FOURTH REPUBLIC
8TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST SESSION
NO. 88

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 28 April, 2016

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, 27 April, 2016.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcement**

(*i*) ***Visitors in the Gallery*:**
Mr Speaker recognized the presence of Law Students Association, Houdegbe North American University, Benin, Edo State.

(*ii*) ***Sectoral Debate*:**
Mr Speaker announced that, in line with the Legislative Agenda of the House in the 8th Assembly, sectoral debates on the national economy have been scheduled to kick start with the under-listed Hon. Ministers addressing the House on the subject matters — "Diversification of the Nigerian economy", and "Real sector development":

S/No	*Name*	*Date*	*Time*
1.	Hon. Minister of Agriculture	Wednesday, 4 May, 2016	11.00 a.m.
2.	Hon. Minister of Finance	Wednesday, 4 May, 2016	1.00 p.m.
3.	Hon. Minister of Solid Minerals	Thursday, 5 May, 2016	11.00 a.m
4.	Hon. Minister Information, Culture and Tourism	Thursday, 5 May, 2016	1.00 p.m.
5.	Hon. Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment	Tuesday, 10 May, 2016	11.00 a.m.

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4. Petition

A Petition from the staff of African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing (ARCEDEM) on the non-payment of their salaries and the need for the resuscitation of the Centre, was presented and laid by Hon. Olatoye Temitope Sugar (*Lagelu/Akinyele Federal Constituency*).

Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Order VIII, Rule 46)

(*i*) *The Unfortunate Fire Disaster at the Historic Kurmi Market, Kano*:

Hon. Danburma Abubakar Nuhu (*Kano Municipal Federal Constituency*) introduced the subject matter and prayed the House to:

(*a*) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and

(*b*) suspend Order VIII, Rules 46 (3) and 49 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 VIII, Rules 46 (3) *and* 49 *to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.*

The Unfortunate Fire Disaster at the Historic Kurmi Market, Kano:

The House:

Notes the role plays by the historic Kurmi Market, Kano as an International Market of repute and being patronized by traders from many parts of the North, Niger Republic, Chad, Ghana, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic and Europe;

Also notes the role the market plays as a tourism attraction site because of its age, history and as a place where you can find traditional attires, apparels and goods;

Further notes that the market is the oldest market in Kano, dating to over 1,000 years;

Again notes with sorrow the unfortunate fire disaster at the historic market, Kano which occurred at the late hours of Tuesday, 26 April, 2016;

Highly disturbed that the fire outbreak, which is the second inferno in a year had unleashed havoc on traders and marketers in Kano as it destroyed about 100 shops with varieties of goods worth millions of Naira;

Regrets that the cause of the fire incident was not known or yet to be ascertained;

Also regrets that it took fire fighters a lot more to bring the fire to control because of the quantum of the inferno;

Worried that the resultant effect of the fire incident rendered many families and traders out of business as their capital base was destroyed;

Convinced of the strong need for the Federal Government, Kano State Government and well-spirited individuals to come to the rescue of the victims affected by the inferno;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Commiserate with the traders, people and government of Kano State; and

(*ii*) urge the Federal Government to liaise with Kano State Government to come out with adequate compensation to ameliorate the losses incurred by victims of the fire disaster (*Hon. Danburam Abubakar Nuhu — Kano Municipal Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

(*i*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*iii*) as follows:
"Urge the Federal Government to modernize all local markets to enable fire service vehicles pass through the streets within the markets" (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birnwa/Guri/Kirikasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(*ii*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*iv*) as follows:
"Urge the Local and Market Management Authorities, to ensure strict enforcement of planning and building codes to mitigate fire occurrences" (*Hon. Muhammad Sani Abdu — Alkaleri/Kurfi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(*iii*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*v*) as follows:
"Mandate the Committees on Interior, and National Emergency Disaster Preparedness to conduct an Investigative hearing on the frequent fire outbreaks in the country and suggest ways to eliminate or reduce it" (*Hon. Chris Azubogu — Nnewi North-South/Ekwusigo Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the role plays by the historic Kurmi Market, Kano as an International Market of repute and being patronized by traders from many parts of the North, Niger Republic, Chad, Ghana, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic and Europe;

Also noted the role the market plays as a tourism attraction site because of its age, history and as a place where you can find traditional attires, apparels and goods;

Further noted that the market is the oldest market in Kano, dating to over 1,000 years;

Again noted with sorrow the unfortunate fire disaster at the historic market, Kano which occurred at the late hours of Tuesday, 26 April, 2016;

Highly disturbed that the fire outbreak, which is the second inferno in a year had unleashed havoc on traders and marketers in Kano as it destroyed about 100 shops with varieties of goods worth millions of Naira;

Regretted that the cause of the fire incident was not known or yet to be ascertained;

Also regretted that it took fire fighters a lot more to bring the fire to control because of the quantum of the inferno;

Worried that the resultant effect of the fire incident rendered many families and traders out of business as their capital base was destroyed;

(*b*) suspend Order VIII, Rules 46 (3) and 49 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 VIII, Rules 46 (3) *and* 49 *to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.*

21 Days Notice of Strike Action by the National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) and Urgent Need to Intervene in the Proposed Strike:

The House:

Notes with great concern and dismay incidence of strike action in various sectors of our Nation, and particularly the 21 days' notice of strike recently issued on April 5, 2016 by National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) to the Federal Government of Nigeria;

Also notes that the recurring strikes in Nigeria has in recent times assumed an alarming dimension, resulting in low productivity and poor quality service delivery by various public institutions and by extension affected the socio-economic development of the country;

Further notes that health is of great importance in the well-being and development of any Nation, including Nigeria, thus **Section 17 (3) (*d*)** of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 states that the State **shall** direct its policy towards ensuring that "*there are adequate medical and health facilities for all persons*";

Aware of the provision of **Section 14 (2) (*b*)** of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, which states that "*the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government*";

Also aware of **Section 17 (3) (*b*) of the Constitution of the Republic of Nigeria, 1999** which provides that the State shall direct its policy towards ensuring that "*conditions of work are just and humane, and that there are adequate facilities for leisure and for social, religious and cultural life*";

Observes that in recent times, there has been numerous nation-wide strike actions in the health sector by bodies like the Joint Health Workers Union of Nigeria, and the National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) among others bodies that operate in that sector;

Also observes that the proposed strike by NARD bothers on issues of payment of salaries and wages of their members, particularly in Abia, Ekiti, Imo, Kogi and Osun States, among others. Other issues include better conditions of service; appropriate placement of their members in Federal and State tertiary hospitals across the country; reversal of sack of their members in some hospitals; adequate funding of residency programme; and upgrading of public health facilities;

Concerned that the recurring nature of these strikes in the nation's health sector has continued unabated and government's effort so far in addressing the problem have been mere palliatives and for the most part very ineffective as it does not seem to have a sustainable solution on how best to curb or deal with the problem(s);

Worried that unless and until positive and permanent or sustainable steps and efforts are taken to curb the incessant strikes in the health sector, achieving the health component or objective of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) would be unrealisable and the health and well-being of Nigerians would continue to be eroded and negatively affected;

Also worried that the proposed strike action by the NARD if not immediately checked or nipped in the bud would again ground health activities indefinitely across the country and further compound the sufferings faced by teeming Nigerian masses;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Mandate the Committees on Health, and Labour and Productivity to urgently intervene in the matter and ensure immediate resolution of the problems and report to the House within fourteen (14) days for further legislative action; and

(*ii*) urge the NARD to rescind its decision to embark on the planned nationwide strike in the interest of Nigerians and allow for the intervention of the National Assembly

(*Hon. Kingsley Chinda Ogundu — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question agreed to.

The House:

Noted with great concern and dismay incidence of strike action in various sectors of our Nation, and particularly the 21 days' notice of strike recently issued on April 5, 2016 by National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) to the Federal Government of Nigeria;

Also noted that the recurring strikes in Nigeria has in recent times assumed an alarming dimension, resulting in low productivity and poor quality service delivery by various public institutions and by extension affected the socio-economic development of the country;

Further noted that health is of great importance in the well-being and development of any Nation, including Nigeria, thus **Section 17 (3) (*d*)** of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 states that the State **shall** direct its policy towards ensuring that "*there are adequate medical and health facilities for all persons*";

Aware of the provision of **Section 14 (2) (*b*)** of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, which states that "*the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government*";

Also aware of **Section 17 (3) (*b*) of the Constitution of the Republic of Nigeria, 1999** which provides that the State shall direct its policy towards ensuring that "*conditions of work are just and humane, and that there are adequate facilities for leisure and for social, religious and cultural life*";

Observed that in recent times, there has been numerous nation-wide strike actions in the health sector by bodies like the Joint Health Workers Union of Nigeria, and the National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) among others bodies that operate in that sector;

Also observed that the proposed strike by NARD bothers on issues of payment of salaries and wages of their members, particularly in Abia, Ekiti, Imo, Kogi and Osun States, among others. Other issues include better conditions of service; appropriate placement of their members in Federal and State tertiary hospitals across the country; reversal of sack of their members in some hospitals; adequate funding of residency programme; and upgrading of public health facilities;

Concerned that the recurring nature of these strikes in the nation's health sector has continued unabated and government's effort so far in addressing the problem have been mere palliatives and for the most part very ineffective as it does not seem to have a sustainable solution on how best to curb or deal with the problem(s);

Worried that unless and until positive and permanent or sustainable steps and efforts are taken to curb the incessant strikes in the health sector, achieving the health component or objective of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) would be unrealisable and the health and well-being of Nigerians would continue to be eroded and negatively affected;

Also worried that the proposed strike action by the NARD if not immediately checked or nipped in the bud would again ground health activities indefinitely across the country and further compound the sufferings faced by teeming Nigerian masses;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Mandate the Committees on Health, and Labour and Productivity to urgently intervene in the matter and ensure immediate resolution of the problems and report to the House within fourteen (14) days for further legislative action; and

(*ii*) urge the NARD to rescind its decision to embark on the planned nationwide strike in the interest of Nigerians and allow for the intervention of the National Assembly (**HR. 154/2016**).

Motion referred to the Committee on Health Institutions and Services.

6. Presentation and First Reading of Bill

Office of the Accountant General of the Federal Government (Establishment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 506) was presented and read the *First Time* by the Clerk.

7. A Bill for an Act to Establish the Independent National Electoral Institute; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 129) — *Second Reading*

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

8. A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Universities Commission Act, Cap. N81, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to empower the Commission to set out Code of Conduct for Assessment of Universities' Students' Characters alongside Academic Performances as Condition precedent to award of Degrees to deserving Students and a Bill for an Act to make it Mandatory for immediate issuance and Release of Certificates to Graduating Students in all Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 56 and HB. 439) — *Second Reading*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Universities Commission Act, Cap. N81, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to empower the Commission to set out Code of Conduct for Assessment of Universities' Students' Characters alongside Academic Performances as Condition precedent to award of Degrees to deserving Students and a Bill for an Act to make it Mandatory for immediate issuance and Release of Certificates to Graduating Students in all Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 56 and HB. 439) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Musa Sarkin Adar — Goronyo/Gada Federal Constituency and* 1 *other*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time by the Clerk.

Bill referred to the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Act, Cap. C52, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Increase the Functions of the Commission; and a Bill for an Act to Introduce Peace Studies as part of the Basic National Curricular in both the Junior and Secondary Schools in Nigeria; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 419 and HB. 420) — *Second Reading***

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Communications Act, Cap. N97, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to provide for Regulation of Unsolicited Telephone Communications from all Communication Industries in Nigeria and to make Provision for the Promotion of online safety that will require Internet Service Providers and Mobile Phone Operators to Provide a Service that excludes Adult Content; and a Bill for an Act to Prohibit Sales of Pre-Registered and falsely or illegally Registered Sim Cards; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB.422, HB. 423) — *Second Reading***

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Urban Development Bank of Nigeria, Act, Cap. U16, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Infrastructure Bank of Nigeria Act, 2016 for the purposes of Encouraging Infrastructural Development through the provision of Financial Assistance on qualified Infrastructure Projects selected by the Bank; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 470) — *Second Reading***

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

12. **A Bill for an Act Repeal the National Agricultural Seeds Act, Cap. N5, LFN, 2004 and Re-enact the National Agricultural Seeds Council, 2016; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 472) — *Second Reading***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act Repeal the National Agricultural Seeds Act, Cap. N5, LFN, 2004 and Re-enact the National Agricultural Seeds Council, 2016; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 472) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time by the Clerk.

Bill referred to the Committee on Agricultural Production Services.

13. **Need to Ascertain the Status of Recovered Public Funds**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes with concern the recent statement by the Hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of the Federation that the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), has so far recovered more than $2trillion (over ₦400 trillion at the current rate) looted from the national treasury, in its twelve years of existence;

Also notes that further recoveries have been made by the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC), National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and Department of State Services (DSS), in addition to the huge amounts of money returned by those who, at various times, entered into plea-bargain with the EFCC;

Further notes the present government's assertion that some former officials of the previous government have been returning unspecified sums to the treasury;

Aware that for many years now, successive Governments have continued to take possession of billions of dollars of looted public funds returned from various parts of the world, with Switzerland returning a higher percentage of the amounts;

Concerned about the persistent confusion as to the exact amount that had been recovered, and what happened to it;

Also concerned that successive governments have not been transparent regarding their management or spending of recovered public assets, giving vent to the allegations that some of the recovered funds may have been spent, mismanaged or simply disappeared;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Mandate the Committee on Public Accounts to carry out a comprehensive investigation of public funds and assets recovered from 1999 till date, particularly but not limited to the uses to which such funds had been put, with a view to reporting to the House within 3 months on the status of the funds;

(*ii*) urge the government to set out clear rules on how recovered funds should be utilized and ensure strict accountability in its disbursement in line with extant laws and national priorities; and

(*iii*) also mandate the Committee on Financial Crimes to investigate whether any crime may have been committed in the course of the management and disbursements of the recovered funds in the last 12 years (*Hon. Segun Adekola Alexander — Ekiti Southwest/Ikere/Ise/Orun Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question agreed to.

The House:

Noted with concern the recent statement by the Hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of the Federation that the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), has so far recovered more than $2trillion (over ₦400 trillion at the current rate) looted from the national treasury, in its twelve years of existence;

Also noted that further recoveries have been made by the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC), National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and Department of State Services (DSS), in addition to the huge amounts of money returned by those who, at various times, entered into plea-bargain with the EFCC;

Further noted the present government's assertion that some former officials of the previous government have been returning unspecified sums to the treasury;

Aware that for many years now, successive Governments have continued to take possession of billions of dollars of looted public funds returned from various parts of the world, with Switzerland returning a higher percentage of the amounts;

Concerned about the persistent confusion as to the exact amount that had been recovered, and what happened to it;

Also concerned that successive governments have not been transparent regarding their management or spending of recovered public assets, giving vent to the allegations that some of the recovered funds may have been spent, mismanaged or simply disappeared;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Mandate the Committee on Public Accounts to carry out a comprehensive investigation of public funds and assets recovered from 1999 till date, particularly but not limited to the uses to which such funds had been put, with a view to reporting to the House within 3 months on the status of the funds;

(*ii*) urge the government to set out clear rules on how recovered funds should be utilized and ensure strict accountability in its disbursement in line with extant laws and national priorities; and

(*iii*) also mandate the Committee on Financial Crimes to investigate whether any crime may have been committed in the course of the management and disbursements of the recovered funds in the last 12 years (**HR. 155/2016**).

Motion referred to the Committees on Public Accounts, and Finance.

14. Privilege (Order VI, Rule 19 and 20)

Hon. Namdas Abdulrazaq Sa'ad (*Mayo Belwa/Ganya/Jada/Toungo Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to a recent news report on the Hausa Service of the Voice of America (VOA) in which Hon. Bala Muhammadu Farouk was quoted as saying that each Member of the House received the sum of one hundred million Naira (₦100m) from the Federal Government for Zonal Intervention Programme. He stressed that the report was misleading and noted that Hon. Bala Muhammadu Farouk could have been misquoted. He therefore viewed the report as a breach of his privilege and that of the House, and thus urged the House to address the matter with a view to correcting the misinformation.

Mr Speaker invited Hon. Bala Muhammadu Farouk to respond to the allegation.

In his response, Hon. Bala Muhammadu Farouk stated that the report was a gross misrepresentation of the interview he granted to the Voice of America (VOA), Hausa Service. He expressed his unreserved apology for the damage caused by the misrepresentation.

Mr Speaker welcomed comments from some Honourable Members on the matter.

Mr Speaker noted the apology by Hon. Bala Muhammadu Farouk and ordered that he should correct the misrepresentation through the same media organization — Voice of America (VOA), Hausa Service and report progress to the House next week.

15. Need to Initiate Measures to Address the Menace of Overloading of Commercial Vehicles
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Aware of the prevalent practice of overloading of commercial vehicles plying the nation's roads, given the attendant risks to passengers;

Also aware that the additional loads being carried by the vehicles accelerate the deterioration of the road network, leading to rutting, fatigue, cracking and in certain cases, structural failure, which undoubtedly contribute to the plethora of accidents on the highways, not to mention reduced performance of the vehicles while trying to cope with the excess load;

Concerned about the damage to the roads arising from overloading of vehicles which result in higher maintenance costs and in turn, place an additional burden on the country, as well as to other road users who, ultimately suffer the consequences of the menace;

Also concerned that agencies like the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) and the Vehicle Inspection Offices (VIO) charged with the responsibility of managing the uses of the road network appear to have been overwhelmed by the menace;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) to initiate measures to address the menace; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on FRSC to ensure compliance (*Hon. Abbas Tajudeen — Zaria Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

(*i*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*iii*) as follows:
"Urge the Ministry of Works to ensure that weigh bridges across the country are repaired and reactivated to ensure their use for the enforcement of approved weights on the road" (*Hon. Chris Azubogu — Nnewi North South/Ekwusigo Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(*ii*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*iv*) as follows:
"Urge the National Orientation Agency (NOA) to enlighten the public on the danger of overloading vehicles on the lives of road users and destruction of road infrastructure" (*Hon. Muhammad Umar Jega — Aliero/Gwandu/Jega Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Aware of the prevalent practice of overloading of commercial vehicles plying the nation's roads, given the attendant risks to passengers;

Also aware that the additional loads being carried by the vehicles accelerate the deterioration of the road network, leading to rutting, fatigue, cracking and in certain cases, structural failure, which undoubtedly contribute to the plethora of accidents on the highways, not to mention reduced performance of the vehicles while trying to cope with the excess load;

Concerned about the damage to the roads arising from overloading of vehicles which result in higher maintenance costs and in turn, place an additional burden on the country, as well as to other road users who, ultimately suffer the consequences of the menace;

Also concerned that agencies like the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) and the Vehicle Inspection Offices (VIO) charged with the responsibility of managing the uses of the road network appear to have been overwhelmed by the menace;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) to initiate measures to address the menace;

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on FRSC to ensure compliance;

(*iii*) also urge the Ministry of Works to ensure that weigh bridges across the country are repaired and reactivated to ensure their use for the enforcement of approved weights on the road; and

(*iv*) further urge the National Orientation Agency (NOA) to enlighten the public on the danger of overloading vehicles on the lives of road users and destruction of road infrastructure (**HR. 156/2016**).

Motion referred to the Committees on Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Information, National Orientation, Ethics and Values, and Works.

16. Consideration of Report

Committee on Interior:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Interior on Criminal Act of Assault and Battery Allegedly committed on Hon. Onyemaechi Joan Mrakpor by Men and Officers of the Nigerian Prison Service and approve the recommendations therein" (*Hon. Orkev-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

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

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do suspend Order VII, Rule 25 (2) to enable Mr Speaker preside in the Committee of Whole" (*Hon. Orkev-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(*Mr Speaker in the Chair*)

Consideration deferred to enable the Committee on Interior re-work the report after taking evidence from one of the accused persons who was reported to be unavoidably absent to defend himself at the hearing of the Committee, having regards to the doctrine of fair hearing guaranteed under the Constitution.

Chairman to report proceedings.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Speaker in the Chair reported that the House in Committee of the Whole deferred consideration of the Report of the Committee on Interior on Criminal Act of Assault and Battery Allegedly committed on Hon. Onyemaechi Joan Mrakpor by Men and Officers of the Nigerian Prison Service to enable the Committee to re-work the Report.

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

17. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 3 *May*, 2016 *at* 11.00 *a.m.* (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.33 *p.m.*

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker