



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 10 January, 2017

1. The House met at 11.13 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Second Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 15 December, 2016.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. **Welcome Address by the Hon. Speaker**
Mr Speaker delivered his new year welcome address as follows:

PROTOCOLS:

It is my pleasure to welcome us all back from the Christmas and New Year 2017 recess. I hope we used the period, as always, to brief our constituents, interact with them and recharge our legislative batteries for 2017. Permit me to seize this opportunity to offer thanks to the Almighty God for his grace, protection, guidance and for seeing us through the year 2016 and also for bringing us back safely.

2. *The year 2016 presented us with its peculiar challenges especially in the area of security and the economy. It was the year in which our dear country eventually slipped into recession resulting in grievous social stress for the citizenry; It was also the year in which terrorism in the North East, militancy in the South South, the despicable phenomenon of kidnapping as well as the flash of agitations bared their murderous fangs – visiting death, pain and anguish on the populace. In all these, it is gratifying to note that the fundamentals of nationhood remain strong, robust and promising. We commend the gallantry, ingenuity and professionalism of our armed forces and security agencies, the political will of the Buhari led government and the unbending resilience of the Nigerian people.*

3. *Many developments in the polity require legislative and executive responses. It was during this break that our citizens woke up to a heartwarming and cheering news when the military authorities declared they had captured the most strategic major stronghold held by Boko Haram terrorists. While we applaud them for their sacrifices and commitment that resulted in this military triumph, we must hasten to add that the war against terrorism is still on, our citizens must remain vigilant against targeting of soft targets by fleeing terrorists as they attempt to terrorize the populace.*

There has also been outbreak of violence resulting in wanton killings and destruction of properties in Southern Kaduna, Birnin Gwani, parts of Zamfara State. Same was the order in Benue, Plateau and some other States. Before we went on break, this House by Resolution mandated the Leadership to meet with Mr President on the challenges posed by these senseless killings. Having met with Mr President, I am happy to report that I am satisfied with the response of the President on these matters. I share the view that finding solutions to these crises must not be left to Kaduna State Government alone or Mr President. An enduring solution can only be attained if all of us — all Nigerians regardless of ethnic groupings — northerners, southerners, christians, muslims, politicians, the apolitical, traditional rulers and religious leaders accept the fact that we are responsible and rise to confront and rid our communities of these evils. On the part of Government, I'm more than hopeful that the effect of the presidential intervention, particularly in the Southern Kaduna crisis will soon be felt.

4. We must make it abundantly clear that no matter the level of grievance, no individual or group of individuals have the right to kill innocent citizens or to take up arms against the nation state. Nigeria's worst enemies are these hate mongers and merchants of death who seek to turn this nation into the primitive state which in the words of British born Philosopher, Thomas Hobbes, in his famous work, *Leviathan*, is a state of, "continual fear and danger of violent death; and the life of man; solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short". For our nation to make true progress, these enemies of the state, just like Boko haram members, must be crushed.

5. As the year 2017 rolls by, we should expect great challenges once again but with renewed determination and faith that things shall surely get better with God on our side. In this regard, I wish to remind us that perhaps the most critical and urgent task before us is the pending 2017 Appropriation Bill. My Honourable colleagues, the economy must be our central focus in 2017. Measures to exit Nigeria out of recession must be the critical aspect of our legislative activities. The 2017 Budget remains the major tool to rejig our economy. This is in addition to other fiscal and monetary policies. The recent fiscal measures including import prohibition of certain items and the increase or decrease of tariff on some items should receive appropriate legislative scrutiny to ensure that the economy and the interests of our people are protected. We must ensure that we take no prisoners in accomplishing this task.

6. We must brace up and work assiduously and conscientiously to give Nigerians a budget that will not only lift us out of recession but kick start the needed expeditious journey into Nigeria's prosperity. We pledge to reform the budget process. To this end therefore, we would ensure that the procedure and process of consideration and passage of the 2017 Budget is transparent, inclusive and professionally handled. The details of the Budget should be debated and passed in Plenary to avoid those needless pitfalls that normally characterize the budget process.

7. 2017 is perhaps the year to pass critical bills before active politicking starts. Critical Bills designed to stimulate and streamline our economy such as the Public Procurement Act amendment, Federal Competition Bill, Petroleum Industry bill, etc. will receive expeditious consideration. Important Bills on Constitution alteration and Amendment to the Electoral Act also deserve expeditious consideration and passage.

8. The recent spate of impeachment of Speakers of Houses of Assembly of States gives cause for grave concern. While we recognize the constitutional right of the legislature to conduct its internal affairs including the right to hire and fire its leadership, it presents a different scenario where such leadership hiring and firing is rife with accusations and insinuations of external influence and also devoid of extant procedure. Leaders everywhere can only function efficiently where there is certainty that commendation is the reward for good leadership and sanction the consequence of inept leadership. The Nigerian legislature needs to be afforded an opportunity to blossom if our democracy is to ever mature into adulthood.

9. On the external front; particularly within the ECOWAS subregion, recent events call for both joy and concern. There have been peaceful elections and transition of power in Ghana to the delight and pride of all Africans. However, in Gambia, even though peaceful elections took place, the outgoing President Yahaya Jammeh, has recanted his pledge to hand over power peacefully, losing the elections. The situation in Gambia constitutes a serious dent on the rising profile and development of democracy on the African continent.

10. We wish to commend the President of Nigeria and indeed the leadership of ECOWAS for their principled stance on the matter. The recent official position that ECOWAS will ensure peaceful transition in The Gambia is most reassuring. We understand this to imply peaceful transition *simpliciter* but also the enforcement of peaceful transition should the need arise. As a foremost democratic institution, the legislature will stand firmly behind the government of Nigeria as well as ECOWAS in ensuring that no individual leader on the African continent engages in conduct prejudicial to the growth of Africa's democracy.

11. Honourable Colleagues, I urge once again that we rededicate ourselves to the task of pulling our country out of recession and restoring total peace as a prerequisite for attaining the greatness which our nation is destined for.

12. God bless you all and may God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

4. Announcement

Death of Engr. Abdulkadir A. Kure, former Governor of Niger State:

By leave of the House, Hon. Abdullahi Abubakar Lado (Gurara/Suleja/Tafa Federal Constituency) informed the House of the demise of His Excellency, Engr Abdulkadir A. Kure, former Governor of Niger State, on 9th January, 2017. He acknowledged the selfless service and contributions of the late Governor in building a united Nigeria and noted that his death was a big loss to the nation. He urged the Federal Government to immortalize the statesman by naming a national monument after him. He also urged the House to send a high powered delegation to condole with the government and people of Niger State as well as the family of the late Governor. He prayed the House to observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased.

The House observed a minute silence in honour of the deceased.

Delegation to Pay a Condolence visit to the Government of Niger State, and the family of the Deceased:

Mr Speaker named the Members of the delegation as follows:

1.	Hon. Ado Dogwa	—	Leader of the Delegate
2.	Hon. Mahmud M. Abdulkadir	—	Member
3.	Hon. Abdullahi Abubakar Lado	—	Member
4.	Hon. Sanni Abdul	—	Member
5.	Hon. Umar Jega	—	Member
6.	Hon. Faruk Muhammadu Bala	—	Member
7.	Hon. Shadafi Saliyu Adamu	—	Member
8.	Hon. Mohammed Umar Bago	—	Member
9.	Hon. Ahmed Abu	—	Member
10.	Hon. Saleh Shehu	—	Member
11.	Hon. Garba Abdullahi Idris	—	Member
12.	Hon. Adamu Abubakar Chika	—	Member
13.	Hon. Umar Muhammed Rofia	—	Member

5. **Petitions**

- (i) A petition from Comrade Japhet Ogbueri and two others, on behalf of Etche Peoples' Liberation Congress, on the need for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to declare the results of the re-run election of the Etche/Omuma Federal Constituency and Etche II State Constituency, Rivers State, held on 10 December, 2016, was presented and laid by Hon. Kingsley Chinda (*Obio/Akpqr Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) A petition from Asokolo Jonathan on the non implementation of the recommendation of the House in 2013 that he should be re-instated to the service of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), was presented and laid by Hon. Edward Pwajok Gyang (*Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

6. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**

- (i) ***Gallantry Defeat of the Boko Haram Insurgents in the Sambisa Forest by the Nigerian Armed Forces:***
Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno (*Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance.

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

Matter to stand over till next legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 4 (3).

- (ii) ***Unlawful and Illegal Actions of the Financial Reporting Councils of Nigeria (FRCN):***
Hon. Leo Ogor (*Isoko North/Isoko South Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance.

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

Matter to stand over till next legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 4 (3).

7. **Presentation of Report*****Committee on Banking and Currency;***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Banking Currency on the Need to Investigate the Alleged Undervaluation and Purchase Price Racketeering of Eligible Bank Assets by the Assets Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) (HR. 216/2016)" (Hon. Jones Chukwudi Onyereri — Nkwere/Isu/Nwangele/Njaba Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

8. **Consolidation of Bills**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Labour Act, Cap. L1, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to make Further Provisions for the Compulsory Registration of all Foreign Employers of Labour in Nigeria by the Ministry and for Other Related Matters (HB. 434), and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Labour Act, Cap. L1, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to Strengthen and Review the Fines and Punishment Stipulated in the Act, and for Other Related Matters (HB. 339) be now consolidated". (Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buzuku Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Air Force Institute of Technology, Kaduna to provide Technical Training for Personnel of the Nigeria Air Force and other Services of the Nigerian Armed Forces, and Other African Countries and for Other Connected Purposes (HB. 313) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Air Force Institute of Technology, Kaduna to provide Technical Training for Personnel of the Nigeria Air Force and other Services of the Nigerian Armed Forces, and Other African Countries and for Other Connected Purposes (HB. 313) be now read the Third Time" (*Hon. Jibril Umar Buba — Deputy House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time, and passed.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Office of the Surgeon General of the Federation (SGFGN) for the Purpose of Providing Professional Advice on Issues of Public Health, Medical and Health System to the President, Minister of Health, National Assembly and Other Officials in the Federal Republic of Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB. 786) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Office of the Surgeon General of the Federation (SGFGN) for the Purpose of Providing Professional Advice on Issues of Public Health, Medical and Health System to the President, Minister of Health, National Assembly and Other Officials in the Federal Republic of Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB. 786) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Abiodun Dada Awoleye — Ibadan North Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question that the Bill be read a Second Time — Negatived.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the City Technical University, Kaduna and for Other Related Matters (HB. 768) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the City Technical University, Kaduna and for Other Related Matters (HB. 768) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Tijjani Jobe Abdulkadir — Dawakin Tofa/Tofa/Rimin Gado Federal Constituency and 3 others*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Administrative and Political Structure of the Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory and for Other Related Matters (HB. 30) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Administrative and Political Structure of the Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory and for Other Related Matters (HB. 30) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonigbo — Ukwu East/Ukwu West 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 Committee on Federal Capital Territory Area Councils and Ancillary Matters.

13. A Bill for an Act to Harmonize the Functions of the National Manpower Board and the National Planning Commission and Empower the National Planning Commission to Determine and Advise the Federal Government of Nigeria on the National Manpower Needs in all Occupations and for Other Related Matters (HB. 285) — *Second Reading*

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

14. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Wages Boards and Industrial Councils Act, Cap W1, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to Review Upwards the Fines Stipulated for Offences under the Act and for Other Related Matters (HB. 282) — *Second Reading*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Wages Boards and Industrial Councils Act, Cap W1, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to Review Upwards the Fines Stipulated for Offences under the Act and for Other Related Matters (HB. 282) be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Peter O. Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee of the Whole.

15. A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Commission for Museums and Monuments Act, Cap. N19, LFN, 2004 to Increase the Amount to be Paid as Fine for the Commission of an Offence under the Act; and for Other Connected Purposes (HB. 146) — *Second Reading*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Commission for Museums and Monuments Act, Cap. N19, LFN, 2004 to Increase the Amount to be Paid as Fine for the Commission of an Offence under the Act; and for Other Connected Purposes (HB. 146) be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Chukwuemeka Ujam — Nkanu East/Nkanu West 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 Culture and Tourism.

16. A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Productivity Centre Act, Cap. N70, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, in order to Empower the Centre to Design, Set Up and Operate Productivity Guidelines for Training, Certification of all Certificated Artisans and Technicians and to Establish a Registry for the Registration of Qualified Members and for Other Related Matters (HB 387) — *Second Reading*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Productivity Centre Act, Cap. N70, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, in order to Empower the Centre to Design, Set Up and Operate Productivity Guidelines for Training, Certification of all Certificated Artisans and Technicians and to Establish a Registry for the Registration of Qualified Members and for Other Related Matters (HB 387) be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Adeyinka Ajayi — Odo-Otin/Ifelodun/Boripe 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 Labour, Employment and Productivity.

17. Call to Improve Health Care Services in the Rural Communities

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

18. Call for an End to the Practice of Commuters Hanging on Moving Trains

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes with concern the growing and dangerous practice of commuters sitting or hanging on moving trains which is becoming trendy among many young commuters;

Also notes that the practice, which has led to loss of lives of some of the commuters, is a clear evidence of failure to enforce the laws;

Acknowledges that rail-transportation is one of the most efficient and cost-effective means of transport and is germane to economic growth and development, especially for a country with a population of 180 million people;

Concerned that movement of people, goods and services will continue to be a challenge that cannot be met efficiently and effectively by road transportation alone, and as long as the Railway system remains undeveloped, the pressure on the roads will remain;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Nigeria Police Force and the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps to maintain presence in trains and organize mobile and functional stations along train routes so as to prevent commuters from sitting or hanging on moving trains;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to work in collaboration with other States that are cosmopolitan in nature, such as Lagos, Kano, Kaduna and Rivers, to provide alternative transportation systems to ease movement of people and goods; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Land Transport to interface with officials of the Federal Ministry of Transportation and the Nigerian Railway Corporation on the matter with a view to evolving measures to eliminate the practice and report back within six (6) weeks for legislative action (*Hon. Abdulraheem Olajide Jimoh — Lagos Mainland Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with concern the growing and dangerous practice of commuters sitting or hanging on moving trains which is becoming trendy among many young commuters;

Also noted that the practice, which has led to loss of lives of some of the commuters, is a clear evidence of failure to enforce the laws;

Acknowledged that rail transportation is one of the most efficient and cost-effective means of transport and is germane to economic growth and development, especially for a country with a population of 180 million people;

Concerned that movement of people, goods and services will continue to be a challenge that cannot be met efficiently and effectively by road transportation alone, and as long as the Railway system remains undeveloped, the pressure on the roads will remain;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Nigeria Police Force and the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps to maintain presence in trains and organize mobile and functional stations along train routes so as to prevent commuters from sitting or hanging on moving trains;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to work in collaboration with other States that are cosmopolitan in nature, such as Lagos, Kano, Kaduna and Rivers, to provide alternative transportation systems to ease movement of people and goods; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Land Transport to interface with officials of the Federal Ministry of Transportation and the Nigerian Railway Corporation on the matter with a view to evolving measures to eliminate the practice and report back within six (6) weeks for legislative action (HR. 01/2017).

19. **Need for More Air Ambulances**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

20. **Need to Encourage Multi-National and Other Companies to Undertake Corporate Social Responsibilities**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

21. **Adjournment**

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 11 January, 2017 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Jibril Umar Buba — Deputy House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.45 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker