FOURTH REPUBLIC
8TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SECOND SESSION
NO. 35

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 3 November, 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, 2 November, 2016.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. Announcement
Visitors in the Gallery:
Mr Speaker recognized the presence of the following visitors:

(*i*) Members of *Arewa Youth Parliament* (*AYP*), Kaduna, Kaduna State; and

(*ii*) Staff and Students of *Royal Destiny International Schools*, Kubwa, Abuja.

4. Petition
A petition from Kolawole Olasupo and another, on behalf of Joteco Systems Limited, for non-payment of outstanding debt due to them by the Nigerian Copyright Commission, was presented and laid by Hon. Babajimi Benson (*Ikorodu Federal Constituency*).

Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)
(*i*) *Need for the Federal Government to Declare a State of Emergency Against the Scourge of Malaria in Northern Nigeria*:
Hon. Abubakar Chika Adamu (*Shiroro/Rafi/Munya 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.**

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Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) *to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.*

Need for the Federal Government to Declare a State of Emergency against the Scourge of Malaria in Northern Nigeria:

The House:

Notes that Northern Nigeria has been ravaged by the scourge of malnutrition and famine which has left many, especially women and children susceptible to diseases, especially malaria;

Also notes that a fact sheet released in 2010 by the US Department of State revealed that malaria was listed as one of the top causes of death in Nigeria, that over 300,000 deaths are recorded annually in Nigeria from malaria, more than the fatalities caused by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which kills about 215,000 Nigerians annually;

States that between January and August 2015, 91,000 patients were treated for malaria in Kano State;

Also states that from January to August 2016, 403,200 patients reported sick in the hospital in Kano State and 350,000 were treated for malaria, and that about 43,000 patients are treated for malaria monthly, making it a total of 96% of malaria cases recorded in Kano and in Kaduna States, with Yusuf Dantsoho General Hospital, 11,000 malaria cases within a week; in Shiroro/Rafi/Munya Federal Constituency, recorded 6,000 cases of regarding malaria every week. These are only cases in General hospitals;

Recognizes that West Africa is a malaria prone zone, but there are preventive and curative measures that can be taken by both the government and individuals to secure the lives of the citizenry from this deadly disease called malaria, which has now assumed an alarming proportion;

Also recognizes that donor agencies and development partners have pumped funds and other resources into Nigeria for the prevention and treatment of malaria, particularly between 2006 and 2009, when the World Bank committed a total of $180 million dollars into malaria Booster programmes in Gombe, Kano, Jigawa, Adamawa, Anambra, Rivers and Akwa Ibom States;

Aware that the Federal Government, through the Ministry of Health, needs to support the efforts of the State Governments in Northern Nigeria, to combat the deadly scourge of malaria by providing resources to clean mosquito breeding grounds as well as educate and help families to protect themselves from malaria;

Alarmed that despite all these programmes like the celebration of the World Malaria Day every 25th of April and monies spent on the treatment of malaria, malaria still accounts for loss of three billion US dollars annually in Nigeria according to recent claim by Society for Family Health, monies which should ordinarily pay annual minimum wage of 2.2 million Nigerians;

Resolves to:

(*i*) urge the Federal Government to declare a State of emergency on malaria in Nigeria particularly in Northern Nigeria by mandating the Federal Ministry of Health to immediately mobilize personnel to fumigate the Northern States with chemicals to combat malaria outbreak that is currently ravaging the nation; and

(*ii*) also urge the Federal Government to immediately assess the affected areas and provide them with free drugs, and clear the markets of substandard malaria drugs (*Hon. Abubakar Chika Adamu — Shiroro/Rafi/Munya Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:
In Prayer (*i*), immediately after the words "malaria in", *leave out* the words "Nigeria, particularly Northern Nigeria" and *insert* the words "the country" (*Hon. Amuda-Kannike Abubakar Garba — Ilorin East/Ilorin South Federal Constituency*).

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

Question on the Motion as amended — ***Agreed to.***

The House:

Noted that Northern Nigeria has been ravaged by the scourge of malnutrition and famine which has left many, especially women and children susceptible to diseases, especially malaria;

Also noted that a fact sheet released in 2010 by the US Department of State revealed that malaria was listed as one of the top causes of death in Nigeria, that over 300,000 deaths are recorded annually in Nigeria from malaria, more than the fatalities caused by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which kills about 215,000 Nigerians annually;

Stated that between January and August 2015, 91,000 patients were treated for malaria in Kano State;

Also stated that from January to August 2016, 403,200 patients reported sick in the hospital in Kano State and 350,000 were treated for malaria, and that about 43,000 patients are treated for malaria monthly, making it a total of 96% of malaria cases recorded in Kano and in Kaduna States, with Yusuf Dantsoho General Hospital, 11,000 malaria cases within a week; in Shiroro/Rafi/Munya Federal Constituency, recorded 6,000 cases of regarding malaria every week. These are only cases in General hospitals;

Recognized that West Africa is a malaria prone zone, but there are preventive and curative measures that can be taken by both the government and individuals to secure the lives of the citizenry from this deadly disease called malaria, which has now assumed an alarming proportion;

Also recognized that donor agencies and development partners have pumped funds and other resources into Nigeria for the prevention and treatment of malaria, particularly between 2006 and 2009, when the World Bank committed a total of $180 million dollars into malaria Booster programmes in Gombe, Kano, Jigawa, Adamawa, Anambra, Rivers and Akwa Ibom States;

Aware that the Federal Government, through the Ministry of Health, needs to support the efforts of the State Governments in Northern Nigeria, to combat the deadly scourge of malaria by providing resources to clean mosquito breeding grounds as well as educate and help families to protect themselves from malaria;

Alarmed that despite all these programmes like the celebration of the World Malaria Day every 25th of April and monies spent on the treatment of malaria, malaria still accounts for loss of three billion US dollars annually in Nigeria according to recent claim by Society for Family Health, monies which should ordinarily pay annual minimum wage of 2.2 million Nigerians;

Resolved to:

(*i*) urge the Federal Government to declare a State of emergency against malaria in the country by mandating the Federal Ministry of Health to immediately mobilize personnel to fumigate all the States in the country with chemicals to combat malaria outbreak that is currently ravaging the nation; and

(*ii*) also urge the Federal Government to immediately assess the affected areas and provide them with free drugs and clear the market from substandard malaria drugs (HR. 168/2016).

(*ii*) *Need to Investigate Accruals, Management and Disbursement of Nigerian Content Development Fund*:
Hon. Ferdinand Dozie Nwankwo (*Anaocha/Njikoka/Dunukofia Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

(*b*) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) *to enable it debate the matter forthwith* — ***Agreed to.***

Need to Investigate Accruals, Management and Disbursement of Nigerian Content Development Fund:

The House:

Notes that for several years, contracts and personnel involved in the oil and gas industry were largely dominated by foreigners who did most of the job abroad, because indigenous contractors lacked the capacity, to compete and this ensured that Nigerians did not benefit optimally from the huge business opportunities involved in oil and gas market;

Also notes that the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industries Content Development Act was enacted in 2010 to increase participation of local contractors by, among other things, assisting them with credit facilities and ensuring capacity building through the Nigerian Content Development Fund established under the Act;

Aware that the fund consists of 1% of every contract awarded to operators, contractors, subcontractors, alliance partners or any other entity involved in any project, operation, activity or transaction in the upstream sector of the Nigerian oil and gas industry;

Also aware that the fund which is managed by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board, is alleged to have risen to over 1 Billion US dollars as at July 2016;

Concerned that since its inception, the fund has been lying waste and indigenous contractors have been unable to access the fund due to rigid terms and conditions, as well as discouraging process of application set by commercial banks;

Also concerned about new terms and conditions for accessing the fund under the latest arrangement in July 2016, whereby the Bank of Industry was made the custodian and manager of $100 million dollars from the fund, from which credit facilities could be granted to local contractors in the oil and gas sector;

Worried that the fund may be open to mismanagement and misuse especially as it is largely unused, and local contractors are in need of financial assistance now more than ever, as the country is going through economic recession;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee of the House to investigate the matter and report back to the House within six (6) weeks for further legislative actions (*Hon. Ferdinand Dozie Nwankwo — Anaocha/Njikoka/Dunukofia Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that for several years, contracts and personnel involved in the oil and gas industry were largely dominated by foreigners who did most of the job abroad, because indigenous contractors lacked the capacity, to compete and this ensured that Nigerians did not benefit optimally from the huge business opportunities involved in oil and gas market;

Also noted that the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industries Content Development Act was enacted in 2010 to increase participation of local contractors by, among other things, assisting them with credit facilities and ensuring capacity building through the Nigerian Content Development Fund established under the Act;

Aware that the fund consists of 1% of every contract awarded to operators, contractors, subcontractors, alliance partners or any other entity involved in any project, operation, activity or transaction in the upstream sector of the Nigerian oil and gas industry;

Also aware that the fund which is managed by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board, is alleged to have risen to over 1 Billion US dollars as at July 2016;

Concerned that since its inception, the fund has been lying waste and indigenous contractors have been unable to access the fund due to rigid terms and conditions, as well as discouraging process of application set by commercial banks;

Also concerned about new terms and conditions for accessing the fund under the latest arrangement in July 2016, whereby the Bank of Industry was made the custodian and manager of $100 million dollars from the fund, from which credit facilities could be granted to local contractors in the oil and gas sector;

Worried that the fund may be open to mismanagement and misuse especially as it is largely unused, and local contractors are in need of financial assistance now more than ever, as the country is going through economic recession;

Resolved to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee of the House to investigate the matter and report back to the House within six (6) weeks for further legislative actions (**HR. 169/2016**).

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (4) to enable it consider more than 2 Motions on Matters of Urgent Public Importance" (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(*iii*) ***Need for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to Comply with Section 91 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and Immediately Release all Suppressed State Constituencies Across the Country:***
Hon. Chinda Kingsley (*Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

(*b*) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) *to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.*

Need for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to Comply with Section 91 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and Immediately Release all Suppressed State Constituencies Across the Country:

The House:

Notes with great concern the failure by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to carry out proper delimitation or delineation of electoral constituencies in several States of the country in line with the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999;

Also notes that INEC's action has thereby denied people of such affected States and constituencies of their constitutionally guaranteed right to adequate representation at the State Houses of Assembly;

Further notes that the above constitutional provisions are mandatory, thus failure to comply with any of them is unconstitutional;

Equally notes that presently, there are about Sixty Six (66) such constituencies spread across Nineteen States of the Federation, viz: Akwa Ibom (4); Anambra (3); Bauchi (5); Benue (4); Borno (2); Delta (1); Edo (3); Imo (3); Jigawa (3); Kaduna (6); Katsina (6); Kogi (2); Niger (3); Ogun (1); Ondo (1); Osun (1); Oyo (8); Rivers (7); and Sokoto (3);

Aware that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is established under Section 153 (1) (*f*) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFRN), 1999 (as amended) and under the Electoral Act, Cap. E6, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004;

Also aware that INEC has power to delimit or delineate electoral Constituencies as provided under Sections 71 (*a*) and (*b*); and Sections 112, 113, 114 (1) and (2) of the CFRN, 1999;

Further aware that Section 91 of the CFRN, 1999 (as amended) provides that "*subject to the provisions of this Constitution, a House of Assembly of a State shall consist of three or four times the number of seats which that State has in the House of Representatives divided in a way to reflect, as far as possible, nearly equal population, provided that a House of Assembly of a State shall consist of not less than twenty four and not more than forty members*";

Concerned that there has been non-compliance with Section 91 of the CFRN, 1999, thus several States in the country are under-represented in the various State Houses of Assembly due to INEC's deliberate neglect, refusal and, or failure to further delineate State electoral Constituencies across the country, in line with the Constitution;

Also concerned that INEC's inaction has led to a shortfall in the minimum number of seats allowed by the CFRN, 1999 in respect of the affected 14 States;

Worried that INEC's inaction has thereby denied people of such affected States and Constituencies of their constitutionally guaranteed right to adequate representation at the various State Houses of Assembly and by extension led to a denial of the peoples' right to properly participate in critical issues that have come for deliberation before the various Assemblies;

Resolves to:

(*i*) urge INEC to immediately release all the suppressed State Constituencies across the country in line with the provision of Section 91 of the CFRN, 1999 and the 2006 population figures and forward same to the National Assembly for ratification; and

(*ii*) forward this Resolution to the Senate for concurrence (*Hon. O. Kingsley Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with great concern the failure by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to carry out proper delimitation or delineation of electoral constituencies in several States of the country in line with the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999;

Also noted that INEC's action has thereby denied people of such affected States and constituencies of their constitutionally guaranteed right to adequate representation at the State Houses of Assembly;

Further noted that the above constitutional provisions are mandatory, thus failure to comply with any of them is unconstitutional;

Equally noted that presently, there are about Sixty Six (66) such constituencies spread across Nineteen States of the Federation, viz: Akwa Ibom (4); Anambra (3); Bauchi (5); Benue (4); Borno (2); Delta (1); Edo (3); Imo (3); Jigawa (3); Kaduna (6); Katsina (6); Kogi (2); Niger (3); Ogun (1); Ondo (1); Osun (1); Oyo (8); Rivers (7); and Sokoto (3);

Aware that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is established under Section 153 (1) (*f*) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFRN), 1999 (as amended) and under the Electoral Act, Cap E6, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004;

Also aware that INEC has power to delimit or delineate electoral Constituencies as provided under Sections 71 (*a*) and (*b*); and Sections 112, 113, 114 (1) and (2) of the CFRN, 1999;

Further aware that Section 91 of the CFRN, 1999 (as amended) provides that "*subject to the provisions of this Constitution, a House of Assembly of a State shall consist of three or four times the number of seats which that State has in the House of Representatives divided in a way to reflect, as far as possible, nearly equal population, provided that a House of Assembly of a State shall consist of not less than twenty four and not more than forty members*";

Concerned that there has been non-compliance with Section 91 of the CFRN, 1999, thus several States in the country are under-represented in the various State Houses of Assembly due to INEC's deliberate neglect, refusal and, or failure to further delineate State electoral Constituencies across the country, in line with the Constitution;

Also concerned that INEC's inaction has led to a shortfall in the minimum number of seats allowed by the CFRN, 1999 in respect of the affected 14 States;

Worried that INEC's inaction has thereby denied people of such affected States and Constituencies of their constitutionally guaranteed right to adequate representation at the various State Houses of Assembly and by extension led to a denial of the peoples' right to properly participate in critical issues that have come for deliberation before the various Assemblies;

Resolved to:

(*i*) urge INEC to immediately release all the suppressed State Constituencies across the country in line with the provision of Section 91 of the CFRN, 1999 and the 2006 population figures and forward same to the National Assembly for ratification; and

(*ii*) forward this Resolution to the Senate for concurrence (**HR. 170/2016**).

(*iv*) ***Need to Investigate the Committee Set Up by the Presidency and Office of the National Security Adviser, in Respect of Arms Procurement:***
Hon. Chris Azubogu (*Nnewi North/Nnewi South/Ekwusigo 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.*

Urgent Need to Investigate the Committee Set Up by the Presidency and Office of the National Security Adviser in Respect of Arm Procurement:

The House:

Recalls that the Presidency inaugurated a Presidential Committee on Procurement on 31 August, 2015 to review all procurement undertaken, and to conclude the assignment within 90 days;

Notes that the Committee had requested for an extension of 2 weeks to conclude the assignment which was granted;

Also notes that up till now the Committee has not submitted its report, this has led to non-payments to companies that have executed various jobs or projects, leading to untold hardship on the contractors, vendors and workers;

Aware that a similar Committee which was set up by the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) on 19 October, 2015 with a similar mandate, and covered more than 300 hundred companies had submitted its report since 26 February, 2016;

Also aware of the Federal Government Circular on "*Adherence to the Guidelines on Remuneration of Non-Executive and Part-Time Chairmen, Members and Directors of Governing Boards of Federal Government Parastatals, Agencies and Commissions*" of 9 October, 2015 and 23 October, 2015 urging strict adherence on payment for hotel accommodation for such members; and the Committee based on the circular should only sit 4 times in a year;

Concerned that the Committee members have been accommodated at Government expense without commensurate result, against the import of the circular and the Federal Government policy on reducing cost of governance;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on National Security and Intelligence to investigate and report back to the House within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Chris Emeka Azubogu — Nnewi North-South/Ekwusigo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out all the words in the prayer, and *insert* as follows:
"Mandate the Committees on National Security and Intelligence, and Public Procurement, to investigate and report back to the House within four (4) weeks" (*Hon. Leo Ogor — Isoko North/Isoko South Federal Constituency*).

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

*Question on the Motion as amended — **Agreed to.***

The House:

Recalled that the Presidency inaugurated a Presidential Committee on Procurement on 31 August, 2015 to review all procurement undertaken, and to conclude the assignment within 90 days;

Noted that the Committee had requested for an extension of 2 weeks to conclude the assignment which was granted;

Also noted that up till now the Committee has not submitted its report, this has led to non-payments to companies that have executed various jobs or projects, leading to untold hardship on the contractors, vendors and workers;

Aware that a similar Committee which was set up by the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) on 19 October, 2015 with a similar mandate, and covered more than 300 hundred companies had submitted its report since 26 February, 2016;

Also aware of the Federal Government Circular on "*Adherence to the Guidelines on Remuneration of Non-Executive and Part-Time Chairmen, Members and Directors of Governing Boards of Federal Government Parastatals, Agencies and Commissions*" of 9 October, 2015 and 23 October, 2015 urging strict adherence on payment for hotel accommodation for such members; and the Committee based on the circular should only sit 4 times in a year;

Concerned that the Committee members have been accommodated at Government expense without commensurate result, against the import of the circular and the Federal Government policy on reducing cost of governance;
Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on National Security and Intelligence; and Public Procurement to investigate and report back to the House within four (4) weeks (**HR. 171/2016**).

(*v*) ***Call for Caution and Clarification in the Calabar National Integrated Power Project's World Bank Partial Risk Guarantee*:**
Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai (*Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani 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.***

Call for Caution and Clarification in the Calabar National Integrated Power Project's World Bank Partial Risk Guarantee:

The House:

Notes that the signing of the Calabar National Integrated Power Project (NIPP)'s World Bank "Partial Risk Guarantee (PRG)" between the Niger Delta Power Holding Company (NDPHC), Seven Energy International Ltd (Seven Energy), World Bank, and Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading Plc (NBET) is scheduled to hold on Thursday, November 3, 2016;

Also notes that Seven Energy would be supplying 120mmscf of gas daily, to the Calabar Power Plant owned by NIPP if there is an operating Financial Security guaranteed by the World Bank;

Observes that the required Partial Risk Guarantee for gas supply is a critical determinant of a successful 80% privatization by the Niger Delta Power Holding Company (NDPHC) of the 10 Power Plants under it, starting with the Calabar, Gerugu and Omotosho Plants in the first phase of the exercise;

Also observes that the sale of the Niger Delta Power Holding Company (NDPHC) expected to generate over $5.8 billion in revenue to the three tiers of government, is reported to be critical to unlocking more than 3,000mw of stranded power from the National Integrated Power Projects and increasing Nigeria's available power generation to 7,000mw by 2017;

Worried that the Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading (NBET) Plc, as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), backed by the Federal Government's credit enhancement instruments to bulk-purchase and resell electrical power and ancillary services from the Independent Power Producers and Successor generation companies, may not be capable of discharging the World Bank's Due Diligence Standards for more than four to five (4-5) months of the operational period;

Also worried that this noticeable fear is due to the fact that Liquidity in the sector has declined from 85% in 2014 to its present 19%, thereby seriously threatening and limiting NBET's ability to bridge an eventual call by the World Bank;

Disturbed that the weakened power of the Naira is a critical impediment to the transactional powers of the Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading (NBET) under the World Bank Partial Risk Guarantee Agreement, as domestic gas supply obligation is Naira domiciled;

Also disturbed that the placement of the Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading under the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing may have occasioned a loss of the credit guarantee it previously enjoyed under the Nigerian Sovereign Wealth Investment Authority (NSIA) of the Federal Ministry of Finance;

Concerned that Nigeria should not allow a situation where the World Bank would humiliate her with a guarantee call which has the attendant loss of good rating from Foreign Direct Investors (FDIs) and global credit institutions;

Resolves to:

(*i*) urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing; Niger Delta Power Holding Company, Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading Plc and other Institutions of our Government involved with the signing of the World Bank Partial Risk Guarantee on the National Integrated Power Project to suspend and withhold actions until Further directed; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Power to urgently convey a Public Hearing of critical Stakeholders to clarify and evaluate the World Bank's Partial Risk Guarantee (PRG) as it relates to the Nigerian Integrated Power Project and make recommendations to the House within Four (4) weeks (*Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the signing of the Calabar National Integrated Power Project (NIPP)'s World Bank "Partial Risk Guarantee (PRG)" between the Niger Delta Power Holding Company (NDPHC), Seven Energy International Ltd (Seven Energy), World Bank, and Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading Plc (NBET) is scheduled to hold on Thursday, November 3, 2016;

Also noted that Seven Energy would be supplying 120mmscf of gas daily, to the Calabar Power Plant owned by NIPP if there is an operating Financial Security guaranteed by the World Bank;

Observed that the required Partial Risk Guarantee for gas supply is a critical determinant a successful 80% privatization by the Niger Delta Power Holding Company (NDPHC) of th 10 Power Plants under it, starting with the Calabar, Gerugu and Omotosho Plants in the first phase of the exercise;

Also observed that the sale of the Niger Delta Power Holding Company (NDPHC) expected to generate over $5.8 billion in revenue to the three tiers of government, is reported to be critical to unlocking more than 3,000mw of stranded power from the National Integrated Power Projects and increasing Nigeria's available power generation to 7,000mw by 2017;

Worried that the Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading (NBET) Plc, as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), backed by the Federal Government's credit enhancement instruments to bulk-purchase and resell electrical power and ancillary services from the Independent Power Producers and Successor generation companies, may not be capable of discharging the World Bank's Due Diligence Standards for more than four to five (4-5) months of the operational period;

Also worried that this noticeable fear is due to the fact that Liquidity in the sector has declined from 85% in 2014 to its present 19%, thereby seriously threatening and limiting NBET's ability to bridge an eventual call by the World Bank;

Disturbed that the weakened power of the Naira is a critical impediment to the transactional powers of the Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading (NBET) under the World Bank Partial Risk Guarantee Agreement, as domestic gas supply obligation is Naira domiciled;

Also disturbed that the placement of the Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading under the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing may have occasioned a loss of the credit guarantee it previously enjoyed under the Nigerian Sovereign Wealth Investment Authority (NSIA) of the Federal Ministry of Finance;

Concerned that Nigeria should not allow a situation where the World Bank would humiliate her with a guarantee call, which has the attendant loss of good rating from Foreign Direct Investors (FDIs) and global credit institutions;

Resolved to:

(*i*) urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing; Niger Delta Power Holding Company, Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading Plc and other Institutions of our Government involved with the signing of the World Bank Partial Risk Guarantee on the National Integrated Power Project to suspend and withhold actions until Further directed; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Power to urgently convey a Public Hearing of critical Stakeholders to clarify and evaluate the World Bank's Partial Risk Guarantee (PRG) as it relates to the Nigerian Integrated Power Project and make recommendations to the House within Four (4) weeks (**HR. 172/2016**).

(*vi*) ***Commendation of Dr Oluyinka Olutoye, US-Based Nigerian Surgeon, who Successfully Operated on an Unborn Baby Diagnosed of Tumour*:**
Hon. Linus Okorie (*Ohaozara/Onicha/Ivo 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.*

Commendation of Dr Oluyinka Olutoye, US-Based Nigerian Surgeon who Successfully Operated on an Unborn Baby Diagnosed of Tumour:

The House:

Notes with national pride and satisfaction the news of the feat of Dr Oluyinka Olutoye, Nigeria Surgeon based in the USA; who successfully removed baby, LYNLEE HOPE, suffering from a rare tumour (SACROCOCCYGEAL TERATOMA) from her mother's womb at 23 weeks, operated on her and returned her back to the womb;

Also notes that the foetus went on to heal of the tumour and continued to grow until 36 weeks when she was delivered a healthy baby;

Further notes the unquantifiable and long lasting positive image this singular medical feat of Dr Olutoye has projected for Nigeria internationally;

Aware of the numerous challenges confronting the country, especially on the economic and security fronts and the call, for all Nigerians to be part of the solutions;

Also aware of the huge potential Diaspora Nigerians are in the holistic development and advancement of the country across all sectors;

Desirous of harnessing and synthesizing all available and potential human and material resources and channeling them towards the economic recovery and development of Nigeria;

Particularly desirous of motivating Diaspora Nigerians to greater professional achievements in their countries of residence; and ultimately leveraging them for diplomatic, economic and scientific advancement of Nigeria;

Resolves:

(*i*) to commend Dr Oluyinka Olutoye for his impactful medical feat that has positively projected the image of Nigeria globally, and accordingly celebrate him with a STANDING OVATION;

(*ii*) that the Honourable Speaker, Rt Hon. Yakubu Dogara, do formally congratulate Dr Oluyinka Olutoye and offer him an open invitation to the House, whenever he is in Nigeria, for further recognition; and

(*iii*) to mandate the Committee on Diaspora to liaise with necessary Agencies and Departments of the Executive Arm to fast track and operationalize a National Diaspora Guideline to regulate and harness engagements with all Nigerians in the Diaspora for National Development, and report back to the House within 8 weeks (*Hon. Linus Okorie — Ivo/Ohaozara/Onicha Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

(*i*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*iv*) as follows:
"Mandate the Committees on Diaspora, and Foreign Affairs, to identify all Nigerians doing well in their various professions abroad, and recommend them for national honours to encourage others" (*Hon. Mohammed Nur Sheriff — Bama/Ngala/Kalabalge Federal Constituency*).

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

(*ii*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*v*) as follows:
"Urge the National Assembly to institute a special award to honour Dr Oluyinka Olutoye, and subsequently, to honour other deserving Nigerians" (*Hon. Daniel Reyenieju Oritsegbubemi — Warri South/Warri West Federal Constituency*).

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

(*iii*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*vi*) as follows:
"Recommend Dr Oluyinka Olutoye for a National Award" (*Hon. Henry Nwawuba — Mbaitoli/Ikeduru Federal Constituency*).

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

*Question on the Motion as amended — **Agreed to.***

The House honoured Dr Oluyinka Olutoye with a standing ovation.

The House:

Noted with national pride and satisfaction the news of the feat of Dr Oluyinka Olutoye, Nigeria Surgeon based in the USA; who successfully removed baby, LYNLEE HOPE, suffering from a rare tumour (SACROCOCCYGEAL TERATOMA) from her mother's womb at 23 weeks, operated on her and returned her back to the womb;

Also noted that the foetus went on to heal of the tumour and continued to grow until 36 weeks when she was delivered a healthy baby;

Further noted the unquantifiable and long lasting positive image this singular medical feat of Dr Olutoye has projected for Nigeria internationally;

Aware of the numerous challenges confronting the country, especially on the economic and security fronts and the call, for all Nigerians to be part of the solutions;

Also aware of the huge potential Diaspora Nigerians are in the holistic development and advancement of the country across all sectors;

Desirous of harnessing and synthesizing all available and potential human and material resources and channeling them towards the economic recovery and development of Nigeria;

Particularly desirous of motivating Diaspora Nigerians to greater professional achievements in their countries of residence; and ultimately leveraging them for diplomatic, economic and scientific advancement of Nigeria;

Resolved:

(*i*) to commend Dr Oluyinka Olutoye for his impactful medical feat that has positively projected the image of Nigeria globally, and accordingly celebrate him with a STANDING OVATION;

(*ii*) that the Honourable Speaker, Rt Hon. Yakubu Dogara, do formally congratulate Dr Oluyinka Olutoye and offer him an open invitation to the House, whenever he is in Nigeria, for further recognition;

(*iii*) to mandate the Committee on Diaspora to liaise with necessary Agencies and Departments of the Executive Arm to fast track and operationalize a National Diaspora Guideline to regulate and harness engagements with all Nigerians in the Diaspora for National Development, and report back to the House within 8 weeks (*Hon. Linus Okorie — Ivo/Ohaozara/Onicha Federal Constituency*).

(*iv*) to also mandate the Committees on Diaspora, and Foreign Affairs, to identify all Nigerians doing well in their various professions abroad, and recommend them for national honours to encourage others;

(*v*) to urge the National Assembly to institute a special award to honour Dr Oluyinka Olutoye, and subsequently, to honour other deserving Nigerians; and

(*vi*) to recommend Dr Oluyinka Olutoye for a National Award (**HR. 173/2016**).

6. **Presentation of Reports**

(*i*) ***Committee on Commerce*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Commerce, on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Companies and Allied Matters Act, Cap. C21, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, and for Other Related Matters (HB. 9)" (*Hon. Chris Ifeanyi Azubogu — Nnewi North/Nnewi South/Ekwusigo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(*ii*) ***Committee on Commerce*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Commerce, on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Customers Relationship Management, to be charged with the Responsibility for Registration, Disciplining of its Members, Regulation and Control of the Practice of Customer Service Profession, and for Other Related Matters (HB. 69)" (*Hon. Chris Ifeanyi Azubogu — Nnewi North/Nnewi South/Ekwusigo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(*iii*) ***Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream)***:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream), on a Bill for an Act to provide for the Licensing, Regulatory and Incentives to Petroleum Refineries in Nigeria, and for Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2015 (HB.16)" (*Hon. Akinlaja Iranola Joseph — Ondo East Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(*iv*) ***Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream)***:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream), on the Need to Investigate the Level of Production and Utilization of Bitumen in Nigeria (**HR. 287/2015**)" (*Hon. Akinlaja Iranola Joseph — Ondo East Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(*v*) ***Committee on Privatization and Commercialization***:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Privatization and Commercialization, on the Investigation into the Sale of Eleme Petrochemical Company to Indorama Corporation, by the Bureau of Public Enterprises (**HR. 62/2016**)" (*Hon. Ahmed Yerima — Misau/Dambam Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

7. Consolidation of Bills
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Police Act, Cap. P19, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to Transfer the Prosecutorial Rights of Police Officers to the Federal Ministry of Justice, a Bill for an Act to Amend the Police Act, Cap. P19, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to Review the Recruitment Age of Traffic Wardens, Include Mental Element in Certain Offences and Increase some Penalties, and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Police Act, Cap. P19, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to Provide for the Need for Male Police Officers, like their Female Counterparts Seeking to Get Married, to Apply for Permission and for Other Related Matters (HBs 11, 179 and 312) be further consolidated with a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Police Act, Cap. P19, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, and Re-enact the Nigeria Police Service Act, 2016, to Provide for the Cooperation and Partnership between the Police and Host Communities in Maintaining Peace and Combating Crime and for Other Related Matters (HB. 817)" (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Army Colour (Prohibition of Use) Act, Cap. A24, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to Provide Stiffer Penalties and to Include Other Areas such as Aircrafts and Watercrafts, and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Army Colour (Prohibition of Use) Act, Cap. A24, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to Increase the Penalties, and for Other Related Matters (HBs 46 and 687) — *Second Reading***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Army Colour (Prohibition of Use) Act, Cap. A24, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to Provide Stiffer Penalties and to Include Other Areas such as Aircrafts and Watercrafts, and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Army Colour (Prohibition of Use) Act, Cap. A24, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to Increase the Penalties, and for Other Related Matters (HBs 46 and 687) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Oghene E. Egoh — Amuwo Odofin Federal Constituency and 1 Other*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committees on Army, and Justice.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission Act, Cap.R7, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to make Provisions for Sanctions for Erring Revenue Generating Agencies and Enhance the Revenue Profile and Remittances into the Federation Account to Facilitate National Development, and for Other Related Matters (HB. 542) — *Second Reading***

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Alter Section 12 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, Cap. C23, LFN, 2004, to include the Prohibition of Provisions Contained in Treaties to be Domesticated that are in Conflict with the Moral and Family Value System of the Nigerian State and to Deem Such Provisions as Void wherever they Appear in any Treaty to be Adopted for Domestication (HB. 715) — *Second Reading***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Alter Section 12 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, Cap. C23, LFN, 2004, to include the Prohibition of Provisions Contained in Treaties to be Domesticated that are in Conflict with the Moral and Family Value System of the Nigerian State and to Deem Such Provisions as Void wherever they Appear in any Treaty to be Adopted for Domestication (HB. 715) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Garba Datti Muhammed — Sabon Gari Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to Special Ad-hoc Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Alter Section 291 (1) and (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, to include Judges of High Courts among Judicial Officers to Retire on Attainment of the Age of Seventy Years, and for Other Related Matters (HB. 772) — *Second Reading***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Alter Section 291 (1) and (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, to include Judges of High Courts among Judicial Officers to Retire on Attainment of the Age of Seventy Years, and for Other Related Matters (HB. 772) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Solomon E. O Adaelu — Ikwunano/Umuahia North/Umuahia South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to Special Ad-hoc Committee on the Review of the 1999 *Constitution.*

12. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Energy Commission of Nigeria Act, Cap. E10, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to Grant Priority to the Promotion and Development of Renewal Energy in Nigeria, and for Other Related Matters (HB. 612) — *Second Reading***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Energy Commission of Nigeria Act, Cap. E10, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to Grant Priority to the Promotion and Development of Renewal Energy in Nigeria, and for Other Related Matters (HB. 612) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Muhammad Usman — Makarfi/Kudan 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 Power.

13. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Emergency Management Agency (Establishment, etc.) Act, Cap. N34, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to among others, provide Alternative sources of funding for the Agency, Provide Hazard Allowances for its Staff, and for Other Related Matters (HB. 804) — *Second Reading***

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

14. **Urgent Need to Complete Work on the Abandoned Buni-GariGulani/Dandinkowa Highway Connecting Yobe, Borno and Gombe States**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that in 1999, the then Federal Ministry of Works commenced construction work on the Buni-Gari Gulani/Dandinkowa highway linking Yobe, Borno and Gombe States;

Regrets that soon after commencement of work on the road, the contractor, Mothercat Nigeria Ltd, having merely finished the earthwork and a few culverts up to Gulani, abandoned the project and demobilized out of site;

Worried that ever since the abandonment of work, the Ministry has not remobilized Mothercat or any other contractor to site and has not explained to the end-users the reason for the abandonment, despite several appeals to that effect;

Concerned that the abandonment of work on the road has led to its further deterioration, thereby leading to constant loss of lives arising from vehicular accidents and armed robbery attacks by criminal elements who are taking advantage of the highway's state of disrepair;

Resolves to:

(*i*) urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to recommence work on the Buni-Gari Gulani/Dandinkowa federal highway by mobilizing a reputable contractor to execute the project, investigate the cause of abandonment of the contract so as to forestall future occurrence and refund the money expended by the Yobe State Government for construction of five (5) bridges along the highway; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Works to ensure compliance and report back to the House within eight (8) Weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Abdullahi Usman Kukuwa — Damaturu/Gujba/Gulani/Tarmuwa Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 174/2016).

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

15. Urgent Need to Address the Declining State of Facilities at the Abuja National Stadium

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the contract for the construction of the sixty thousand capacity ultra-modern and multipurpose Abuja National Stadium complex and Games Village was awarded by the Federal Government in 2000 at the cost of three hundred and sixty million dollars ($360,000,000.00) and was completed for the hosting of the All Africa Games in October, 2003;

Also notes that the vision of the Government in constructing the stadium was to have an Ultra-modern sports facility that will not only be one of the best in Africa but will assist in the training of sports men and women for greater achievements in international competitions;

Concerned that thirteen years after the All Africa Games, the Sports Complex and other facilities constructed with huge public funds are witnessing steady decline as they are either out of use or in very deplorable state;

Cognizant that if urgent steps are not taken to address the situation, the Abuja National Stadium will become another huge economic loss to the country;

Resolves to:

(*i*) call on the Federal Ministry of Sports and Youth Development to explore the option of concessioning the Abuja National Stadium Complex to arrest the decline of its facilities and restore it to the standard at the time of its construction; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Sports to synergize efforts with the Ministry to ensure achievement of the above objective, and report back to the House within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Uchechuku Nnam-Obi — Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni/Ahoada West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 175/2016).

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

16. **Need to Create a More Conducive Atmosphere for the Senior Citizens to Access their Pensions as at When Due**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Aware that some of the senior citizens who had spent their entire active years working for the development and stability of the country and are thereby entitled to monthly pensions are suffering neglect, hardships, poverty and depression in their old ages;

Concerned that majority of the States in Nigeria do not release funds for payment to these pensioners as at when due, resulting in some of them being owed up to nine (9) months pension arrears as a result of sharp practices on the part of some Government officials who use the monies meant for payment of pensions for their personal aggrandizement;

Also concerned that twelve (12) years after the enactment of the Pension Reform Act of 2004, the State Governments and the organized private sector, which are the two major employers of labour in the country, have failed to fully activate the contributory pension scheme;

Aware that most of these retirees who are very old, frail and can barely stand or walk without aid are, in some cases, made to stand in long queues for hours in order to collect their pensions, leading to the collapse and death of some in the process;

Convinced that the mode of accessing pensions in Nigeria is too rigorous for these old and frail citizens and believes that there is an urgent need to devise a less cumbersome procedure to access pensions by senior citizens;

Resolves to:

(*i*) urge the National Pensions Commission to devise a less stressful means of pension payment in other to mitigate the sufferings of pensioners in collecting their pensions; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Pensions to investigate the immediate and remote causes of delay in the payment of pensions and report back to the House within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Prestige Ossy —Aba North/Aba South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that some of the senior citizens who had spent their entire active years working for the development and stability of the country and are thereby entitled to monthly pensions are suffering neglect, hardships, poverty and depression in their old ages;

Concerned that majority of the States in Nigeria do not release funds for payment to these pensioners as at when due, resulting in some of them being owed up to nine (9) months pension arrears as a result of sharp practices on the part of some Government officials who use the monies meant for payment of pensions for their personal aggrandizement;

Also concerned that twelve (12) years after the enactment of the Pension Reform Act of 2004, the State Governments and the organized private sector, which are the two major employers of labour in the country, have failed to fully activate the contributory pension scheme;

Aware that most of these retirees who are very old, frail and can barely stand or walk without aid are, in some cases, made to stand in long queues for hours in order to collect their pensions, leading to the collapse and death of some in the process;

Convinced that the mode of accessing pensions in Nigeria is too rigorous for these old and frail citizens and believes that there is an urgent need to devise a less cumbersome procedure to access pensions by senior citizens:

Resolved to:

(*i*) urge the National Pensions Commission to devise a less stressful means of pension payment in other to mitigate the sufferings of pensioners in collecting their pensions; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Pensions to investigate the immediate and remote causes of delay in the payment of pensions and report back to the House within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 176/2016**).

17. **Calling the Attention of the Public to the Risks in Patronizing Unaccredited Programs in Unknown Foreign Universities**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that it has become the order of the day for several foreign universities to place advertisements in the local media soliciting Nigerians to apply for various academic programs in those universities;

Aware that the number of State, Federal and private universities in Nigeria, currently estimated at over 120 is still not enough to meet the needs of an increasing number of youths seeking for higher education;

Also aware that only the National Universities Commission is vested with powers to accredit, monitor and maintain acceptable academic standards for university education in Nigeria;

Concerned that some of these foreign universities are located in countries where English is not the national language and is therefore not the language of instruction, thereby exposing the unwary Nigerian students and their sponsors to extended periods of study and thus, higher expenses in pursuit of various academic programmes which standards may not measure up to that of Nigeria;

Also concerned about the pressure the trend of sending Nigerian students to foreign universities is exacting on the scarce foreign exchange, thus leading some parents to recall their children, and also about the untoward practices of those foreign universities, which operate in Nigeria through unregistered agents, thereby mortgaging the future of young Nigerians;

Resolves to:

(*i*) urge the National Universities Commission (NUC) to create public awareness on the risks of patronizing unapproved and, or unaccredited foreign universities; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services to investigate whether the National Universities Commission (NUC) is carrying out its role of monitoring and regulating the activities of foreign universities and their agents operating in Nigeria with a view to ensuring that they comply with section 4 (1) (*c*) of the National Universities Commission Act, Cap. N81, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, and report back to the House within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Olufemi J. Fakeye — Boluwaduro/Ifedayo/Ila Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:
Insert a new Prayer (*iii*) as follows:
"Urge the National Universities Commission (NUC), to provide free academic guidance to prospective students who seek information on universities abroad" (*Hon. Ibrahim Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

*Question on the Motion as amended — **Agreed to.***

The House:

Noted that it has become the order of the day for several foreign universities to place advertisements in the local media soliciting Nigerians to apply for various academic programs in those universities;

Aware that the number of State, Federal and private universities in Nigeria, currently estimated at over 120 is still not enough to meet the needs of an increasing number of youths seeking for higher education;

Also aware that only the National Universities Commission is vested with powers to accredit, monitor and maintain acceptable academic standards for university education in Nigeria;

Concerned that some of these foreign universities are located in countries where English is not the national language and is therefore not the language of instruction, thereby exposing the unwary Nigerian students and their sponsors to extended periods of study and thus, higher expenses in pursuit of various academic programmes which standards may not measure up to that of Nigeria;

Also concerned about the pressure the trend of sending Nigerian students to foreign universities is exacting on the scarce foreign exchange, thus leading some parents to recall their children, and also about the untoward practices of those foreign universities, which operate in Nigeria through unregistered agents, thereby mortgaging the future of young Nigerians;

Resolved to:

(*i*) urge the National Universities Commission (NUC) to create public awareness on the risks of patronizing unapproved and, or unaccredited foreign universities;

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services to investigate whether the National Universities Commission (NUC) is carrying out its role of monitoring and regulating the activities of foreign universities and their agents operating in Nigeria with a view to ensuring that they comply with section 4 (1) (*c*) of the National Universities Commission Act, Cap. N81, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, and report back to the House within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action; and

(*iii*) also urge the National Universities Commission (NUC), to provide free academic guidance to prospective students who seek for information on universities abroad (**HR. 177/2016**).

18. **Adjournment**

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 8 November, 2016 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Jibril Umar Buba — Deputy House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.46 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker