



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 4 May, 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, 3 May, 2017.

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 the Management Students Association (MAGSA), *Ahmadu Bello University*, Zaria, Kaduna State; and
 - (ii) Staff and Students of *Deeper Life High School*, Marabarido, Kaduna State.
4. **Petitions**
 - (i) A petition from Barack I. Lawrence and 2 others, on the termination of their appointments and non-payment of their outstanding benefits by Internetwork, was presented and laid by Hon. Daniel Asuquo Effiong (*Akamkpa/Biase Federal Constituency*);
 - (ii) A petition from Philemon Ibrahim Gora, on behalf of Cashflowabi Network Limited, on the refusal by Diamond Bank Plc to obey the court order in Suit NO. CS/09/2012, was presented and laid by Hon. Essien Ayi Ekpenyong (*Calabar South/Akpabuyo/Bakassi Federal Constituency*);
 - (iii) Petitions from the following persons were presented and laid by Hon. Chinda Kingsley (*Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*):
 - (a) Clintouch Engineering Limited on behalf of Clinton Makuachi, on the refusal by the defunct National Poverty Eradication Programme to pay for contract executed;
 - (b) Goodnews Construction Co. Limited, on behalf of Edwin Olisa, on the refusal by the defunct National Poverty Eradication Programme to pay for contract executed;

- (iv) A petition from Bola Titilayo Adeyemo and 79 others, on their disengagement from the service of the Federal Polytechnic, Ado Ekiti, was presented and laid by Hon. Ayodele Olademeji (*Ado-Ekiti/Irepodun/Ifelodun Federal Constituency*); and
- (v) A petition from Michael M. Agaku, on the non-payment of his retirement benefits by the Federal Ministry of Education, was presented and laid by Hon. Benjamin I. Wayo (*Kwande/Ushongo Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. Presentation and First Reading of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) National Water Resources Bill, 2017 (HB. 1021).
- (2) Climate Change Bill, 2017 (HB. 1020).

6. A Bill for an Act to Amend the School Year (Variation) Act, Cap. S2, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Streamline School Year for Schools and Colleges in Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB. 799) — *Second Reading*

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

7. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Law Officers Act, Cap. L8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for the Appointment of Law Officers and their Entitlements to Practice in the Courts of Nigeria as well as the Limit to the Powers of the Solicitor-General of the Federation and for Other Related Matters (HB. 681) — *Second Reading*

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

8. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles (Prohibition of Tinted Glass) Act, Cap. M21, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Increase some Penalties and for Other Related Matters (HB. 661) — *Second Reading*.

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

9. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Flag and Coats of Arms Act, Cap. F30, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Regulate the Display and Use of the National Flag, Certain Flags and the National Coats of Arms and for Other Related Matters (HB. 993) — *Second Reading*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Flag and Coats of Arms Act, Cap. F30, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Regulate the Display and Use of the National Flag, Certain Flags and the National Coats of Arms and for Other Related Matters (HB. 993) be now read a *Second Time*" (*Hon. Samuel Ifeanyi Onuigbo — Ikwumano/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 the Committee on Information, National Orientation, Ethics and Values.

10. A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Miscellaneous Offences Act, Cap. M17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Other Related Matters (HB. 660) — *Second Reading*
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Miscellaneous Offences Act, Cap. M17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Other Related Matters (HB. 660) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Idris Ahmed — Wase 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 Justice.

11. A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Inclusion of Major Indigenous Languages in Primary and Secondary Schools Curriculum in Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB. 549) — *Second Reading*

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

12. Personal Explanation (Order Eight, Rule 5)

Hon. Sani Aliyu Mohammed (*Rano/Bunkure/Kibiya Federal Constituency*), informed the House of the unwarranted invasion and search of his residences on Wednesday, 3 May, 2017, by Police Officers from the Federal Special Armed Robbery Squad (SARS), for alleged unlawful possession of firearms and ammunition, as well as foreign currencies. He stated that the action of the security agents was an embarrassment to him and his family, as nothing incriminating was found in the premises after the search. He therefore urged the House to investigate the matter.

Matter referred to the Ad-hoc Committee on the Need to Check the Excesses of Security Agencies with regard to Invasion of Residences of Law Abiding Citizens.

13. Need for Reconstruction of Tungan-Gyado Road

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

14. Enforcement of Registration of Motorcycles and Tricycles Plying Public Roads in Nigeria
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that about 99% of motorcycles and tricycles plying the roads in the country are not registered, do not have number plates and their riders do not have driver's license or wear crash helmets as required by law;

Also notes that the various Governments in the Federation are losing several millions of Naira in revenues that would have been accruing from the registration and periodic renewal of the licences;

Aware that non-registration of private and commercial motorcycles plying the roads in the Federal Capital Territory, and indeed on all public roads in Nigeria increases the potential of motorcycles being used for criminal activities such as armed robbery, kidnaping, terrorism, etc.;

Cognizant that if concerned regulatory authorities continue to abdicate their duties, unregistered motorcycles and tricycles will continue to be used to commit crimes, thus posing danger to the populace whilst government revenues continue to reduce; and accidents arising from all manners of untrained and inexperienced people plying the roads on the motorcycles and tricycles will continue to increase;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Federal Road Safety Commission to interface with the Federal Road Safety Corps, the Directorate of Road Transport Service (FCT) and other stakeholders on the lack of registration and regulation of Motorcycles and Tricycles plying Federal roads in Nigeria and report back in four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Karimi Steve Sunday — Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that about 99% of motorcycles and tricycles plying the roads in the country are not registered, do not have number plates and their riders do not have driver's license or wear crash helmets as required by law;

Also noted that the various Governments in the Federation are losing several millions of Naira in revenues that would have been accruing from the registration and periodic renewal of the licences;

Aware that non-registration of private and commercial motorcycles plying the roads in the Federal Capital Territory, and indeed on all public roads in Nigeria increases the potential of motorcycles being used for criminal activities such as armed robbery, kidnaping, terrorism, etc.;

Cognizant that if concerned regulatory authorities continue to abdicate their duties, unregistered motorcycles and tricycles will continue to be used to commit crimes, thus posing danger to the populace whilst government revenues continue to reduce; and accidents arising from all manners of untrained and inexperienced people plying the roads on the motorcycles and tricycles will continue to increase;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Federal Road Safety Commission to interface with the Federal Road Safety Corps, the Directorate of Road Transport Service (FCT) and other stakeholders on the lack of registration and regulation of Motorcycles and Tricycles plying Federal roads in Nigeria and report back in four (4) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 180/2017**).

15. Establishment of the National Anti-Doping Agency

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

16. Need to Address the Scarcity of Nigerian Passport Booklets

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes the acute shortage of Nigerian passport booklets in the recent time which is causing a lot of hardships on citizens wishing to acquire passports, thus leading to long queues at Immigration offices across the country and increased patronage of touts who hang around Immigration offices;

Aware that all the components of the e-passport are manufactured abroad as evidenced in the production of the booklet in South Africa, the making of the chip by a Netherlands company that specializes in the manufacturing of secure connectivity solutions for embedded applications, and then the printing and binding of the passport booklet, embedding of the chip as well as laminating of the data page in Malaysia, before final delivery to Nigeria;

Also aware that the scarcity started in 2016 when the company stopped supplying the 32-page passport booklet and demanded for an upward review of the price of the booklet, citing increased cost of production due to the low exchange rate of the Naira to the Dollar and the scarcity has persisted despite assurances by the Nigerian Immigration Service that passport booklets are available;

Also aware of series of complaints of lack of proper procedure for the procurement and renewal of passports at Nigeria's High Commissions and Embassies abroad as well as discourtesy and inefficiency of staff of those Missions, which are giving the country a bad image;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to urgently address the challenges being faced by the supplier of the passport booklets and devise sustainable means to ensure nationwide availability;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Interior to liaise with the Ministry of Interior and the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) to determine the cause of the scarcity, recommend ways of reversing the trend and report back within three (3) weeks for further legislative action; and
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Foreign Affairs to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs to investigate the challenges being faced in procuring the e-passport at Nigerian High Commissions and Embassies and report back within two (2) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Ayodeji Adebayo Joseph — Apapa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (i), line 2, immediately after the word "ensure", *leave out* the word "nationwide" and *insert* the word "worldwide" (*Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari — Yabo/Shagari Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the acute shortage of Nigerian passport booklets in the recent time which is causing a lot of hardships on citizens wishing to acquire passports, thus leading to long queues at Immigration offices across the country and increased patronage of touts who hang around Immigration offices;

Aware that all the components of the e-passport are manufactured abroad as evidenced in the production of the booklet in South Africa, the making of the chip by a Netherlands company that specializes in the manufacturing of secure connectivity solutions for embedded applications, and then the printing and binding of the passport booklet, embedding of the chip as well as laminating of the data page in Malaysia, before final delivery to Nigeria;

Also aware that the scarcity started in 2016 when the company stopped supplying the 32-page passport booklet and demanded for an upward review of the price of the booklet, citing increased cost of production due to the low exchange rate of the Naira to the Dollar and the scarcity has persisted despite assurances by the Nigerian Immigration Service that passport booklets are available;

Also aware of series of complaints of lack of proper procedure for the procurement and renewal of passports at Nigeria's High Commissions and Embassies abroad as well as discourtesy and inefficiency of staff of those Missions, which are giving the country a bad image;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to urgently address the challenges being faced by the supplier of the passport booklets and devise sustainable means to ensure worldwide availability;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Interior to liaise with the Ministry of Interior and the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) to determine the cause of the scarcity, recommend ways of reversing the trend and report back within three (3) weeks for further legislative action; and
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Foreign Affairs to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs to investigate the challenges being faced in procuring the e-passport at Nigerian High Commissions and Embassies and report back within two (2) weeks for further legislative action (HR. 181/2017).

17. **Need to Create more Divisions of the Nigeria Police Force in Borgu-Agwara Federal Constituency of Niger State**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Recalls that New Bussa, in Borgu-Agwara Federal Constituency was formerly in Kwara State but is now in Niger State on account of the creation of States during the administration of General Ibrahim Babangida;

Notes that there is only one Divisional Police Office being headed by a Divisional Police Officer in New Bussa which is not only inadequate but ill equipped to carry out its statutory duties effectively and efficiently;

Aware that there have been persistent clamour over the years by the affected communities on the need to increase Police presence in Borgu/Agwara Federal Constituency for the protection of lives and properties of the people, being a border community;

Convinced that the creation of additional Police Divisions will go a long way in addressing the challenges currently hindering the Police in carrying out their duties given the myriad of serious security problems facing the nation;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to liaise with the Nigeria Police Force and other relevant agencies with a view to ensuring the creation of more Police Divisions in Borgu/Agwara Federal Constituency of Niger State as follows:

- (a) two additional Divisions to be sited in New Bussa classified as "A" and "B" Divisions with headquarters of "A" Division at New Bussa covering Bussa, Senior Camp, Karabade, Monai and Tamanai and "B" Division with headquarters at Dogon Gari covering Kainji Dam site, Fakun, Awuru, Lehba and Farin Dutse (old and new);
- (b) Babbanna Division with headquarters at Babbanna covering Marami, Kabe, Pissa, Konkoso, Shafachi and Ki-gbera (Nigeria/Benin Republic Border);
- (c) two Divisions in Agwara Local Government Area, namely "A" Division with headquarters at Agwara covering Agwara, Mahuta, Mago, Galla and Papiri and "B" Division with headquarters at Rofia covering all the riverine areas; and

- (d) Area Command at New Bussa to be the Area Command Office in charge of all the Divisions in Borgu/Agwara Federal Constituency (*Hon. Umar Muhammed Rofia — Agwara/Borgu Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Recalled that New Bussa, in Borgu-Agwara Federal Constituency was formerly in Kwara State but is now in Niger State on account of the creation of States during the administration of General Ibrahim Babangida:

Noted that there is only one Divisional Police Office being headed by a Divisional Police Officer in New Bussa which is not only inadequate but ill equipped to carry out its statutory duties effectively and efficiently:

Aware that there have been persistent clamour over the years by the affected communities on the need to increase Police presence in Borgu/Agwara Federal Constituency for the protection of lives and properties of the people, being a border community;

Convinced that the creation of additional Police Divisions will go a long way in addressing the challenges currently hindering the Police in carrying out their duties given the myriad of serious security problems facing the nation:

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to liaise with the Nigeria Police Force and other relevant agencies with a view to ensuring the creation of more Police Divisions in Borgu/Agwara Federal Constituency of Niger State as follows:

- (a) two additional Divisions to be sited in New Bussa classified as "A" and "B" Divisions with headquarters of "A" Division at New Bussa covering Bussa, Senior Camp, Karabade, Monai and Tamanai and "B" Division with headquarters at Dogon Gari covering Kainji Dam site, Fakun, Awuru, Lehba and Farin Dutse (old and new);
- (b) Babbanna Division with headquarters at Babbanna covering Marami, Kabe, Pissa, Konkoso, Shafachi and Ki-ghera (Nigeria/Benin Republic Border);
- (c) two Divisions in Agwara Local Government Area, namely "A" Division with headquarters at Agwara covering Agwara, Mahuta, Mago, Galla and Papiri and "B" Division with headquarters at Rofia covering all the riverine areas: and
- (d) Area Command at New Bussa to be the Area Command Office in charge of all the Divisions in Borgu/Agwara Federal Constituency (**HR. 182/2017**).

18. Consideration of Report

Committees on Insurance and Actuarial Matters, Finance, and Labour, Employment and Productivity:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Committees on Insurance and Actuarial Matters, Finance, and Labour, Employment and Productivity on the need to avert the impending strike action at the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) and to investigate the protracted face-off between the management and the labour union over cases of intimidation, victimization and discrimination and approve the recommendations therein" (*Hon. Olufemi Fakeye — Boluwaduro/Ifedayo/Ila Federal Constituency*).

Question agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Recommendation (i):

“That the Hon. Minister of Finance should still take urgent steps to advise the Executive Arm to constitute a Board of Directors for NAICOM, in accordance with the advice of the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Rt Hon. Yakubu Dogara in mid 2016 Committee members noted that the continued absence of a Board for the Commission is in contravention of Section 2 (1) of the NAICOM Act, Cap. N53, LFN, 2004, which states that, there is hereby established for the Commission, a Governing Board which shall be responsible for managing and superintending the affairs of the Commission” (*Hon. Olufemi Fakeye -- Boluwaduro/Ifedayo/Ila Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words in Recommendation (i) and *insert* the following words:

“That the Hon. Minister of Finance should take urgent steps to advise the Executive Arm to constitute a Board of Directors for NAICOM, since the absence of a Board for the Commission is in contravention of Section 2 (1) of the NAICOM Act, Cap. N53, LFN, 2004” (*Hon. Olufemi Fakeye -- Boluwaduro/Ifedayo/Ila Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question that Recommendation (i) as amended, stand part of the Report — Agreed to.

Recommendation (ii):

“That the House do await the outcome of the litigation in Suit No. NICN/ABJ/40/2017 at the National Industrial Court of Nigeria for a proper determination of whether the membership of the local chapter of AUCPTRE inside NAICOM should not be limited to junior staff only, as opined by the Ministry of Labour and Employment” (*Hon. Olufemi Fakeye -- Boluwaduro/Ifedayo/Ila Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Recommendation (ii) (*Hon. Olufemi Fakeye -- Boluwaduro/Ifedayo/Ila Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Chairman to report proceedings.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committees on Insurance and Actuarial Matters, Finance, and Labour, Employment and Productivity on the need to avert the impending strike action at the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) and to investigate the protracted face-off between the management and the labour union over cases of intimidation, victimization and discrimination and approved Recommendation (i) as amended, and rejected Recommendation (ii) of the Report.

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

19. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 9 May, 2017 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Bode Ayorinde — Owo/Ose Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.05 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker

