FOURTH REPUBLIC
8TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST SESSION
NO. 91

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 5 May, 2016

1. The House met at 11.11 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, 4 May, 2016.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

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

(*i*) Members of the National Association of Ebonyi State Students (NAESS), University of Abuja Chapter; and

(*ii*) Staff and Students of Word of Faith Group of Schools, Garki, Abuja.

4. **Petitions**

(*i*) A petition from Timothy Olubode Ogunsola on the inability of Savannah Bank Plc to pay his deposit of ₦1,600,000.00 and the accruing interest, was presented and laid by Hon. Mukaila Olayiwola Kazzim (*Abeokuta North/Obafemi-Owode/Odeda Federal Constituency*);

(*ii*) A petition from Rijawa Resources Nigeria Limited and 13 others on the revocation of their plots of land at Kurudu, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja (FCTA) by the former Minister of FCTA, Hon. Bala Mohammed, was presented and laid by Hon. Shehu Saleh (*Rijau/Magama Federal Constituency*);

(*iii*) A petition from Olanite & Associates on behalf of their client, Omoniyi Alaba Ogutuga, on his dismissal from service by the Nigerian Railway Corporation and the non-payment of entitlements , was presented and laid by Hon. Diya Oyewole (*Somolu Federal Constituency*);

(*iv*) A petition from Pte Sani Ladan on his dismissal by the Nigerian Army, was presented and laid by Hon. Samaila Suleiman (*Kaduna North Federal Constituency*);

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(*v*) A petition from Dr Faith Robert on the detention of Azibaola Robert by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), was presented and laid by Hon. Kingsley Chinda (*Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*);

(*vi*) A petition from Chief Anthony Ibifuro Tamunonimi and 5 others on the refusal of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to conclude the pending rerun elections in Rivers State, was presented and laid by Hon. Isa Hassan Mohammed (*Jamare/Itas-Gadau Federal Constituency*); and

(*vii*) A petition from SP Inuwa Ahmed (*rtd*) on the non-payment of his pension and gratuity by the Nigeria Police Force, was presented and laid by Hon. Shehu Aliyu (*Bauchi Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

(*i*) *Need to Improve Electricity Supply in Ifelodun/Offa/Oyun Federal Constituency and the Nation at Large to Avoid Total Breakdown of Economic Activities*:

Hon. Olayonu Olarinoye Tope (*Ifelodun/Offa/Oyun 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 VIII, Rule 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.*

Urgent Need to Improve Electricity Supply in Ifelodun/Offa/Oyun Federal Constituency and the Nation at Large to Avoid Total Breakdown of Economic Activities:

The House:

Notes that Electricity Consumers led by Associations of Artisans in Ifelodun/Offa/Oyun Federal Constituency on Tuesday, 3rd May, 2016 moved to the Streets in their thousands to peacefully protest to register their dissatisfaction with the services provided by the Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company;

Also notes that in the last few weeks , there have been series of protest on the same issue from different part of the country such as in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, University of Lagos (UNILAG), Students of University of Ibadan (UI), residents of Abaji in Abuja and many more protested against recent total epileptic power supply in the country;

Concerned that people are really suffering and going through hardship, it is disheartened that due to power shortage, many small scale businesses are folding up and the lack of electricity supply has grounded economic activities to constitutes serious macro-economic problem for the country;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Power to investigate the matter, with a view to have an assessment of the issue across the country and report back to the House within 4 weeks (*Hon. Olayonu O. Tope Danlad — Ifelodun/Offa/Oyun Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

The House:

Noted that Electricity Consumers led by Associations of Artisans in Ifelodun/Offa/Oyun Federal Constituency on Tuesday, 3rd May, 2016 moved to the Streets in their thousands to peacefully protest to register their dissatisfaction with the services provided by the Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company;

Also noted that in the last few weeks , there have been series of protest on the same issue from different part of the country such as in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, University of Lagos (UNILAG), Students of University of Ibadan (UI), residents of Abaji in Abuja and many more protested against recent total epileptic power supply in the country;

Concerned that people are really suffering and going through hardship, it is disheartened that due to power shortage, many small scale businesses are folding up and the lack of electricity supply has grounded economic activities to constitutes serious macro-economic problem for the country;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Power to investigate the matter, with a view to have an assessment of the issue across the country and report back to the House within 4 weeks (**HR. 162/2016**).

Motion referred to the Committee on Power.

(*ii*) ***Call on the Authorities for an Urgent Intervention on Incessant Local Flight Delays and Cancellations Without Notice*:**
Hon. Rotimi Agunsoye (*Kosofe 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 VIII, Rule 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, Rules46 (3) *and* 49 *to enable it debate the matter forthwith —Agreed to.*

Call on the Authorities for an Urgent Intervention on Incessant Local Flight Delays and Cancellations Without Notice:

The House:

Aware that there has been frequent complaints by the public and airline passengers throughout the country about a rampant trend by local airline flight operators and their unsavoury customer relation, delays and cancellations, without reasonable grounds and/or ample notice for these occurrences;

Also aware that many local airlines operating within the country do not operate in consonance with the rules of international best practices;

Worried that these local flight operators subject passengers to stress and untold hardship, compelling them to wait several hours at the airports, who many times are pregnant women and little children;

Concerned that many of these flight operators do not deem it fit to communicate passengers on the delayed flights, or give notice of cancellations within a reasonable time, to enable passengers adjust to the developments or seek alternative options;

Also worried that a delayed or cancelled flight without the requisite notice most often plunges passengers into diverse loses ranging from loss of man hours, appointments, business schedules and other matters requiring exigencies;

Also concerned that incidences of poor services ranging from abysmal ground handling, poor passenger relation, toss of luggage, time taken to pick up luggage, and so on, have become of daily frequency;

Recalls that an Arik flight which was going from Lagos to London on the 4th of April, 2016 at 12 noon could not use a conveyor belt to load luggage into its under cabin, leading to a protracted time from a manual loading;

Determined to ensure passengers are not treated inhumanly and that adequate compensations are paid to passengers who have been subjected to unfair treatments, some of whom have suffered loses of varying degrees;

Also determined to stem these unconventional attitudes of these local flight operators and ensure adequate sanctions and fines are met on erring operators;

Further determined to ensure that local airline operators operate within the international best practices and encourage Nigerians to patronise Nigerian owned airlines;

Accordingly resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to urgently intervene in the issue of flight passengers' unfair treatments, incessant flight cancellations and delays by airline operators in Nigeria;

(*ii*) also urge the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) and SERVICOM to carry out a holistic overhaul of service delivery in the aviation sector with a view to alleviating the sufferings of airline passengers; and

(*iii*) mandate the Committee on Aviation to invite the Managing Director, Federal Airport Authority of Nigerian (FAAN) and the Director General, Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) with a view to looking into the issue of flight passenger satisfaction in a bid to ensure conformity with best practices (*Hon. Rotimi Agunsoye — Kosofe Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

(*i*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*iv*) as follows:
"Invite the Consumer Protection Council (CPC) to explain to the House the extent of its activities to protect air travelers"(*Hon. Henry Ofongo —Southern Ijaw Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made —Agreed to.

(*ii*) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (*iii*) and *insert* as follows instead thereof:
"Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the matter and report back to the House" (*Hon. Jimoh A. Olajide — Lagos Mainland Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that there has been frequent complaints by the public and airline passengers throughout the country about a rampant trend by local airline flight operators and their unsavoury customer relation, delays and cancellations, without reasonable grounds and/or ample notice for these occurrences;

Also aware that many local airlines operating within the country do not operate in consonance with the rules of international best practices;

Worried that these local flight operators subject passengers to stress and untold hardship, compelling them to wait several hours at the airports, who many times are pregnant women and little children;

Concerned that many of these flight operators do not deem it fit to communicate passengers on the delayed flights, or give notice of cancellations within a reasonable time, to enable passengers adjust to the developments or seek alternative options;

Also worried that a delayed or cancelled flight without the requisite notice most often plunges passengers into diverse loses ranging from loss of man hours, appointments, business schedules and other matters requiring exigencies;

Also concerned that incidences of poor services ranging from abysmal ground handling, poor passenger relation, toss of luggage, time taken to pick up luggage, and so on, have become of daily frequency;

Recalls that an Arik flight which was going from Lagos to London on the 4th of April, 2016 at 12 noon could not use a conveyor belt to load luggage into its under cabin, leading to a protracted time from a manual loading;

Determined to ensure passengers are not treated inhumanly and that adequate compensations are paid to passengers who have been subjected to unfair treatments, some of whom have suffered loses of varying degrees;

Also determined to stem these unconventional attitudes of these local flight operators and ensure adequate sanctions and fines are met on erring operators;

Further determined to ensure that local airline operators operate within the international best practices and encourage Nigerians to patronise Nigerian owned airlines;

Accordingly resolved to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to urgently intervene in the issue of flight passengers' unfair treatments, incessant flight cancellations and delays by airline operators in Nigeria;

(*ii*) also urge the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) and SERVICOM to carry out a holistic overhaul of service delivery in the aviation sector with a view to alleviating the sufferings of airline passengers;

(*iii*) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the matter and report back to the House; and

(*iv*) invite the Consumer Protection Council (CPC) to explain to the House the extent of its activities to protect air travelers (**HR. 163/2016**).

6. Presentation of Reports

(*i*) ***Ad-hoc Committee on the Investigation of the Declaration by the Hon. Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice concerning the Resolution of the National Assembly on the Crisis in the Kogi State House of Assembly*:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Investigation of the Declaration by the Hon. Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice concerning the Resolution of the National Assembly on the Crisis in the Kogi State House of Assembly" (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).

Question agreed to.

Report laid.

(*ii*) ***Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations*:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations on the 67th Session of the Executive Committee during the 38th Conference of the African Parliament Union (APU) held in Bissau, Guinea Bissau from 2nd -6th December, 2015" (*Hon. Samuel Ikon — Etinan/Nsit Ibom/Nsit Ubium Federal Constituency*).

Question agreed to.

Report laid.

(*iii*) ***Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations*:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations on the African Youth Parliamentarians Union Conference held in Rabat, Morocco from 9th -14th December, 2015" (*Hon. Samuel Ikon — Etinan/Nsit Ibom/Nsit Ubium Federal Constituency*).

Question agreed to.

Report laid.

7. Admittance into the Chamber

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do admit into the Chamber, the Hon. Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, to enable him make presentation in respect of Sectoral Debate on the "Diversification of the Nigerian Economy: Real Sector Development", pursuant to Order XIX, Rule 217 (1) (*xi*) of the Standing Orders" (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

8. Sectoral Debate — Third Allotted Day

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do continue with the Sectoral debate on the Diversification of the Nigerian Economy, pursuant to Order XVI of the Standing Orders" (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

***Presentation by the Hon. Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment*:**

The Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr Okechukwu E. Enelamah, made his presentation as follows:

Protocols

1. *I'd like to thank the leadership of the House of Representatives, for hosting this event. It is my pleasure to have this opportunity to stand in these hallowed chambers to speak about my work as a Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and to discuss the plans of the Federal Government to fast-track and deepen the diversification of the Nigerian Economy.*

2. *The natural starting point for this presentation would be to provide some context on the state of the Nigerian economy. As we know, Nigeria is the largest economy in Africa, with a GDP greater than USD*500 *billion. Our growth averaged* 7 *percent per annum between* 2005, *on account of a number of factors. Notably*:

    a. *First the precipitous drop in the price of oil, on which we depend for* 75 *percent of government revenues and* 90 *percent of foreign exchange earnings. Between mid-*2014 *and early this year, oil prices fell by as much as* 75 *percent.*

    b. *Second the changing conditions in the world's two largest economies: the end of the era of Quantitative Easing in the United States and availability of higher returns to investors in that country, and the economic slowdown in China.*

3. *These challenging economic circumstances are not unique to us. In most places across the world, from Brazil to Russia to South Africa, countries like us dependent on export natural resources have been facing challenging times that have had negative impact on their growth rates, foreign reserves, and currencies.*

4. *Having laid that foundation, let us now consider the structure of the Nigerian economy. A lot has been said about Nigeria being an oil-dependent economy. This is true, as is obvious from the state of public finances, and the impact of low oil prices on the economy. It is however important to note that the impressive economic growth of recent years was driven primarily by the non-oil sectors, such as financial services, telecommunications, entertainment, etc. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows was strong, averaging USD*2 *billion per quarter since* 2013, *with over* 70 *percent of this in the non-oil sectors.*

5. *Which leads us to a very important point, one we should not lose sight of: that Nigeria's economy is actually more diversified than it seems. The much talked-about oil sector, which has historically accounted for three-quarters of our government revenues, and as much as* 90 *percent of foreign exchange earnings, actually contributes only about* 14 *percent to GDP. Agriculture on the other hand, which contributes about a fifth of our GDP, accounts for only a small fraction of our export earnings.*

The challenge before us therefore is this: How do we monetize these other sectors? How do we boost non-oil exports, so that we are no longer primarily dependent on the ebbs and flows of the oil market for our government revenues and foreign exchange? How do we take full advantage of the potentials of agriculture and agro-processing, Solid Minerals, ICT and Entertainment, to mention just a few, which, elsewhere in the world have underpinned economies bigger than ours?

6. *There is arguably no better time than now to seek to diversify and restructure our economy. Like the saying goes: "a crisis is too great an opportunity to waste". The flip side of the oil price crisis is the opportunity it presents; to create something new; to develop a diversified export base and a solid base of domestic manufacturing.*

Current Diversification Efforts

7. *Our plan for continuing to foster the diversification and industrialization of the economy is predicated on a 4-Point Agenda, as follows:*

I. CREATE an Enabling Environment for Industry, Trade and Investment in Nigeria. We are working to position MITI as an Enabler and Facilitator of business and investment in Nigeria. We would like Nigerians and the world to regard MITI as the 'Ministry of Enabling Environment'. When we say 'Enabling Environment', we mean one in which it is progressively easier to do business, policies are predictable and consistent, the government acts as a partner to business and investment, not a competitor or adverse regulator, and there is macro-economic stability. We have started coordinating with the State Governments on measures to improve the investment climate and operating environment for businesses. In the weeks and months ahead we will be unveiling a number of important initiatives that will help address Nigeria's historically poor performance on various Global Competitiveness and Ease of Doing Business Indices. These concrete initiatives will focus on dismantling the many obstacles that stand in the way of business and business innovation in Nigeria.

In our estimation, the singular most important enabler of business in Nigeria, i.e. investment, entrepreneurship, and industrialization in Nigeria - is infrastructure. And by this we mean not only 'hard' infrastructure like transport networks and reliable power supply, but also 'soft infrastructure like transparent regulation, policy consistency, the rule of law, and a culture of efficient collaboration and synergy among various government agencies and offices.

II. IMPLEMENT the Nigeria Industrial Revolution Plan (NIRP): Nigeria needs to make the transition from being primarily an exporter of commodities and raw materials, to being an industrial economy. Manufacturing currently contributes only a tenth to our Gross Domestic Product, much lower than it does in other emerging market economies. Our Industrialization ambition is hinged on the Nigerian Industrial Revolution Plan (NIRP), launched by the previous government in 2014. It is now time to move from Plan to Action. It is now our duty to implement that Plan in light of current realities, taking into consideration the lessons learnt in the two years since it was unveiled. We are focused on identifying and supporting a select number of sectors in which Nigeria has comparative advantage. We have seen success in our industrialization policies in the cement industry; and sugar is currently trying to replicate that success. In the Automotive, and Cotton, Textile and Garment (CTG) industries, we are continuing discussions with players and stakeholders to see how we can better implement an industrial policy that creates jobs, inclusive growth and prosperity.

III. *CHAMPION the cause of Nigeria's Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), as a means of creating jobs and achieving inclusive growth: MSMEs are the unsung heroes of our economy, currently contributing about half of Gross Domestic Product, and possessing the potential to be even more productive, given the right incentives. Working through agencies like the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), the Bank of Industry (BOI), the Industrial Training Fund (ITF), and the Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC), and in collaboration with other Ministries and Agencies of government, we will be rolling out programmes and initiatives focused on supporting MSMEs with financing, infrastructure, technical support and training. Already, as part of 500 billion Naira Social Investment programme in the 2016 Federal Budget, over two million traders, farmers and artisans will receive micro-credit, through a fund to be managed by the Bank of Industry.*

IV. *PROACTIVELY attract long-term local and foreign investment: One of the fundamental questions facing us as a government is: how do we increase the levels of domestic and foreign investment in Nigeria, especially for the purpose of closing our massive infrastructure gap. These challenging times we find ourselves in call for the deployment of innovative financing solutions, targeted at unlocking capital wherever it might be found. We have begun to see positive momentum on this front, for instance during President Muhammadu Buhari State visit to China, investment agreements of more than 6 billion dollars between Nigerian and Chinese companies were signed, for the construction of roads, factories, housing projects, etc. among other benefits. The size and type of financing Nigeria requires suggests that our preferred partners will be those who show evidence of a commitment to a long-term partnership.*

Practical Proposals on Legislative Intervention to Support Diversification

8. *To achieve these goals, we need your help and support. We need legislative backing and intervention to reform some of the laws and practices that have been holding us back. I will cite a few examples:*

a. ***For Ease of Doing Business:*** *The Company and Allied Matter Act (CAMA) requires overhaul, to align it with the realities of the 21st century, as well as global best-practice standards.*

b. ***For MSMEs:*** *To unlock the potential of our Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, which account for almost half of our GDP, we need the National Assembly to fast-track work on the Independent Warehouse Regulatory Agency Bill, and Secured Transactions in Movable Assets Bill. When passed, these pieces of legislation will significantly improve access to finance for small businesses.*

c. ***Investments:*** *To unlock investment in infrastructure, legislative reform is required in a number of areas, like the Railway Corporation and Postal Service Acts. It is only by reviewing these laws that we will be able to guarantee much-needed private investment in these sectors.*

Conclusion

9. *Let me conclude by stating that diversification is a priority for President Buhari and his administration. No nation grows without developing and expanding its productive base. The current administration will strive to create a conducive environment for domestic and foreign trade and investment, especially focused on the non-oil economy. We are committed to improving the ease of doing business in our country, by painstakingly dismantling the many obstacles that entrepreneurs and businesses and investors have long complained about. We will pursue our industrial policy learning from our own experiences and that of others. We*

will continue to partner with local and foreign investors, foreign governments and international organizations, to achieve win-win economic growth and shared prosperity for our people.

Thank you.

Debate ensued on the Hon. Minister's presentation.

The Hon. Minister responded to the observations raised by Hon. Members on his presentation. He thanked the House for the opportunity given to him to be part of the sectoral debate.

9. **Consolidation of Bills**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That 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); a Bill for an Act to Amend the Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Act, Cap. C52, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to Provide Compulsory Free Meal a day for Children of ages 6-8 and Classes 1-2 in Universal Basic Schools in the Federal Republic of Nigeria; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 155) be now consolidated" (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Abrogate the Legislative Powers Delegated to Executive, Administrative, Judicial and Other Offices, Officers, Agencies and Authorities for the Determination, Imposition, Increase, Cancellation, Withdrawal or Reduction of Taxes, Duties, Tariffs and Fees and to Prohibit the exercise of such Powers without the Approval of the National Assembly, pursuant to Section 59 (1) (*b*) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 508) - Second Reading.**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

11. **Urgent Need for the Rehabilitation of Uyo Ndiya/Eket Ndiya, Etinan, Mkpat Enin, Ikot Abasi, Port Harcourt Road**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Uyo Ndiya Eket Ndiya, Etinan, Mkpat Enin, Ikot Abasi, Port Harcourt Road is a major highway linking Akwa Ibom, Rivers and Bayelsa States;

Also notes the deplorable nature of the road and that the collapse of Ndiya bridge by Ikot Mfon has stalled movement of persons and vehicles, thereby cripping commercial activities in those communities;

Concerned that the deplorable condition of the road has given armed bandits the opportunities to attack travelers and are posing risks to Banks and prime business outfits located on the highway;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to commence the reconstruction of the road to ease the sufferings of the people;

(*ii*) also urge the Inspector-General of Police to put in place security measures in those areas to safeguard the lives and properties of people;

(*iii*) mandate the Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission to ensure compliance (*Hon. Samuel Ikon — Etinan/Nsit Ibom/Nsit Ubium Federal Constituency*).

Question agreed to.

(**HR. 164/2016**).

Motion referred to the Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 51 (5).

12. Call on the Council of Legal Education and the Body of Benchers to Allow Law Graduates of National Open University of Nigeria Enrolment into the Nigerian Law Schools

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) is a Federal Open and Distance Learning (ODL) Institution, the first of its kind in the West African Sub-region and also Nigeria's largest Tertiary Institution in terms of students intake;

Aware that the NOUN offers Law as one of its courses and met the requirements for accreditation of a Law Faculty, and also has a good percentage of its law students as degree holders in various disciplines who chose to read Law out of passion to further strengthen their subsisting professions;

Also aware that the Council of Legal Education was established in 1962 to regulate, supervise and be responsible for accreditation, control and management of legal education in Nigeria;

Concerned about the Council's policy that law should no longer be studied on part-time basis despite the fact that many notable lawyers in Nigeria who studied law on part-time or through correspondence are doing exceedingly well in practice; and therefore, enforcement of the policy would deny law graduates of NOUN admissions into the Nigerian Law School, an action that will be punitive;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Council of Legal Education and the Body of Benchers to re-visit the decision with a view to allowing graduates from the NOUN to be admitted to the Nigerian Law Schools; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committees on Tertiary Education and Services, and Federal Judiciary to intervene in the matter with a view to ensuring that the Council of Legal Education rescinds the policy that disapproves of the Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) Degree programme offered by the National Open University of Nigeria (*Hon. Ayodele Oladimeji — Ado Ekiti/Irepodun/Ifelodun Federal Constituency*) .

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

(*i*) *Leave out* all the Prayers and *insert* a new Prayer as follows:
"Mandate the Committees on Tertiary Education and Services, and Federal Judiciary to intervene in the matter with a view to determining the reasons for the non-accreditation of Law School Students from National Open University (NOUN) into the Nigerian Law School" (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — Surulere I Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(*ii*) In the Prayer as amended, in line 3, immediately after word "School", *insert* the following words "and report back to the House within three weeks for further legislative action" (*Hon. Chinda Kingsley — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made —Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) is a Federal Open and Distance Learning (ODL) Institution, the first of its kind in the West African Sub-region and also Nigeria's largest Tertiary Institution in terms of students intake;

Aware that the NOUN offers Law as one of its courses and met the requirements for accreditation of a Law Faculty, and also has a good percentage of its law students as degree holders in various disciplines who chose to read Law out of passion to further strengthen their subsisting professions;

Also aware that the Council of Legal Education was established in 1962 to regulate, supervise and be responsible for accreditation, control and management of legal education in Nigeria;

Concerned about the Council's policy that law should no longer be studied on part-time basis despite the fact that many notable lawyers in Nigeria who studied law on part-time or through correspondence are doing exceedingly well in practice; and therefore, enforcement of the policy would deny law graduates of NOUN admissions into the Nigerian Law School, an action that will be punitive;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Tertiary Education and Services, and Federal Judiciary to intervene in the matter with a view to determining the reasons for the non-accreditation of Law School Students from National Open University (NOUN) into the Nigerian Law School and report back to the House within three weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 165/2016**).

Motion referred to the Committees on Tertiary Education and Services, and Federal Judiciary.

13. Consideration of Reports

(*i*) ***A Bill for an Act to Penalize the Commission of Acts of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishments, Prescribing Penalties Thereof; and for Other Connected Purposes*** **(HB. 120) (*Committee of the Whole*):**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

(*ii*) ***A Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Loan and Risk Management of Nigeria to Provide for the Control of its Membership and to Promote the Practice of Loan and Risk Management in Nigeria; and for Other Connected Purposes*** **(HB. 77) (*Committee of the Whole*):**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

(*iii*) ***A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Judicial Institute Act, Cap. N55, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria; 2004 to Specify the Tenure of Office of the Administrator; and for Other Matters Related Thereto*** **(HB. 302) (*Committee of the Whole*):**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

(*iv*) ***Ad-hoc Committee on the Investigation of the Declaration by the Hon. Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice concerning the Resolution of the National Assembly on the Crisis in the Kogi State House of Assembly*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Investigation of the Declaration by the Hon. Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice concerning the Resolution of the National Assembly on the Crisis in the Kogi State House of Assembly and approve the recommendation therein" (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).

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 Attorney General of the Federation should immediately withdraw his letter and advice to the Inspector General of Police" (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:
In Recommendation (*i*), line 1, immediately after the word "his", *leave out* the words "letter and" (*Hon. Chinda Kingsley — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question that Recommendation (*i*) *stand part of the Report — Agreed to.*

***Recommendation* (*ii*):**
"That the Attorney General of the Federation be reprimanded for undermining the authority of the Legislature" (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

***Recommendation* (*iii*):**
"That the Attorney General of the Federation should proceed to court if he has any issue with the Resolution of the National Assembly on the matter or any matter in the future" (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

***Recommendation* (*iv*):**
"That the Inspector General of Police should immediately reseal the Kogi State House of Assembly pending the resolution of the Kogi crisis" (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

***Recommendation* (*v*):**
"That the Inspector General of Police be reprimanded for undermining the authority of the Legislature" (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

***Recommendation* (*vi*):**
"That all Resolutions, Laws and actions taken by the Kogi State House of Assembly from the date of the National Assembly Resolution be declared null and void by operation of law" (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

***Recommendation* (*vii*):**
"That the Governor of Kogi State should immediately send his Budget and other Executive Bills to the National Assembly for consideration as stipulated in Section 11 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999" (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).

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 *Ad-hoc* Committee on the Investigation of the Declaration by the Hon. Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice concerning the Resolution of the National Assembly on the Crisis in the Kogi State House of Assembly and approved Recommendation (*i*) as amended, approved Recommendations (*ii*) - (*vii*) of the Report.

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

14. Adjournment
That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 12 *May*, 2016 *at* 11.00 *a.m.* (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 3.20 *p.m.*

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker