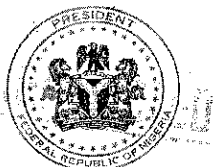




HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 14 March, 2017

1. The House met at 11.10 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 Thursday, 9 March, 2017.
The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.
3. **Message**
Mr Speaker read a message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as follows:



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

13 March, 2017

*Right Honourable Yakubu Dogara
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Dear Rt Hon. Yakubu Dogara,

RESUMPTION OF OFFICE

In compliance with Section 145 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), I write to intimate the House that I have resumed my functions as the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with effect from Monday, 13th March, 2017, after my vacation.

Please accept, Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

(Signed)

Muhammadu Buhari

4. Announcements

(a) Visitors in the Gallery:

Mr Speaker recognized the presence of the following visitors:

- (i) Staff and Students of *Raudah Quba Kings Academy*, Kubwa, Abuja;
- (ii) Staff and Students of *Excellent Grade International Schools*, Kubwa, Abuja;
- (iii) Members of *National Association of Political Science Students (NAPSS)*, *Bayero University*, Kano Chapter.

(b) Bereavement:

- (i) By leave of the House, Hon. Pally Iriase (*Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*) informed the House of the demise of General Samuel Osaigbovo Ogbemudia (*rtd*), former Military Governor of the old Mid-Western Region and Bendel State, who died on Thursday, 9 March, 2017 at the age of 84. He recalled some of the contributions of the deceased to the development of the old Mid-Western Region, Bendel State and Nigeria in general. He prayed the House to send a delegation to condole with the government and people of Edo State as well as the family of the deceased, and observe a minute silence in his honour.
- (ii) By leave of the House, Hon. Ayodele Oladimeji (*Ado Ekiti/Irepodun/Ifelodun Federal Constituency*) informed the House of the demise of Major General Adeyinka Adebayo (*rtd*), a former Military Administrator of the old Western Region (1966 - 1971), which occurred on Wednesday, 8 March, 2017 at the age of 89. He described the late General Adeyinka Adebayo as an accomplished statesman, exemplary administrator and a gentleman who stood for the unity of Nigeria. He prayed the House to condole with the Governor of Ekiti State and the family of the deceased; urge the Executive Arm to immortalize the General and observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased.

The House observed a minute silence in honour of the departed souls.

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

Need for the Immediate Reconstitution of the Investment and Securities Tribunal:

Hon. Tajudeen Ayo Yusuf (*Ijumu/Kabba-Bunu Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to consider and approve it as one of urgent public importance.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance — Agreed to.

Matter to stand over till next legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 4 (3).

6. Presentation of Report

Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations on the 135th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and Other Related Meetings held in Geneva, Switzerland between 23- 27 October, 2016" (Hon. Samuel Okon Ikon — Etinan/Nsit Ibom/Nsit Ubium Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

7. **Consolidation of Bills**

- (i) *Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Project Continuity by Successive Governments at all Levels and for Other Related Matters (HB. 509), a Bill for an Act to Regulate the Establishment, Registration, Provision and Management of Services and Residential Facilities for Elderly Persons and for Other Related Matters (HB. 602), and a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Continuity of Government Projects and for Other Related Matters (HB. 907) be now consolidated" (Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

- (ii) *Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Repeal of the National Housing Fund Act, Cap. N45, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and to Establish the National Housing Trust Fund Act, and for Other Related Matters (HB.891), and a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Housing Fund Act, Cap. N45, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Other Related Matters (HB. 521) be now consolidated" (Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

8. A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Consumer Protection Act, Cap. C25, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, Establish the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission and the Competition and Consumer Protection Tribunal for the Development and Promotion of Fair, Efficient and Competitive Markets in the Nigerian Economy, Facilitate Access by all Citizens to Safe Products, Secure the Protection of Rights for all Consumers in Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB 1 and HB 60) — **Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Consumer Protection Act, Cap. C25, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, Establish the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission and the Competition and Consumer Protection Tribunal for the Development and Promotion of Fair, Efficient and Competitive Markets in the Nigerian Economy, Facilitate Access by all Citizens to Safe Products, Secure the Protection of Rights for all Consumers in Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB 1 and HB 60) be now read the Third Time" (Hon. Jibril Umar Buba — Deputy House Leader).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time, and passed.

9. A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service and for Other Related Matters (HB. 866) — **Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

10. A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the National Agricultural Machinery Supply and Management Agency and for Other Related Matters (HB. 893) — **Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the National Agricultural Machinery Supply and Management Agency and for Other Related Matters (HB. 893) be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Abdullahi Umar Faruk — Bunza/Birnin Kebbi/Kalgo Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Agricultural Production and Services.

11. **Call to Investigate the Exploitation of Parents by the American International School, Abuja and Some Other International Schools**

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Aware that the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) had, in a bid to reform the currency regulations, issued a circular No. BSD/D1/GEN/LAB/08/013 dated April 17, 2015 and titled "Currency Substitution and Dollarization of the Nigerian Economy", pursuant to Sections 15, 20 (1) and (5) of the CBN Act by which it made it illegal to price or denominate the cost of any product or service (visible or invisible) in any foreign currency in Nigeria other than the Naira;

Notes that the American International School, Abuja (AISA) is charging school fees in United States Dollars (USD) and some other international schools in Nigeria are also collecting school fees in foreign currencies, contrary to the CBN policy on the currency for transaction of business in Nigeria;

Also notes that even when the AISA is inclined to collect the fees in Naira, it disregards the extant financial regulations and can accept the Naira only on the parallel market rate and on the prevailing rate for the day;

Concerned that the use of the parallel market rate to determine the amount of fees to be collected in Naira entails that parents pay school fees at different rates, depending on the rate at the black market, and as such, parents of children in the same class end up paying different fees for their wards, depending on the day the payment was made;

Further notes that insistence on collecting fees on the prevailing black market rate amounts to a malicious rip off that the AISA and other International Schools have been perpetrating on hapless Nigerians;

Cognizant that all efforts by parents to make the school authorities to standardize the payment in Naira have been rebuffed and if the practice is not squarely addressed, may embolden other business outfits to adopt the same practice of denominating their goods and services in foreign currencies, contrary to the laws of the land;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Basic Education and Services to conduct investigation into the trend of American International School, Abuja (AISA) and some other International Schools operating in Nigeria charging school fees in foreign currencies and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Emmanuel Kehinde Agboola — Ikole/Oye Federal Constituency and 16 others*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) had, in a bid to reform the currency regulations, issued a circular No. BSD/D1/GEN/LAB/08/013 dated April 17, 2015 and titled "Currency Substitution and Dollarization of the Nigerian Economy", pursuant to Sections 15, 20 (1) and (5) of

the CBN Act by which it made it illegal to price or denominate the cost of any product or service (visible or invisible) in any foreign currency in Nigeria other than the Naira;

Noted that the American International School, Abuja (AISA) is charging school fees in United States Dollars (USD) and some other international schools in Nigeria are also collecting school fees in foreign currencies, contrary to the CBN policy on the currency for transaction of business in Nigeria;

Also noted that even when the AISA is inclined to collect the fees in Naira, it disregards the extant financial regulations and can accept the Naira only on the parallel market rate and on the prevailing rate for the day;

Concerned that the use of the parallel market rate to determine the amount of fees to be collected in Naira entails that parents pay school fees at different rates, depending on the rate at the black market, and as such, parents of children in the same class end up paying different fees for their wards, depending on the day the payment was made;

Further noted that insistence on collecting fees on the prevailing black market rate amounts to a malicious rip off that the AISA and other International Schools have been perpetrating on hapless Nigerians;

Cognizant that all efforts by parents to make the school authorities to standardize the payment in Naira have been rebuffed and if the practice is not squarely addressed, may embolden other business outfits to adopt the same practice of denominating their goods and services in foreign currencies, contrary to the laws of the land;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Basic Education and Services to conduct investigation into the trend of American International School, Abuja (AISA) and some other International Schools operating in Nigeria charging school fees in foreign currencies and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (HR. 84/2017).

12. Call on the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Direct the Immediate Disarmament of Armed and Strange Herdsmen in Buruku and Other Parts of Benue State
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes with dismay the massive and violent invasion, on 9 March, 2017, of communities in Buruku local government area of Benue State, especially Binev Council ward by armed and strange herdsmen;

Aware that Binev Council Ward lies on the Bank of River Katsina - Ala in Buruku Local Government Area with mass water bodies and large portions of Fadama lands suitable for rice farming and aquatic life;

Also aware that the people of Buruku are largely farmers, fishermen and rural community people with simple and subsistence livelihoods and are dependent on the natural habitat in their communities;

Concerned that on Friday, 10 March, 2017, the invading herdsmen became violent and destructive, created fear and tension which forced residents of most communities in Binev Council Ward to flee their homes;

Also concerned that the herdsmen destroyed farms, plundered yam barns and looted houses deserted by innocent and armless villagers;

Disturbed that on Saturday, 11 March, 2017 the marauding herdsmen started indiscriminate attacks and killings of anybody they encountered around the communities of Ber Awuna, Dogo, Ortese - Mbashian, Tse Igyu, Tse Gebe, Anbighir, Tse Iwa, Gbaikyo, Agudu, Nyorum, Shonto and Abuku in three major kindreds of Mbade, Mbagoho, Mbashian, Mbaboor and Wuav;

Also disturbed that these violent attacks continued unabated without any intervention from any security agency throughout that Saturday and 20 people were reported killed by these armed herdsmen, out of which 10 bodies have so far been recovered and deposited at the local Government;

Worried that these strange herdsmen are heavily armed with sophisticated weapons, seem to be operating or supported by a killer squad of mercenaries that arrived the communities on Friday night on motorcycles and unleashed the mayhem the following day;

Also worried that the strange and armed herdsmen invasion and attacks have become a perennial occurrence in Buruku Federal Constituency and other parts of Benue State;

Cognizant of the constitutional responsibility of the government to provide security for all citizens and maintain law and order in all parts of the federation;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the President and Commander - in - Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to urgently institute a Presidential Task Force to disarm all herdsmen in Buruku Federal Constituency, other parts of Benue State and throughout the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- (ii) urge the Inspector-General of Police to investigate the wanton killings and destruction of properties, natural habitat and livelihoods of communities in Binev Council Ward, arrest the perpetrators of these barbaric acts and restore security in those areas;
- (iii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send food and other relief materials to the affected communities;
- (iv) condemn the persistent invasion and attacks on Benue communities by armed herdsmen; and
- (v) mandate the Committees on Special Duties, and Police Affairs to ensure implementation and report back in two (2) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency and 10 others*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* Prayer (v), and insert a new Prayer (v) as follows:
"Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to invite all heads of security Agencies to explain why the menace cannot be controlled" (*Hon. Adaji Ezekiel Awalu — Otukpo/Ohimini Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (vi) as follows:
"Urge the Federal Government to create a North Central Rehabilitation Commission to cater for the resettlement and rehabilitation of schools, healthcare centres and other public amenities destroyed by herdsmen" (*Hon. Tarkighir Dickson Dominic — Makurdi/Guma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with dismay the massive and violent invasion, on 9 March, 2017, of communities in Buruku local government area of Benue State, especially Binev Council ward by armed and strange herdsmen;

Aware that Binev Council Ward lies on the Bank of River Katsina - Ala in Buruku Local Government Area with mass water bodies and large portions of Fadama lands suitable for rice farming and aquatic life;

Also aware that the people of Buruku are largely farmers, fishermen and rural community people with simple and subsistence livelihoods and are dependent on the natural habitat in their communities;

Concerned that on Friday, 10 March, 2017, the invading herdsmen became violent and destructive, created fear and tension which forced residents of most communities in Binev Council Ward to flee their homes;

Also concerned that the herdsmen destroyed farms, plundered yam barns and looted houses deserted by innocent and armless villagers;

Disturbed that on Saturday, 11 March, 2017 the marauding herdsmen started indiscriminate attacks and killings of anybody they encountered around the communities of Ber Awuna, Dogo, Ortese - Mbashian, Tse Igyu, Tse Gebe, Anbighir, Tse Iwa, Gbaikyo, Agudu, Nyorum, Shonto and Abuku in three major kindreds of Mbade, Mbagoho, Mbashian, Mbaboor and Wuav;

Also disturbed that these violent attacks continued unabated without any intervention from any security agency throughout that Saturday and 20 people were reported killed by these armed herdsmen, out of which 10 bodies have so far been recovered and deposited at the local Government;

Worried that these strange herdsmen are heavily armed with sophisticated weapons, seem to be operating or supported by a killer squad of mercenaries that arrived the communities on Friday night on motorcycles and unleashed the mayhem the following day;

Also worried that the strange and armed herdsmen invasion and attacks have become a perennial occurrence in Buruku Federal Constituency and other parts of Benue State;

Cognizant of the constitutional responsibility of the government to provide security for all citizens and maintain law and order in all parts of the federation;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the President and Commander - in -Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to urgently institute a Presidential Task Force to disarm all herdsmen in Buruku Federal Constituency, other parts of Benue State and throughout the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- (ii) urge the Inspector-General of Police to investigate the wanton killings and destruction of properties, natural habitat and livelihoods of communities in Binev Council Ward, arrest the perpetrators of these barbaric acts and restore security in those areas;
- (iii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send food and other relief materials to the affected communities;
- (iv) condemn the persistent invasion and attacks on Benue communities by armed herdsmen; and

- (v) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to invite all heads of security Agencies to explain why the menace cannot be controlled (HR. 85/2017).

13. **Communal Disturbances at Ile-Ife, Osun State**
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes with concern the unfortunate communal disturbances between the Yoruba and Hausa communities at Ile-Ife, Osun State on Wednesday, 8 March, 2017;

Also notes the efforts of the Osun State Government, the Nigeria Police Force, traditional rulers and other stakeholders at de-escalating tension and restoring normalcy in the wake of the incident;

Appeals to the media, particularly the social media, socio-cultural organizations and all other commentators to exercise discretion and utmost restraint in reporting and commenting on the incident so as to avoid raising undue anxiety capable of aggravating the situation;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently send relief materials to the displaced victims of the disturbances who are at various facilities across the State;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, Human Rights, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to monitor the unfolding events; and
- (iii) send a five (5) Member delegation to convey its sympathy to the Government and people of Osun State, as well as the Ooni of Ife, Leaders of the Hausa Community and other stakeholders and report back within two (2) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Muhammed Sani Zorro — Gumel/Maigatari/S/Tankar/Gagarawa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (iv) as follows:
"Urge the State Government to pay adequate compensation to families of all those who lost their lives and properties during the crisis" (*Hon. Aliyu Madaki — Dala Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (v) as follows:
"Also mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to investigate the matter and find out the root causes of the crisis and proffer solution to avert future occurrence" (*Hon. Aliyu Madaki — Dala Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) *Insert* a new Prayer (vi) as follows:
"Also urge the Federal Government to work with the State Government on how to demilitarize the community by withdrawing unlicensed firearms in the hands of the people in the area" (*Hon. Albert Adeogun — Ife Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iv) Insert a new Prayer (vii) as follows:
"Observe a minute silence in honour of the victims of the attack" (*Hon. Albert Adeogun — Ife Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with concern the unfortunate communal disturbances between the Yoruba and Hausa communities at Ile-Ife, Osun State on Wednesday, 8 March, 2017;

Also noted the efforts of the Osun State Government, the Nigeria Police Force, traditional rulers and other stakeholders at de-escalating tension and restoring normalcy in the wake of the incident;

Appealed to the media, particularly the social media, socio-cultural organizations and all other commentators to exercise discretion and utmost restraint in reporting and commenting on the incident so as to avoid raising undue anxiety capable of aggravating the situation;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently send relief materials to the displaced victims of the disturbances who are at various facilities across the State;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, Human Rights, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to monitor the unfolding events;
- (iii) send a five (5) Member delegation to convey its sympathy to the Government and people of Osun State, as well as the Ooni of Ife, Leaders of the Hausa Community and other stakeholders and report back within two (2) weeks for further legislative action;
- (iv) also urge the State Government to pay adequate compensation to families of all those who lost their lives and properties during the crisis;
- (v) also mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to investigate the matter and find out the root causes of the crisis and proffer solution to avert future occurrence;
- (vi) further urge the Federal Government to work with the State Government on how to demilitarize the community by withdrawing unlicensed firearms in the hands of the people in the area; and
- (vii) observe a minute silence in honour of the victims of the attack (**HR. 86/2017**).

The House observed a minute silence in honour of the victims.

14. Spate of Kidnapping and Armed Robbery Attacks along Ilesa-Akure and Akure-Ondo-Ore Roads
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that the Akure-Ilesa and Akure-Ondo-Ore are busy and important link roads between Osun and Ondo States and have been major communication trunks with great economic importance from time immemorial;

Concerned that of late, these roads have become unsafe as they have been taken over by undesirable elements who have turned them into dens for kidnapping and armed robbery attacks;

Aware of several deadly attacks on commuters on those routes in the last few weeks, including the incident of Saturday, 25 February, 2017 which led to the death of Dr Adinoyi-Ojo Onukaba, a veteran journalist and former Presidential adviser;

Worried that despite security check points along the roads, securing lives and properties of commuters cannot be assured;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Inspector General of Police to deploy more police personnel and patrol vehicles along the routes for effective coverage with a view to ensuring a lasting solution to the twin monsters of kidnapping and robbery attacks that are making traveling a harrowing experience for commuters along those routes; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to ensure implementation and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Kolade Victor Akinjo —Eseodo/Ileje Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Akure-Ilesa and Akure-Ondo-Ore are busy and important link roads between Osun and Ondo States and have been major communication trunks with great economic importance from time immemorial;

Concerned that of late, these roads have become unsafe as they have been taken over by undesirable elements who have turned them into dens for kidnapping and armed robbery attacks;

Aware of several deadly attacks on commuters on those routes in the last few weeks, including the incident of Saturday, 25 February, 2017 which led to the death of Dr Adinoyi-Ojo Onukaba, a veteran journalist and former Presidential adviser;

Worried that despite security check points along the roads, securing lives and properties of commuters cannot be assured;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the Inspector General of Police to deploy more police personnel and patrol vehicles along the routes for effective coverage with a view to ensuring a lasting solution to the twin monsters of kidnapping and robbery attacks that are making traveling a harrowing experience for commuters along those routes; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to ensure implementation and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 87/2017**).

15. Need to Intervene in the Practice of Way leave/Right of Way Assessment and Payment of Compensation in the Power Sector

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

16. **Need to Extend the Registration and Redeeming of the Growth Enhancement Support Scheme (GESS) in Kebbi State and Ensure its Wider Coverage**

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that the Growth Enhancement Support Scheme (GESS) is a four (4) year programme initiated and managed by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development for the growth and enhancement of agricultural activities;

Also notes that the programme, which was launched barely one year ago, was designed as a pragmatic shift within the existing fertilizer market stabilization programme and it provides a series of incentives to encourage the critical actors in the fertilizer value chain to work together to improve productivity, household food security and income of farmers;

Aware that the specific goals of the programme include:

- targeting 5 million farmers in each year for 4 years to receive GESS in their mobile phones directly totaling 20 million farmers at the end of 4 years;
- providing support directly to farmers to enable them procure agricultural inputs at affordable prices, at the right time and place;
- increasing the productivity of farmers across the length and breadth of the country through increased use of fertilizer, i.e. 50kg/ha from 13kg/ha; and
- changing the role of government from direct procurement and distribution of fertilizer to a facilitator of procurement, regulator of fertilizer quality and catalyst of active private sector participation in the fertilizer value chain;

Also aware that the Federal Ministry of Finance has signed MOUs with banks and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development for provision of guarantee on 70% of the credit provided by banks participating in the scheme;

Concerned that when the programme was launched in Kebbi State, the registration process was too cumbersome, characterized by internet network problems and other official formalities which made the number of persons able to register in the State too small to make a reasonable impact on fertilizer supply and other agro-allied products;

Worried that out of thousands registered for the scheme in various centers across the State, those given the inputs in many of the centers are less than 10% and the exercise for this year's dry season farming has now been suspended by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, thus rendering many farmers stranded across the State;

Also worried that despite the huge resources expended on the programme by the Federal Government, organisations and individuals in a bid to realize the objectives of the programme, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development unilaterally terminated this year's dry season programme without realizing up to 10% of the objectives of the scheme;

Disturbed that the fate of many trucks of fertilizer and other agro-allied products received for the programme is unknown as the farmers, including those who were lucky to have registered are stranded;

Also disturbed that the significance of the programme, which contributed to the development of agriculture in Nigeria, particularly in reducing the rate of importation of agricultural produce and facilitation of export of same, such as rice, soya beans and corn, may be lost due to non-implementation of the lofty benefits of the programme;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to restore the programme and simplify the registration process to reach the targeted farmers, not only in Kebbi but also in other States that are interested;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Executive Council to extend the life span of the programme beyond four (4) years under the extant policy in recognition of its significance towards agricultural development; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Agricultural Production and Services to ensure compliance and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Mohammed Umar Jega — Aliero/Gwandu/Jega Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.**Agreed to.*

The House:

Noted that the Growth Enhancement Support Scheme (GESS) is a four (4) year programme initiated and managed by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development for the growth and enhancement of agricultural activities;

Also noted that the programme, which was launched barely one year ago, was designed as a pragmatic shift within the existing fertilizer market stabilization programme and it provides a series of incentives to encourage the critical actors in the fertilizer value chain to work together to improve productivity, household food security and income of farmers;

Aware that the specific goals of the programme include:

- targeting 5 million farmers in each year for 4 years to receive GESS in their mobile phones directly totaling 20 million farmers at the end of 4 years;
- providing support directly to farmers to enable them procure agricultural inputs at affordable prices, at the right time and place;
- increasing the productivity of farmers across the length and breadth of the country through increased use of fertilizer, i.e. 50kg/ha from 13kg/ha; and
- changing the role of government from direct procurement and distribution of fertilizer to a facilitator of procurement, regulator of fertilizer quality and catalyst of active private sector participation in the fertilizer value chain;

Also aware that the Federal Ministry of Finance has signed MOUs with banks and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development for provision of guarantee on 70% of the credit provided by banks participating in the scheme;

Concerned that when the programme was launched in Kebbi State, the registration process was too cumbersome, characterized by internet network problems and other official formalities which made the number of persons able to register in the State too small to make a reasonable impact on fertilizer supply and other agro-allied products;

Worried that out of thousands registered for the scheme in various centers across the State, those given the inputs in many of the centers are less than 10% and the exercise for this year's dry season farming has now been suspended by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, thus rendering many farmers stranded across the State;

Also worried that despite the huge resources expended on the programme by the Federal Government, organisations and individuals in a bid to realize the objectives of the programme, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development unilaterally terminated this year's dry season programme without realizing up to 10% of the objectives of the scheme;

Disturbed that the fate of many trucks of fertilizer and other agro-allied products received for the programme is unknown as the farmers, including those who were lucky to have registered are stranded;

Also disturbed that the significance of the programme, which contributed to the development of agriculture in Nigeria, particularly in reducing the rate of importation of agricultural produce and facilitation of export of same, such as rice, soya beans and corn, may be lost due to non-implementation of the lofty benefits of the programme;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to restore the programme and simplify the registration process to reach the targeted farmers, not only in Kebbi but also in other States that are interested;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Executive Council to extend the life span of the programme beyond four (4) years under the extant policy in recognition of its significance towards agricultural development; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Agricultural Production and Services to ensure compliance and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 88/2017**).

17. Consideration of Reports

That items 12 to 20 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*).

Agreed to.

18. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 15 March, 2017 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 3.24 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker

