shall, in any way, be persecuted, harassed or intimidated for reason only of his or her intellectual work, opinion, gender, nationality or ethnicity";

Also informed that Article 4 of the Kampala Declaration provides that "Every African intellectual shall enjoy the freedom of movement within his or her country and freedom to travel outside and re-enter the country without let, hindrance or harassment and that no administrative or any other action shall directly or indirectly restrict this freedom on account of a person's intellectual opinions, beliefs or activity";

Concerned that the intimidation, harassment and unlawful detention of Professor Nwagbara is a gross violation of his fundamental human right as well as the Kampala Declaration on Intellectual Freedom and Social Responsibility;

Also concerned about the incessant intimidation and harassment of Nigerians carrying on their legitimate businesses in Ghana, and if not addressed, may pose dire consequences for Nigeria-Ghana Relations and the Ghanaian Community in Nigeria;

Resolved to:

- (i) condemn, in strong terms, the unwarranted harassment, intimidation and illegal detention of the erudite Professor Austine Uzoma Nwagbara by Ghanaian Authorities;
- (ii) urge the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission to intervene in the matter and ensure that other Nigerians living in Ghana are not denied their fundamental human rights;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Diaspora (when constituted) to ensure compliance (HR. 13/07/2019).

14. Failure of Manufacturers of Beverages to Inscribe Requisite Warnings on the Bottles/Containers with the Attendant Health Hazards to Consumers

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Recalls the revelation some time ago that certain Beverages such as Fanta, Sprite, etc. that are produced by the Nigerian Bottling Company Plc as well as other soft drinks by other companies become harmful when taken with Ascorbic Acid, otherwise known as Vitamin C;

Also recalls the apprehension expressed by thousands of consumers across the country on the attendant risks and exposure to cancer, terminal diseases and even death from consuming such drinks;

Aware that a motion on the matter was moved on 22 March, 2017 and the House set up an Ad-hoc Committee to investigate the possible health hazards posed by consumption of those drinks with Ascorbic Acid;

Also aware that the House considered the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee and urged the Nigerian Bottling Company Plc and other Companies producing soft drinks that contain the harmful additives to, not later than January 1, 2019, inscribe warnings on their bottles/containers on the harmful nature of such products when taken with Ascorbic Acid;

Concerned that up till date, the Nigerian Bottling Company Plc and most other Companies producing such products are yet to comply with the Resolution of the House to inscribe on the bottles warnings to the public on the danger of consuming the products;

Cognizant that if the Companies are not made to comply with the Resolution, millions of consumers of Fanta, Sprite and other soft drinks would remain ignorant of the risks they run in continuing to consume the beverages with Ascorbic Acid, with the attendant risks to their health;

Determined to ensure a Nigerian environment that produces beverages that are healthy for consumption and complies with International health standards and best practices;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health and the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) to ensure that the Nigerian Bottling Company Plc and other Companies producing beverages comply with the Resolution of the House requiring them to inscribe warnings on the bottles/containers of those products that consuming them with Ascorbic Acid will expose consumers to health hazards; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, and Legislative Compliance (when constituted) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Oluwarotimi Agunsoye Ojo — Kòsofe Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Recalled the revelation some time ago that certain Beverages such as Fanta, Sprite, etc. that are produced by the Nigerian Bottling Company Plc as well as other soft drinks by other companies become harmful when taken with Ascorbic Acid, otherwise known as Vitamin C;

Also recalled the apprehension expressed by thousands of consumers across the country on the attendant risks and exposure to cancer, terminal diseases and even death from consuming such drinks;

Aware that a motion on the matter was moved on 22 March, 2017 and the House set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the possible health hazards posed by consumption of those drinks with Ascorbic Acid;

Also aware that the House considered the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee and urged the Nigerian Bottling Company Plc and other Companies producing soft drinks that contain the harmful additives to, not later than January 1, 2019, inscribe warnings on their bottles/containers on the harmful nature of such products when taken with Ascorbic Acid;

Concerned that up till date, the Nigerian Bottling Company Plc and most other Companies producing such products are yet to comply with the Resolution of the House to inscribe on the bottles warnings to the public on the danger of consuming the products;

Cognizant that if the Companies are not made to comply with the Resolution, millions of consumers of Fanta, Sprite and other soft drinks would remain ignorant of the risks they run in continuing to consume the beverages with Ascorbic Acid, with the attendant risks to their health;

Determined to ensure a Nigerian environment that produces beverages that are healthy for consumption and complies with International health standards and best practices;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health and the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) to ensure that the Nigerian Bottling Company Plc and other Companies producing beverages comply with the Resolution of the House requiring them to inscribe warnings on the bottles/containers of those products that consuming them with Ascorbic Acid will expose consumers to health hazards; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, and Legislative Compliance (when constituted) to ensure compliance (**HR. 14/07/2019**).

15. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 9 July, 2019 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko Edo Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 3.36 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila
Speaker

