



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 23 March, 2017

1. The House met at 11.19 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Wednesday, 22 March, 2017.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. **Announcement**

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

Mr Speaker recognized the presence of the following visitors:

- (i) Staff and Students of *Bloomingdale Schools*, Bwari, Abuja; and
 - (ii) Staff and Students of *Aunty Tessa Nursery & Primary School*, Mararaba, Nasarawa State.

- (b) **Dissolution of Ad-hoc Committees:**

Mr Speaker announced the dissolution of some *Ad-hoc* Committees set up before the establishment of Standing Committees of the House, including the following:

- (1) *Ad-hoc Committee to investigate alleged fraudulent practice in the collection and management of non-oil remittances by MDAs chaired by Hon. Chike Okafor.*
 - (2) *Ad-hoc Committee to investigate the award of contract for the installation of CCTV in Abuja and Lagos and failure of ZTE Corporation to complete the contract Chaired by Hon. Ahmed Yerima.*
 - (3) *Ad-hoc Committee for the screening of Mr President's nominees for the Office of Chief of Defence Staff and Service Chiefs of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria chaired by Hon. Garba Datti.*
 - (4) *Ad-hoc Committee to investigate the Federal Ministry of Transport and the Nigeria Railway Corporation and the awards of contracts chaired by Hon. E. J. Agbonayima.*

- (5) *Ad-hoc Committee on urgent need to investigate allegation of contract inflation in relation to the Mambila Multipurpose Dam and Hydroelectric Power Project chaired by Hon. Mohd Ali Wudil.*
 - (6) *Ad-hoc Committee on the request for an increase in the amount to be raised through the Diaspora Bond from the International Capital Market chaired by Hon. Babangida Ibrahim.*
 - (7) *Ad-hoc Committee on the huge debts and alleged fraudulent sale of banks by the Assets Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) chaired by Hon. Albert Adeogun.*
 - (8) *Ad-hoc Committee on non-transparent and fraudulent of power assets chaired by Hon. Mohd Idris Wase.*
 - (9) *Ad-hoc Committee to investigate the accounting procedures of Federal Inland Revenue Service chaired by Hon. Enyong Michael Okon.*
 - (10) *Ad-hoc Committee to intervene in the looming dispute in the Federal Ministry of Industry chaired by Hon. Aminu Suleiman.*
 - (11) *Ad-hoc Committee on the request for the special approval of Lagos State Development Policy Operations under the Federal Government External Borrowing Rolling Plan (2015-2017) chaired by Hon. Babangida Ibrahim.*
 - (12) *Ad-hoc Committee on non implementation of capital projects in the Appropriation Act 2015 chaired by Hon. Ahman Aliyu Pategi.*
 - (13) *Ad-hoc Committee to investigate the activities of Electricity Distribution Companies pertaining to infrastructure and billing chaired by Hon. Babajimi Benson.*
 - (14) *Ad-hoc Committee to investigate the withdrawal of ₦17 billion by the Federal Ministry of Finance from the account of the Sokoto Rima River Basin Authority chaired by Hon. Evelyn Oboro.*
 - (15) *Ad-hoc Committee to investigate the activities of Joint Task Force in the Niger Delta and that of Nigerian Agip Oil Company as relates to burning and destruction of equipment seized from Illegal Refineries chaired by Hon. Nasiru Sule Garo.*
 - (16) *Ad-hoc Committee on the request for approval to obtain \$75 million USD credit facility from the World Bank for Edo State chaired by Hon. Babangida Ibrahim.*
- (c) *Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Production and Distribution of the Drinks manufactured by the Nigeria Bottling Company Limited and other Drinks produced or marketed in Nigeria:*

Mr Speaker announced the membership of the Committee as follows:

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|-----|------------------------|---|----------|
| (1) | Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila | — | Chairman |
| (2) | Hon. Razaq Atunwa | — | Member |
| (3) | Hon. Simon Arabo | — | Member |
| (4) | Hon. M. S. Abdul | — | Member |
| (5) | Hon. Nkole Uko Ndukwe | — | Member |
| (6) | Hon. Rotimi Agunsoye | — | Member |
| (7) | Hon. Henry Archibong | — | Member |
| (8) | Hon. Yahaya Chado | — | Member |

(d) *Ad-hoc Committee on the Operational Activities of Telecommunications and Service Companies/Vendors in Nigeria:*

Mr Speaker announced the membership of the Committee as follows:

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|------|---------------------------|---|-----------------|
| (1) | Hon. Ahmed Abu | — | <i>Chairman</i> |
| (2) | Hon. Tajudeen Adekunle | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (3) | Hon. Tonny Nwulu | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (4) | Hon. Amuda Kanike Garba | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (5) | Hon. Kingsley Obinna | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (6) | Hon. Abiodun Dada Awoloye | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (7) | Hon. Jerome Amadi Eke | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (8) | Hon. Lawal Yahaya Gumau | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (9) | Hon. Daiyabu Safana | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (10) | Hon. Goodluck Opiah Nanah | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (11) | Hon. Munir B. Dan'Agundi | — | <i>Member</i> |

4. **Petition**

A petition from Olumuyiwa Ogunlami & Co. (Barristers and Solicitors), on behalf of Delfino Anthonia - Meranda and 3 other families, on the refusal of the Federal Government to pay all compensation on their lands acquired for the establishment of the University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos State, was presented and laid by Hon. Shadimu Mutiu Alao (*Oshodi-Isolo I Federal Constituency*).

Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

Need to Review and Ensure that Kaduna International Airport Complies with Operational and Safety Requirements as Contained in Prescribed Aerodrome Standards of the Nigeria Civil Aviation Acts and Regulation Issued in Respect Thereof:

Hon. Adeyinka Ajayi (*Odo-Otin/Ifelodun/Boripe 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 Review and Ensure that Kaduna International Airport Complies with Operational and Safety Requirements as Contained in Prescribed Aerodrome Standards of the Nigeria Civil Aviation Acts and Regulation Issued in Respect Thereof:

The House:

Informed that due to the temporary closure of Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport Abuja for runway repairs, *ad-hoc* flight operations has since commenced at the Kaduna International Airport as an alternate to the NAIA, Abuja;

Notes that following the resumption of flight activities into Kaduna as an alternate to Abuja, there has been an obvious increase in Aviation activities at the Kaduna International Airport;

Also notes that the General public, despite objections to the full closure of NAIA Abuja for a planned period of 6 weeks, were assured and reassured by the Ministry of Aviation, Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria, Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority, Nigeria Fire Service, Nigeria Airspace Management Agency and Meteorological Agency that the Airport will be ready, fit and safe to handle

the new traffic arising from its new status. The Foreign Airlines have refused to use the Kaduna International Airport except Ethiopian Airline which has been operating since operations commenced in Kaduna International Airport;

Concerned however, that despite all assurances, safety concerns have already began to surface around aviation activities at the Kaduna International Airport. The concerns are including but not limited to the following:

- (1) (a) ramp markings at the Kaduna International Airport is not adequate;
- (b) ramp marking restrictions is allegedly been violated by unauthorized users who go right through the Ramp marks and this violates international accepted standards relating to Airport safety regulations;
- (2) that Aircraft maneuvering and parking space is allegedly inadequate to accommodate the high number of Aircrafts now operating in and out of the Airport;

Disturbed that fueling installations and procedure at the Kaduna International Airport grossly fall short of International standard and pose grave danger to employees, passengers and general public;

Also disturbed that some Aviation marketers have been allegedly transferring Jet A-1 product from Bulk Road Tankers directly into bowsers right on the tarmac at the Kaduna International Airport, and discharging same into Aircrafts;

Further notes that these marketers could not have been licensed to operate at the Kaduna International Airport using this dangerous and illegal procedure. Neither do they have the requisite equipment for storage nor quality assurance kit needed to comply with required standards;

Worried that perimeter fencing and restriction of access to airside by livestock and local human traffic is allegedly not adequately covered thereby leaving the airside and runway vulnerable to invasion by livestock and locals which is dangerous to aircrafts, life and property;

Also aware that passenger processing at the Kaduna International Airport is allegedly very cumbersome, as no substantial space is allotted for passengers at various segment of the operations which often leads to confusion, stress, delay in flights and waste of precious time of passengers. Finally, if these observations and concerns are not urgently addressed, the nation stands the risk of:

- (1) losing our International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) license;
- (2) diminishing our reputation in the international rating;
- (3) it poses a lot of dangers to passengers and aircrafts safety;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Aviation to receive and review the Nigeria Civil Aviation authority audit report prepared by its Directorate of Aerodrome Standards to ascertain that industry acceptable standards of ramp safety is being complied with at the Kaduna International Airport and report back within one week (*Hon. Adeyinka Ajayi — Odo-Otin/Ifelodun/Boripe Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert a new Prayer (ii) as follows:*
"Urge the Ministry of Aviation to re-route all Kaduna-bound international flights to the Aminu Kano International Airport, Kano, which has all the facilities required for international flights operation in order to avert any disaster" (*Hon. Aliyu Madaki — Dala Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

- (ii) *Insert a new Prayer (ii) as follows:*
"Mandate the Committee on Aviation to inspect the extent of work done at the Abuja airport and report back" (*Hon. Prestige Ossy — Aba North/Aba South Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Informed that due to the temporary closure of Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport Abuja for runway repairs, *ad-hoc* flight operations has since commenced at the Kaduna International Airport as an alternate to the NAIA, Abuja;

Noted that following the resumption of flight activities into Kaduna as an alternate to Abuja, there has been an obvious increase in Aviation activities at the Kaduna International Airport;

Also noted that the General public, despite objections to the full closure of NAIA Abuja for a planned period of 6 weeks, were assured and reassured by the Ministry of Aviation, Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria, Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority, Nigeria Fire Service, Nigeria Airspace Management Agency and Meteorological Agency that the Airport will be ready, fit and safe to handle the new traffic arising from its new status. The Foreign Airlines have refused to use the Kaduna International Airport except Ethiopian Airline which has been operating since operations commenced in Kaduna International Airport;

Concerned however, that despite all assurances, safety concerns have already begun to surface around aviation activities at the Kaduna International Airport. The concerns are including but not limited to the following:

- (1) (a) ramp markings at the Kaduna International Airport is not adequate;
- (b) ramp marking restrictions is allegedly been violated by unauthorized users who go right through the Ramp marks and this violates international accepted standards relating to Airport safety regulations;
- (2) that Aircraft maneuvering and parking space is allegedly inadequate to accommodate the high number of Aircrafts now operating in and out of the Airport;

Disturbed that fueling installations and procedure at the Kaduna International Airport grossly fall short of International standard and pose grave danger to employees, passengers and general public;

Also disturbed that some Aviation marketers have been allegedly transferring Jet A-1 product from Bulk Road Tankers directly into bowsers right on the tarmac at the Kaduna International Airport, and discharging same into Aircrafts;

Further noted that these marketers could not have been licensed to operate at the Kaduna International Airport using this dangerous and illegal procedure. Neither do they have the requisite equipment for storage nor quality assurance kit needed to comply with required standards;

Worried that perimeter fencing and restriction of access to airside by livestock and local human traffic is allegedly not adequately covered thereby leaving the airside and runway vulnerable to invasion by livestock and locals which is dangerous to aircrafts, life and property;

Also aware that passenger processing at the Kaduna International Airport is allegedly very cumbersome, as no substantial space is allotted for passengers at various segment of the operations which often leads to confusion, stress, delay in flights and waste of precious time of passengers. Finally, if these observations and concerns are not urgently addressed, the nation stands the risk of:

- (1) losing our International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) license;
- (2) diminishing our reputation in the international rating;
- (3) it poses a lot of dangers to passengers and aircrafts safety;

Resolved to:

- (i) Mandate the Committee on Aviation to receive and review the Nigeria Civil Aviation authority audit report prepared by its Directorate of Aerodrome Standards to ascertain that industry acceptable standards of ramp safety is being complied with at the Kaduna International Airport and report back within one week; and
- (ii) also mandate the Committee on Aviation to inspect the extent of work done at the Abuja airport and report back (HR. 111/2017).

6. Presentation of Reports

(i) *Committee on Pensions:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Pensions on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Pension Practitioners of Nigeria and for Other Connected Purposes (HB. 726)" (Hon. Adamu Shekarau — Birnin/Gwari/Giwa Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) *Committee on Land Transport:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Land Transport on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigerian Railway Corporation Act, Cap. N129, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, and Re-enact the Nigerian Railway Act, Provide for the Establishment of the Nigerian Railway Authority; the Establishment of a Framework and Private Sector Participation in the Provision of Rail Services and Infrastructure and Provide for the Regulation of the Railway Sector and for Related Matters (HB. 22)" (Hon. Aminu Sani Isa — Isa/S. Bimi Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iii) *Committees on Land Transport, Aviation, Ports, Harbours and Waterways, and Maritime Safety, Education and Administration:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committees on Land Transport, Aviation, Ports, Harbours and Waterways, and Maritime Safety, Education and Administration on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the National Transport Commission as an Independent Multi-Modal Transport Sector Regulator for the Regulated Transport Industry and for Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 51)" (Hon. Aminu Sani Isa — Isa/S. Bimi Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

7. Consolidation of Bills

(i) *Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Regulate the Preparation, Presentation, Enactment, Implementation and Oversight of the Budget and for Other Related Matters (HB. 927), and a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Procedure for the Conception, Preparation and Presentation of Annual Budgets; the Implementation of same, Yearly Records, Disclosure of Information, Timeliness, Prioritization of Failure to Implement the Annual Budget in Accordance with the Appropriation Act (HB. 615) 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 Amend the National Honours Act, Cap. N43, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 by Subjecting the Nomination for the Award of National Honours to the Confirmation of the Senate and Stipulating Qualifications and Conditions for the Award and for Other Related Matters (HB. 654), and a Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Honours Act, Cap. N43, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and the Nigeria National Merit Award Act, Cap. N122, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Re-enact the Nigerian National Honours and Merit Award Commission to, among Other Things, Provide for the Establishment of a Commission that will Regulate Matters Related to National Honours and Merit Award in Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB. 559) be now consolidated" (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

8. A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal School of Medical Laboratory Technology (Science), Jos and to Provide for Courses leading to the Award of Diplomas and Certificates in Medical Laboratory Technology and Other Related Courses and for Related Matters (HB. 39) — Third Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal School of Medical Laboratory Technology (Science), Jos and to Provide for Courses leading to the Award of Diplomas and Certificates in Medical Laboratory Technology and Other Related Courses and for Related Matters (HB. 39) be now read the Third Time" (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time, and passed.

9. A Bill For an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Chartered Institute of Treasury Management for the Promotion, Study and Practice of Properly Managing the Treasury as a Safeguard against Fraud, Outright Embezzlement, Emasculation, Misappropriation/Misapplication of Resources Placed in the Custody of Fund Managers and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 100) — Third Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill For an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Chartered Institute of Treasury Management for the Promotion, Study and Practice of Properly Managing the Treasury as a Safeguard against Fraud, Outright Embezzlement, Emasculation, Misappropriation/Misapplication of Resources Placed in the Custody of Fund Managers and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 100) be now read the Third Time" (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time, and passed.

10. **A Bill for An Act to make Provisions for the Prohibition and Punishment of Sexual Harassment of Students in Educational Institutions and for Other Related Matters (HB. 843) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for An Act to make Provisions for the Prohibition and Punishment of Sexual Harassment of Students in Educational Institutions and for Other Related Matters (HB. 843)" (*Hon. Femi Gbajabamila — House Leader*).

Debate.

Debate adjourned.

Ordered: The House Leader should liaise with the Committee on Rules and Business to further examine the provisions of the Bill and advise the House.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal Sections 59-69 of the Police Act, Cap. P19, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Re-enact the Traffic Wardens Service which shall be Responsible for the Appointment, Promotion and Disciplining of Traffic Wardens and Issuance of Certificates of Appointment and for Other Related Matters (HB. 596) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal Sections 59-69 of the Police Act, Cap. P19, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Re-enact the Traffic Wardens Service which shall be Responsible for the Appointment, Promotion and Disciplining of Traffic Wardens and Issuance of Certificates of Appointment and for Other Related Matters (HB. 596) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Bassey Eko Ewa — Yakurr/Abi Federal Constituency and 5 others*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Police Affairs.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Auctioneers of Nigeria to Provide for, among Other Things, the Regulation, Control and to Determine the Standards of Knowledge to be Attained by People seeking to become Chartered Auctioneers and for Other Related Matters (HB. 599) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Auctioneers of Nigeria to Provide for, among Other Things, the Regulation, Control and to Determine the Standards of Knowledge to be Attained by People seeking to become Chartered Auctioneers and for Other Related Matters (HB. 599) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Austin Chukwukere — Ideato North/Ideato South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Commerce.

13. **A Bill for an Act to Further Amend the National Universities Commission (NUC) Act, Cap. N81, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for the Introduction of Parliamentary Studies as a Course in Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB. 494) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Further Amend the National Universities Commission (NUC) Act, Cap. N81, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for the Introduction of Parliamentary Studies as a Course in Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria and for

Other Related Matters (HB. 494) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Prestige Ossy — Aba North/Aba South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services.

14. **Receipt and Adoption of the Conference Committee Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigeria Air Force Institute of Technology, Kaduna to provide Technical Training for Personnel of the Nigeria Air Force and other Services of the Nigerian Armed Forces, and Other African Countries and for Other Connected Purposes**

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigeria Air Force Institute of Technology, Kaduna to provide Technical Training for Personnel of the Nigeria Air Force and other Services of the Nigerian Armed Forces, and Other African Countries and for Other Connected Purposes was passed by both the Senate and the House of Representatives with differences;

Aware that a Conference Committee was constituted by both Chambers to harmonize the areas of differences in the Bill as passed;

Also aware that the Committee met in conference on 14, 15, and 16 March, 2017 respectively and harmonized the two versions of the Bill;

In view of the importance of the Bill in creating a Technological, Research and Development Institute of a World Class Standard in all facets of Engineering and Technological endeavours in the country;

Resolves to:

Receive and Adopt the Conference Committee Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigeria Air Force Institute of Technology, Kaduna to provide Technical Training for Personnel of the Nigeria Air Force and other Services of the Nigerian Armed Forces, and Other African Countries and for Other Connected Purposes (*Hon. Muazu Lawal — Gummi/Bukkuyum Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

15. **Need to Complete the Oshodi/Mile 2 Expressway in Lagos State**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

16. **Need to Rehabilitate Eketa/Umuoga Road in Rivers State and Elelem Ngor in Imo State**
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes with utmost regret the deplorable state of Eketa/Umuoga/Elelem Ngor Road that links both Etche Local Government Area in Rivers State and Imo State;

Also notes that the road has Ekete market, one of the biggest markets in Etche Local Government Area located along it;

Concerned that the deplorable condition of the road is hampering commerce and transportation of food stuff to neighboring communities and States as a result of which the food stuff go bad on account of low patronage owing to the condition of the road;

Cognizant that governments all over the world are encouraging farming to meet the needs of their ever increasing population, hence the urgent need to rehabilitate the road to enable those communities contribute to the growth of the nation's economy;

Resolve to:

- (i) urge the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to rehabilitate the road; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to ensure implementation (*Hon. Jerome Amadi Eke — Etche/Omuma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 112/2017).

Motion referred to the Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

17. **Erosion and Flooding Disaster Threatening Lives and Properties at Idemili North and South Federal Constituency of Anambra State**
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that several communities in Idemili North/South Federal Constituency of Anambra State, including Obosi, Nkpor, Ogidi, Abatete, Alor, Ideani, Nnobi, Ojoto, Oba and others have, over the years, suffered untold hardships from gully erosion and perennial flooding which have displaced hundreds of families, made hectares of fertile farm lands useless and uprooted trees of economic value;

Concerned that roads linking those communities and their farmlands have now come under severe threats and it has now become an uphill task to access the farms to evacuate harvested crops and other items, a situation that could worsen food insecurity in the affected communities in particular and Anambra State in general;

Also concerned that various erosion management and flooding control self-help projects embarked upon by the communities have been ineffective and that with population growth and the gully erosion rapidly expanding, coupled with the perennial flooding, there might not be enough land to cater for the expanding population of the various communities in the foreseeable future;

Determined to address the menace of erosion and flooding threatening lives and properties in those communities;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Federal Government to direct the Ecological Fund Office to carry-out environmental impact assessment of the affected areas and embark on erosion and flood control projects to alleviate the sufferings of the inhabitants of those communities;
- (ii) also call on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to come to the aid of the affected communities and victims displaced by the erosion and flooding disaster; and

- (iii) mandate the Committee on Environment and Habitat to visit the erosion and flooding sites in the various communities, and make recommendations to the House within eight (8) weeks on measures to be adopted to ensure a permanent solution to the menace (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/ Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 113/2017).

Motion referred to the Committee on Environment and Habitat, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

18. Need to Provide Relief Materials, Food and Medical Supplies to Internally Displaced Persons in Konduga, Mafa and Dikwa Local Government Areas in Borno State

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that Konduga, Mafa and Dikwa Local Government Areas are among the worst hit Local Government Areas by the Boko Haram insurgency in Borno State, and almost the whole population of these areas were affected as a result of the insurgency;

Recalls that the people of these three Local Government Areas were displaced and are living in Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps or with relatives in Maiduguri, Borno State;

Also notes that with the relative peace in Borno State now, people have started returning to their respective Local Government Areas however, most of the returnees and other rescued captives of Boko Haram are still living in camps in their respective Local Government headquarters i.e. in Konduga, Mafa and Dikwa towns;

Worried that these camps are mostly overpopulated, with overstretched facilities which are inadequate for the sustenance of their inhabitants;

Also worried that there was a fire outbreak in the Konduga Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Camp on Wednesday, 16 March, where three people lost their lives, many others severely injured and the whole camp razed down;

Aware that though the Borno State Government is doing its best under the prevailing circumstances, the State's resources are equally overstretched due to the enormity of the problem across the State;

Further worried that the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and other residents in these Local Government Areas are prone to the risk of malnutrition/ hunger and diseases, hence the urgent need for the Federal Government to provide relief materials/ food items and medical supplies to complement the efforts of the State Government and other International Organizations;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Presidential Committee on North East Initiatives (PCNI) and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently provide adequate relief materials/ food items/medical supplies and other consumables to cater for the growing need of these traumatized people; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Refugees and Initiatives on North East Zone to ensure compliance (*Hon. Mahmud Lawan Maina — Dikwa/ Mafa/Konduga Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 114/2017).

Motion referred to the Committee on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Refugees and Initiatives on North East Zone, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

19. **Need to Investigate the Non-Remittance of ₦5.6 Billion by the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

20. **Need to Absorb Early Volunteers of Civil Defence into the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps**

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) was established in 2003 to complement the efforts of other Security Agencies in Nigeria;

Aware that before the establishment of the NSCDC, recruitment into the Civil Defence was voluntary by persons desirous to serve selflessly;

Also aware that the NSCDC has since its establishment complemented the efforts of the Nigerian Police Force and other Security Agencies;

Concerned that majority of the early volunteers of the Civil Defence Corps were not absorbed into the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps;

Regrets that since 2003, no concrete plans have been made to absorb the early volunteers of Civil Defence into the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, thereby worsening the unemployment situation in the country;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Interior to investigate the matter of non-absorption of early volunteers of Civil Defence into the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Opiah Goodluck Nanah — Ohaji /Egbema/Oguta/Oru West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) was established in 2003 to complement the efforts of other Security Agencies in Nigeria;

Aware that before the establishment of the NSCDC, recruitment into the Civil Defence was voluntary by persons desirous to serve selflessly;

Also aware that the NSCDC has since its establishment complemented the efforts of the Nigerian Police Force and other Security Agencies;

Concerned that majority of the early volunteers of the Civil Defence Corps were not absorbed into the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps;

Regretted that since 2003, no concrete plans have been made to absorb the early volunteers of Civil Defence into the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, thereby worsening the unemployment situation in the country;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Interior to investigate the matter of non-absorption of early volunteers of Civil Defence into the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 115/2017**).

21. Need to Stem the Rising Tide of Defaced, Filthy and Mutilated Currency Notes in Circulation
Motion made and Question propbed;

The House:

Notes with concern the alarming rate of mutilated currency notes in circulation which is now becoming a national embarrassment;

Also notes that for reasons best known to the banks, they are issuing torn, mutilated and unhygienic currency notes through the ATM machines and over the counter;

Aware that in 2014 six Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Officials along with sixteen Commercial Bank officials were arrested and charged by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) with fraud in an ₦8 Billion mega scam involving the theft and recirculation of defaced and mutilated currencies meant for destruction;

Observes that despite the arrest and subsequent prosecution of the culprits, there is still an existing Cartel in both the CBN and Commercial Banks who makes brisk business recycling old Naira notes meant for destruction, thereby enriching their bank accounts, acquiring properties through these illegal proceeds by converting the equivalent of the mutilated notes into their accounts and selling printed mint meant for customers to touts and hawkers;

Cognizant of the fact that Section 21 (4) of the CBN Act of 2007, makes it a punishable offence for any person to hawk, sell or trade in Naira notes, coins or any other notes issued by the apex bank;

Worried that most of these mutilated currency in circulation harbour pathogenic micro-organisms hazardous to human health and that infectious diseases like diarrhea, food poisoning and respiratory problems could be spread through these bacteria infected notes.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to, as a matter of urgency, withdraw and arrange for the destruction of mutilated currency notes in circulation and replace them with new ones;
- (ii) also urge the National Orientation agency to carry out a sustained public sensitization and enlightenment program to educate Nigerians on the need to handle the Naira notes cautiously and with care; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to conduct an investigation into the activities of these cartel by beaming its search light on the CBN, Commercial banks and other allied banks in order to ascertain those involved in these sharp practices of injecting mutilated and defaced notes into circulation and report back within 6 weeks (*Hon. Segun Adekola Alexander — Ekiti South West/Ikere/Ise/Orun Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:

“Also mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to compel Commercial Banks to always sort out mutilated Notes and ensure their repatriation to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), to stop the rejection and lodgment of mutilated cash Notes from the public and Commercial Banks respectively, especially when the serial numbers both at top left hand side and bottom of the right hand side” (*Hon. Danasabe Hosea — Gashaka/Kurimi/Sarduna Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with concern the alarming rate of mutilated currency notes in circulation which is now becoming a national embarrassment;

Also noted that for reasons best known to the banks, they are issuing torn, mutilated and unhygienic currency notes through the ATM machines and over the counter;

Aware that in 2014 six Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Officials along with sixteen Commercial Bank officials were arrested and charged by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) with fraud in an ₦8 Billion mega scam involving the theft and recirculation of defaced and mutilated currencies meant for destruction;

Observed that despite the arrest and subsequent prosecution of the culprits, there is still an existing Cartel in both the CBN and Commercial Banks who makes brisk business recycling old Naira notes meant for destruction, thereby enriching their bank accounts, acquiring properties through these illegal proceeds by converting the equivalent of the mutilated notes into their accounts and selling printed mint meant for customers to touts and hawkers;

Cognizant of the fact that Section 21 (4) of the CBN Act of 2007, makes it a punishable offence for any person to hawk, sell or trade in Naira notes, coins or any other notes issued by the apex bank;

Worried that most of these mutilated currency in circulation harbour pathogenic micro-organisms hazardous to human health and that infectious diseases like diarrhea, food poisoning and respiratory problems could be spread through these bacteria infected notes.

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to, as a matter of urgency, withdraw and arrange for the destruction of mutilated currency notes in circulation and replace them with new ones;
- (ii) also urge the National Orientation agency to carry out a sustained public sensitization and enlightenment program to educate Nigerians on the need to handle the Naira notes cautiously and with care;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to conduct an investigation into the activities of these cartel by beaming its search light on the CBN, Commercial banks and other allied banks in order to ascertain those involved in these sharp practices of injecting mutilated and defaced notes into circulation and report back within 6 weeks; and
- (iv) also mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to compel Commercial Banks to always sort out mutilated Notes and ensure their repatriation to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), to stop the rejection and lodgment of mutilated cash Notes from the public and Commercial Banks respectively, especially when the serial numbers both at top left hand side and bottom of the right hand side (**HR. 116/2017**).

22. **Need to Check the Manifest Lopsidedness in the Appointments of Directors for the Federal Airports Authority of Nigerian (FAAN) and Breach of the Federal Character Principles in Appointments into Public Offices**

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes with concern the apparent lopsidedness in the recent appointments of Directors for the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) which is in breach of the Federal Character principles as enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);

Also notes that recently, there has been lots of concerns and discontent about the apparent lopsidedness in appointments into public offices by the Federal Government and some of its agencies in favour of some region(s) and/or religion;

Further notes that about a week ago, the Vice President made some key appointments in the Aviation sector, wherein about six (6) Directors out of others were appointed along tribal and religious lines, to the detriment of other geopolitical zones of the country;

Aware of the clear provision of Section 14 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) which states that "the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be a State based on the principles of democracy and social justice";

Also aware of Section 14 (3) of the CFRN, 1999 (as amended) which states that "the composition of the Government of the Federation or any of its agencies and the conduct of its affairs shall be carried out in such a manner as to reflect the federal character of Nigeria and the need to promote national unity, and also to command national loyalty, thereby ensuring that there shall be no predominance of persons from a few States or from a few ethnic or other sectional groups in that Government or in any of its agencies";

Further aware that in a bid to achieve the above objectives the Federal Character Commission (FCC) was established under the Federal Character Commission (Establishment, etc.) Act, Cap. F7, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 "with responsibility to promote, monitor and enforce compliance with the principles of the proportional sharing of all bureaucratic, economic and political posts at all levels of government";

Worried that the Federal Government and the Federal Character Commission (FCC) are clearly in breach of the above principle as there exist numerous cases of lopsidedness in appointments, recruitments and sharing of Federal Government posts including recent recruitments by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), appointment into Boards and Parastatals (NCAA), (NEMA) and (FAAN), among others;

Cognizant that unless urgent steps are taken to check the prevailing imbalance in the appointment and sharing of Federal Government posts in the country, people will continue to be discontent and generally become despondent;

Concerned that the consistent breach of the Principles of Federal Character is likely to promote national disunity and disloyalty as well as heighten ethnic agitation and national insecurity;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) to urgently review its recent appointments of Directors and ensure compliance with section 14 (3) of the CFRN, 1999 (as amended); and

- (ii) mandate the Committee on Federal Character to undertake a comprehensive review of all appointments and recruitments made so far and report to the House on the level of compliance or otherwise with Section 14 (3) of the CFRN, 1999 (as amended) within four (4) weeks for further legislative action; and
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance of the resolution (*Hon. Kingsley Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with concern the apparent lopsidedness in the recent appointments of Directors for the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) which is in breach of the Federal Character principles as enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);

Also noted that recently, there has been lots of concerns and discontent about the apparent lopsidedness in appointments into public offices by the Federal Government and some of its agencies in favour of some region(s) and/or religion;

Further noted that about a week ago, the Vice President made some key appointments in the Aviation sector, wherein about six (6) Directors out of others were appointed along tribal and religious lines, to the detriment of other geopolitical zones of the country;

Aware of the clear provision of Section 14 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) which states that "the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be a State based on the principles of democracy and social justice";

Also aware of Section 14 (3) of the CFRN, 1999 (as amended) which states that "the composition of the Government of the Federation or any of its agencies and the conduct of its affairs shall be carried out in such a manner as to reflect the federal character of Nigeria and the need to promote national unity, and also to command national loyalty, thereby ensuring that there shall be no predominance of persons from a few States or from a few ethnic or other sectional groups in that Government or in any of its agencies";

Further aware that in a bid to achieve the above objectives the Federal Character Commission (FCC) was established under the Federal Character Commission (Establishment, etc.) Act, Cap. F7, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 "with responsibility to promote, monitor and enforce compliance with the principles of the proportional sharing of all bureaucratic, economic and political posts at all levels of government";

Worried that the Federal Government and the Federal Character Commission (FCC) are clearly in breach of the above principle as there exist numerous cases of lopsidedness in appointments, recruitments and sharing of Federal Government posts including recent recruitments by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), appointment into Boards and Parastatals (NCAA), (NEMA) and (FAAN), among others;

Cognizant that unless urgent steps are taken to check the prevailing imbalance in the appointment and sharing of Federal Government posts in the country, people will continue to be discontent and generally become despondent;

Concerned that the consistent breach of the Principles of Federal Character is likely to promote national disunity and disloyalty as well as heighten ethnic agitation and national insecurity;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) to urgently review its recent appointments of Directors and ensure compliance with section 14 (3) of the CFRN, 1999 (as amended);
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Federal Character to undertake a comprehensive review of all appointments and recruitments made so far by FAAN and report to the House on the level of compliance or otherwise with Section 14 (3) of the CFRN, 1999 (as amended) within four (4) weeks for further legislative action; and
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance of the resolution (HR. 117/2017).

23. Call on the Federal Government to Drop the 20% Tariff Imposed on Imported Medicines
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that the Minister of Finance, Mrs Kemi Adeosun has communicated the approval of the President of an Import Adjustment Tax list wherein 20% tax was imposed on medicines such as paracetamol tablets and syrup, chloroquine tablets and syrup, imported into the country;

Aware that until this Import Adjustment List, Nigeria had a 0% duty on imported drugs as a result of the recommendation of an ECOWAS Committee on Health that member states impose zero percent (0%) duty on imported drugs, given that the healthcare needs of the region cannot be adequately addressed by local manufacturing;

Concerned that the situation that necessitated the ECOWAS recommendation prior to 2013 has not abated, instead it has exacerbated;

Also concerned that the reintroduction of duty and imposition of a whopping 20% tax on imported medicines will aggravate the already deplorable condition of the nation's healthcare delivery system and could lead to high death rates;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Federal Government to delist medicines from the list of items that will attract imposition of duties until such a time that local manufacturing would have reasonably guaranteed not only the quality but the quantum of medicines to be administered in Nigeria; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Delegated Legislations to ensure implementation and report back in four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Henry Nwawuba — Mbaitoli/Ikeduru Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Minister of Finance, Mrs Kemi Adeosun has communicated the approval of the President of an Import Adjustment Tax list wherein 20% tax was imposed on medicines such as paracetamol tablets and syrup, chloroquine tablets and syrup, imported into the country;

Aware that until this Import Adjustment List, Nigeria had a 0% duty on imported drugs as a result of the recommendation of an ECOWAS Committee on Health that member states impose zero percent (0%) duty on imported drugs, given that the healthcare needs of the region cannot be adequately addressed by local manufacturing;

Concerned that the situation that necessitated the ECOWAS recommendation prior to 2013 has not abated, instead it has exacerbated;

Also concerned that the reintroduction of duty and imposition of a whopping 20% tax on imported medicines will aggravate the already deplorable condition of the nation's healthcare delivery system and could lead to high death rates;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the Federal Government to delist medicines from the list of items that will attract imposition of duties until such a time that local manufacturing would have reasonably guaranteed, not only the quality, but the quantum of medicines to be administered in Nigeria; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Delegated Legislations to ensure implementation and report back in four (4) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 118/2017**).

24. Need to Carry out Personnel and Infrastructure Audit in the Nigeria Police Force before the Deployment of the 10,000 Recruits

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that the Nigeria Police Force is primarily charged with the responsibility of ensuring the internal security of the country which entails the prevention and detection of crime, preservation of law and order and protection of lives and property, among other statutory duties;

Also notes the extant delicate security situation in the country, thus giving rise to the pertinent need to help the Force reposition itself to checkmate acts of terrorism, armed robbery, kidnaping, and other sundry crimes threatening the corporate existence of the nation;

Commends the recent bold strides by the Federal Government to increase the policing capacity through the ongoing recruitment exercise aimed at engaging ten thousand (10,000) officers and men;

Observes that due to rapid urban migration, certain cities and locations seem to have excess police personnel allocated to them to the detriment of a more equitable deployment of manpower to provide security for the common man, particularly in the rural areas, such as Unyeada, Inyoron, Ibotirem and Oyoroko communities in Andoni-Opobo/Nkoro Federal Constituency, which are home to at least 50,000 residents, yet not as many as twenty (20) police personnel are serving there and worse of all, Oyorokoto, the biggest fishing port in West Africa has no single police personnel or security infrastructure;

Concerned that the gains of the recent recruitment exercise may be lost if an adequate personnel and infrastructure audit of the Police Force is not carried out to guide a more equitable deployment and policing so as to improve the overall security architecture of the country;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, and National Security and Intelligence to liaise with the appropriate institutions of government to carry out a personnel and infrastructure audit of the Nigeria Police Force in order to guide the deployment of new recruits as well as revamping, for increased inclusiveness, the security/policing architecture of the country and report back to the House in six (6) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Awaji-Inombek D. Abiante — Andoni-Opobo/Nkoro Federal Constituency and 16 others*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Nigeria Police Force is primarily charged with the responsibility of ensuring the internal security of the country which entails the prevention and detection of crime, preservation of law and order and protection of lives and property, among other statutory duties;

Also noted the extant delicate security situation in the country, thus giving rise to the pertinent need to help the Force reposition itself to checkmate acts of terrorism, armed robbery, kidnaping, and other sundry crimes threatening the corporate existence of the nation;

Commended the recent bold strides by the Federal Government to increase the policing capacity through the ongoing recruitment exercise aimed at engaging ten thousand (10,000) officers and men;

Observed that due to rapid urban migration, certain cities and locations seem to have excess police personnel allocated to them to the detriment of a more equitable deployment of manpower to provide security for the common man, particularly in the rural areas, such as Unyeada, Inyoron, Ibotirem and Oyoroko communities in Andoni-Opobo/Nkoro Federal Constituency, which are home to at least 50,000 residents, yet not as many as twenty (20) police personnel are serving there and worse of all, Oyorokoto, the biggest fishing port in West Africa has no single police personnel or security infrastructure;

Concerned that the gains of the recent recruitment exercise may be lost if an adequate personnel and infrastructure audit of the Police Force is not carried out to guide a more equitable deployment and policing so as to improve the overall security architecture of the country;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, and National Security and Intelligence to liaise with the appropriate institutions of government to carry out a personnel and infrastructure audit of the Nigeria Police Force in order to guide the deployment of new recruits as well as revamping, for increased inclusiveness, the security/policing architecture of the country and report back to the House in six (6) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 119/2017**).

25. Need for Intervention in the Current Crises of Unpaid Pension Arrears Threatening the Lives of Nigeria's Retired Senior Citizens

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Aware that in the ongoing budgetary appropriations exercise, no provision was made for accrued benefits of pensioners under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) and the Defined Benefits Scheme (DBS);

Concerned that pensioners under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) who retired since 2015 have not been paid their pensions due to the failure of the Federal Government to contribute its statutory share of 5% to the Pension Redemption Fund in line with the Pension Reform Act, 2014 amounting to a total sum of ₦285,946,669,881.00 (Two hundred and Eighty Five Billion, Nine Hundred and Forty-Six million, Six Hundred and Sixty-Nine Thousand, Eight Hundred and Eighty-One Naira) only;

Also concerned that pensioners under the Defined Benefit Scheme (DBS) which include the Police Pensions, the Nigerian Customs Service, Nigeria Immigration Service, Nigerian Prisons Service, Civil Service and other parastatals are yet to be paid their 33% accrued arrears amounting to about ₦174 billion;

Worried that the delay in payment of pension arrears has resulted in dire situations where pensioners are wallowing in penury, sickness, hopelessness and regret for serving their fatherland diligently only to be abandoned by the government upon retirement;

Also worried that if urgent steps are not taken to pay the outstanding arrears within the current fiscal year, the much applauded Contributory Pension Scheme may collapse, leading to unimaginable consequences for the pensioners and the country as a whole;

Convinced that if the Federal Government could release bailout funds to pay outstanding workers' salaries, it behoves the government to do likewise for payment of pension arrears, which is its direct primary responsibility;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to provide emergency bailout funds to redeem all Federal Government pension liabilities;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Appropriations to liaise with its Senate counterpart to include the required funds for the payment of pension arrears under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) and the Defined Benefits Scheme (DBS) of the Federal Government in the 2017 Budget estimates; and
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Pensions to ensure compliance and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Toby Okechukwu — Aninri/Agwu/Oji-River Federal Constituency and 6 others*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Prayer (i), and *insert* a new Prayer (i) as follows:

“Mandate the Hon. Speaker and the Leadership of the House to liaise with the Leadership of the Senate, to get the buy-in and cooperation of the Executive branch in general and Mr President, Commander-in-Chief, President Muhammadu Buhari in particular to provide the required funds in the 2017 Appropriation Bill, or provide emergency bailout funds to redeem all the Federal Government pension liabilities” (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that in the ongoing budgetary appropriations exercise, no provision was made for accrued benefits of pensioners under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) and the Defined Benefits Scheme (DBS);

Concerned that pensioners under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) who retired since 2015 have not been paid their pensions due to the failure of the Federal Government to contribute its statutory share of 5% to the Pension Redemption Fund in line with the Pension Reform Act, 2014 amounting to a total sum of ₦285,946,669,881.00 (Two hundred and Eighty Five Billion, Nine Hundred and Forty-Six million, Six Hundred and Sixty-Nine Thousand, Eight Hundred and Eighty-One Naira) only;

Also concerned that pensioners under the Defined Benefit Scheme (DBS) which include the Police Pensions, the Nigerian Customs Service, Nigeria Immigration Service, Nigerian Prisons Service, Civil Service and other parastatals are yet to be paid their 33% accrued arrears amounting to about ₦174 billion;

Worried that the delay in payment of pension arrears has resulted in dire situations where pensioners are wallowing in penury, sickness, hopelessness and regret for serving their fatherland diligently only to be abandoned by the government upon retirement;

Also worried that if urgent steps are not taken to pay the outstanding arrears within the current fiscal year, the much applauded Contributory Pension Scheme may collapse, leading to unimaginable consequences for the pensioners and the country as a whole;

Convinced that if the Federal Government could release bailout funds to pay outstanding workers' salaries, it behoves the government to do likewise for payment of pension arrears, which is its direct primary responsibility;

Resolved to:

- (i) mandate the Hon. Speaker and the Leadership of the House to liaise with the Leadership of the Senate, to get the buy-in and cooperation of the Executive branch in general and Mr President, Commander-in-Chief, President Muhammadu Buhari in particular to provide the required funds in the 2017 Appropriation Bill, or provide emergency bailout funds to redeem all the Federal Government pension liabilities;
- (ii) also mandate the Committee on Appropriations to liaise with its Senate counterpart to include the required funds for the payment of pension arrears under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) and the Defined Benefits Scheme (DBS) of the Federal Government in the 2017 Budget estimates; and
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Pensions to ensure compliance and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 120/2017**).

26. Consideration of Reports

That items 21 - 24 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.

27. Adjournment

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

The House adjourned accordingly at 3.07 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker

