



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 17 September, 2019

1. The House met at 11:08 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Second Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 25 July, 2019.

The Second Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Oaths of Allegiance and Membership**
A Member-elect, Chike John Okafor (*Ehime Mbano/Ihitte Uboma/Obowo Federal Constituency*) took and subscribed the Oaths of Allegiance and Membership as prescribed by law.
5. **Address by Mr Speaker:**
Mr Speaker addressed the House as follows:

PROTOCOLS:

It is my pleasure to welcome you all back to the chamber after the annual recess. I thank God that through all our travels within and outside the country, we have made it back without suffering any mishap. I hope that the time away has been a time of consultation and preparation, and also of rest and renewal because there is a lot of work to do.

2. *Before we adjourned the House on 25th July, 2019, a significant amount of work had already started. We had begun legislative action through the consideration of 13 number of Bills including Electric Power Sector Reform Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019, Physically Challenged (Empowerment) Bill, 2019 and Student Loan (Access to Higher Education) Bill, 2019. We had also in that time received and debated 57 number of motions on a range of issues including the non Remittance of Contribution into the NSIFT by the Federal, States, Local Government and Some Public and Private Organisations.*

3. Work on those Bills and those motions will continue, even as we continue to receive, debate and act on other new legislation. ALL AD-HOC Committees to wind up and handover to Standing Committees by September 30th. I fully expect that in this session, the House of Representatives will consider important legislation such as the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB). I believe that we in this 9th Assembly are ideally suited to surmount the obstacles that have mitigated against passage of this essential reform legislation which is important if we are to properly address the structural, operational and policy challenges and inefficiencies in the Nigerian petroleum industry, and position the industry to best serve the interests of all the Nigerian people.
4. In addition to the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB), we will see the reintroduction of the of Bill prohibiting Estimated Billing in the power industry, intended to put a permanent end to the wastefulness and unfairness created by an unreliable and arbitrary system that imposes unforeseen costs on individuals and businesses alike, the Education Bank Bill, designed to ensure that no child in this 21st century is unable to get a quality tertiary education in Nigeria dues to a lack of means and the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Bill which will serve to broaden the Local Content Act and ensure the original intent of the Act is made real in the lives of our people.
5. We had also before the recess, taken action to prevent the National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) from embarking on a strike action that would have had an extremely deleterious effect on the delivery of healthcare services across the country, I am pleased to note that the agreement we reached with the Doctors is still holding, whilst we work with them and the executive to fashion a permanent solution to the problems that so often lead to such labour unrest and the threat or implementation of strike action. On this I particularly thank Chairman Health, Hon. Sununu on the initiatives taken.
6. As part of efforts by the House of Representatives to gain firsthand knowledge of what is happening in those parts of our country where banditry, insurgency and communal clashes have laid waste to towns and villages, displacing thousands of our fellow citizens, I recently led delegations of the House to Borno, Zamfara and Katsina States. On these occasions, we met with community leaders and government officials, we visited the internally displaced persons, and we heard their stories and considered their perspectives. The stories we heard were as much about faith in the promise of tomorrow and hope that with a little help, these people who have lost so much can rebuild their world again. It falls to us to make sure that the stories of these our fellow citizens are not forgotten, and that the hopes expressed in those stories guide the actions we choose to take and policies we choose to pursue, as we act to achieve the restoration of lasting peace and sustainable development in those communities and across the nation.
7. I am also pleased to note that the standing and Ad-hoc Committees of the House of Representatives constituted before the recess have hit the ground running. The Ad-hoc Committee set up to investigate the underutilization of the Eastern ports has held several events, including a well attended public hearing. We will shortly receive and consider the Committee's Report on the floor of the House, and take whatever action is required to ensure that these vital national assets are put to more effective use. The Ad-hoc Committee on the Legislative Agenda for the 9th House of Representatives have completed their assignment and submitted their report. That too will be tabled before the House for debate, amendment and adoption. It is this Agenda that will serve as our touchstone in this 9th Assembly and I look forward to a passionate and well-thought-out debate when the House meets to consider the draft Agenda.
8. Over the course of the recess, we convened two National Roundtable Discussions on reform of the budget process and on recovered assets. These roundtable sessions were intended to take a critical look at issues relating to the development, enactment, funding, implementation and evaluation of the national budget. The sessions provided an opportunity for institutional stakeholders from the executive and legislature to engage one another honestly on the problems of the appropriations process and the options for addressing those problems. It also allowed us to begin to prepare the ground for the 2020 Appropriations Bill which we expect will shortly be presented to the National Assembly by His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR. We look forward to receiving the

Executive's proposals and making sure they align with our national development objectives as well as the expectations and best interests of the Nigerian people.

9. *Through the National Roundtable discussion on Recovered Assets, we are working with the relevant executive agencies to develop a framework to more effectively account for the cash and non-cash assets recovered as part of the government's fight against corruption in public office. Government over the last five years has been quite successful in recovering so many of these resources, and these funds have in recent time contributed significantly to funding for our national budget. We have a responsibility to ensure that the assets thus far recovered are diligently accounted for and properly deployed to meet our national development challenges. As a consequence of the government's aggressive pursuit of these assets, individuals and organisations who have partaken in the conversion of these resources have evolved newer strategies of concealment. A joint effort between the executive and legislature on statutory reform, capacity building and appropriations is necessary to achieve future success in recovering these resources and sustaining the fight against corruption.*

10. *The leadership of the House had cause to convene to address the most unfortunate events of xenophobic attacks against Nigerian citizens in the Republic of South Africa. The scale of these attacks, the cost in lives and property, and the appearance of involvement by state actors in the worst of the attacks were some of the issues we deliberated on, after which the entire leadership of the House, in an unusual occurrence, released a joint statement articulating in clear terms the feelings of the Nigerian people on the unfortunate events and demanding action from the South African government. We stand by the commitments we made in our public declaration and we will continue to work to ensure that those who have been hurt by these attacks are properly compensated for their loss. The House commends the efforts of the Federal Government of Nigeria in addressing the issues that gave rise to these unsavoury events, as well as holding the government of South Africa accountable through the available diplomatic channels. We will continue to support these efforts by whatever means is required of us. We will also seek to take whatever active measures we can to help the returnees resettle in Nigeria and to resume productive lives here at home.*

11. *I invite the House to at this time join me in commending the actions of Julius Malema, leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) and a respected voice in the politics of that nation who openly and without equivocation, condemned the attacks and directed his organisation to provide aid and protection to our citizens facing harm. He has since then, never relented in calling out the failures of the government that allowed the attacks to occur and to continue. In a similar fashion, Sir Allen Ifechukwu Onyema, Chairman of Air Peace Airlines provided his organisation's services without charge, to repatriate those Nigerians who were willing to return home to escape the carnage that had been visited upon them. He acted without consideration of cost, of tribe or personal interest. He acted in the best traditions of patriotism and love of country. Our country owes these men a debt of gratitude.*

12. *In my inaugural address to the house, I said that on our shoulders lie the responsibility of working together as a House to safeguard the future of our great country. That is as true today as it was then, and I ask you all to remember this as we proceed to do the work for which we have been elected. Today we recited the National pledge, now part of our recitals at the beginning of every sitting. This will help inculcate the spirit of nation building even in our subconscious.*

13. *Our success depends on us collaborating with one another honestly and with unity of purpose.*

14. *We must stay on the message of nation building and let our disagreements over politics and policy never be allowed to get in the way of our joint task.*

15. *I welcome you all once more to the House of Representatives.*

16. *Thank you and may God bless you.*

6. Petitions

- (i) A petition from G. B. Diamond & Co., on behalf of Joseph Onwojor on his dismissal and abuse of fundamental human right by the then Ministry of Commerce and Tourism, was presented and laid by Hon. Ben Igbakpa (*Ethiope East/Ethiope West Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) A petition from Obi Felix Obiorah, on alleged threat to life, armed robbery and kidnapping, by Inspector Onyehere and 3 others of Nigeria Police Force, Delta State Command, was presented and laid by Hon. Chinedu Onwuaso (*Awka North/Awka South Federal Constituency*);
- (iii) A petition from Foluke Excel Ogbeide of International Recruitment Services, on the arrest and threat to her life by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), was presented and laid by Hon. Agunsoye Oluwarotimi Ojo (*Kosofo Federal Constituency*);
- (iv) A petition from Murtala A. Ibrahim, on the stoppage of his entitlements by the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN), was presented and laid by Hon. Abdullahi Sa'ad Abdulkadir (*Ningi Warji Federal Constituency*);
- (v) A petition from Niger Delta Survival Organization (NDESO), on behalf of Comrade Ugbas and 1 other, on the usurpation of the powers of the National Assembly by Nelson Brambaifa, was presented and laid by Hon. Oluwole Busayo Oke (*Obokun/Oriade Federal Constituency*);
- (vi) A petition from Chidi Henry Onyiuke & Co., (Solicitors & Advocates), on behalf of Akachukwu Matthew Onyiuke, on the non-release of his result by the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), was presented and laid by Hon. Valentine Ayika Ogbonna (*Njikoka/Dunukofia/Anaocha Federal Constituency*);
- (vii) A petition from Azebiokhe Fellarson Michael, on the refusal of the Nigeria Immigration Service to comply with the House Resolution of Thursday, 17 February, 2011, was presented and laid by Hon. Johnson Egwakhide Oghuma (*Itsako East/Itsako West/Itsako Central Federal Constituency*);
- (viii) A petition from Greater Abak Community Development Initiative, on the poor state of the reconstruction of Abak - Ekperekwara - Ette - Ikot Abasi road project in Akwa Ibom State by China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC), was presented and laid by Hon. Aniekan John Umanah (*Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

7. Matter of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)

Need for the Federal Government to Intervene in the Incessant Xenophobic Attacks on Nigerian Citizens Living in the Republic of South Africa and Other Parts of the World:

Hon. Bagos Dachung Musa (*Jos South/Jos East 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 Federal Government to Intervene in the Incessant Xenophobic Attacks on Nigerian Citizens Living in the Republic of South Africa and Other Parts of the World:

The House:

Notes that between the year 2000 and March, 2008, at least 67 Nigerian citizens died in what was identified as Xenophobic attacks in the Republic of South Africa alone, with a nationwide spike in xenophobic attacks against Nigerian Citizens and other immigrant communities living in South Africa in 2015, a number of foreign governments were forced to bring home their citizens living in South Africa;

Also notes that in the last three years, available figures from some civil society Groups in South Africa and from members of the Nigerian Community living in that country indicated that about 127 Nigerian Citizens had fallen prey to xenophobic attacks and extra-Judicial killings alleged to have been carried out by the South African Police Service, involving about 13 people;

Observes that the death toll of Nigerians killed in South Africa has continued to rise with frequent xenophobic attacks and extra judicial killings by the South African Police Service between 2018 and 2019, with recorded high-profile ones like that of Mr Benjamin Okoronkwo, a driver from Ebonyi State and Mr Abaziem from Abia State;

Aware that official statistics from South African authorities and the United Nations, put the figure of Nigerians living in that Country at tens of thousands, including professionals of various fields, businessmen, students and others;

Also aware that the United Nations Charter on Human and Peoples Rights and the African Union Convention and Protocols to which both Nigeria and South Africa are signatories, allow for legal movement of persons and goods across global and regional levels;

Recalls that on August 29, 2019, the entire world began to witness yet another series of xenophobic attacks against Nigerian citizens and some citizens of other African nations living in South Africa, especially in Johannesburg and other areas of Gauteng have, sadly, continued to occur under the unfortunate watch of the South African Security agents and authorities;

Concerned that this barbaric and inhuman treatment on Nigerian citizens and other Africans living in South Africa, who are carrying out their normal businesses and other activities, have become one too many in recent times and, may continue to escalate if nothing urgent, definite and decisive is done to put an end to it;

Resolves to:

- (i) mandate the Committee on Foreign Affairs to interface with the Federal Government on how to bring a lasting solution to the series of xenophobic attacks on Nigerian citizens in South Africa and elsewhere across the world;
- (ii) also mandate the Committee on foreign Affairs to investigate the immediate and remote causes of the current xenophobic attacks on Nigerians in South Africa, including its fallout and report cases of other reprisal attacks on some identified businesses linked to South Africa in Nigeria; and
- (iii) observe one minute of silence in honour of Nigerians killed as a result of xenophobic attacks (Hon. Bagos Dacung Musa — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:
“Commend and honour the Chairman, Airpeace Airline, Chief Allen Onyema for his patriotic act in repatriating Nigerians from South Africa” (*Hon. Akinfolarin Mayowa Samuel* → *Ileoluji-Okeigbo/Odigbo Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) Leave out Prayers (i) and (ii) and insert as follows:
“Mandate the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Treaties, Protocol and Agreements, and Diaspora to:
- (a) interface with the Federal Government on how to bring lasting solution to the series of xenophobic attacks on Nigerian citizens in South Africa and elsewhere across the world;
- (b) investigate the immediate and remote causes of the current xenophobic attacks on Nigerians in South Africa including its fallout and report cases of other reprisal attacks on some identified businesses linked to South Africa in Nigeria” (*Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that between the year 2000 and March, 2008, at least 67 Nigerian citizens died in what was identified as Xenophobic attacks in the Republic of South Africa alone, with a nationwide spike in xenophobic attacks against Nigerian Citizens and other immigrant communities living in South Africa in 2015, a number of foreign governments were forced to bring home their citizens living in South Africa;

Also noted that in the last three years, available figures from some civil society Groups in South Africa and from members of the Nigerian Community living in that country indicated that about 127 Nigerian Citizens had fallen prey to xenophobic attacks and extra-Judicial killings alleged to have been carried out by the South African Police Service, involving about 13 people;

Observed that the death toll of Nigerians killed in South Africa has continued to rise with frequent xenophobic attacks and extra judicial killings by the South African Police Service between 2018 and 2019, with recorded high-profile ones like that of Mr Benjamin Okoronkwo, a driver from Ebonyi State and Mr Abaziem from Abia State;

Aware that official statistics from South African authorities and the United Nations, put the figure of Nigerians living in that country at tens of thousands, including professionals of various fields, businessmen, students and others;

Also aware that the United Nations Charter on Human and Peoples Rights and the African Union Convention and Protocols to which both Nigeria and South Africa are signatories, allow for legal movement of persons and goods across global and regional levels;

Recalled that on August 29, 2019, the entire world began to witness yet another series of xenophobic attacks against Nigerian citizens and some citizens of other African nations living in South Africa, especially in Johannesburg and other areas of Gauteng have, sadly, continued to occur under the unfortunate watch of the South African Security agents and authorities;

Concerned that this barbaric and inhuman treatment on Nigerian citizens and other Africans living in South Africa, who are carrying out their normal businesses and other activities, have become one too many in recent times and, may continue to escalate if nothing urgent, definite and decisive is done to put an end to it;

Resolved to:

- (i) mandate the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Treaties, Protocol and Agreements, and Diaspora to:
 - (a) interface with the Federal Government on how to bring lasting solution to the series of xenophobic attacks on Nigerian citizens in South Africa and elsewhere across the world;
 - (b) investigate the immediate and remote causes of the current xenophobic attacks on Nigerians in South Africa including its fallout and report cases of other reprisal attacks on some identified businesses linked to South Africa in Nigeria;
- (ii) observe one minute of silence in honour of Nigerians killed as a result of xenophobic attacks; and
- (iii) commend and honour the Chairman, Airpeace Airline, Chief Allen Onyema for his patriotic act in repatriating Nigerians from South Africa (HR. 77/09/2019).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Investments and Securities Act, 2007 to Provide for a greater Transparency and Accountability in the Finances of Securities and Exchange Commission and to ensure greater Legislative Oversight; and for Related Matters (HB. 30) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Investments and Securities Act, 2007 to Provide for a greater Transparency and Accountability in the Finances of Securities and Exchange Commission and to ensure greater Legislative Oversight; and for Related Matters (HB. 30) be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwu East/Ukwu West Federal Constituency and 1 other).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Capital Market and Institutions.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Cancer Registry to make Provision for Compilation of Statistics Record of the Incidence of Cancer, to Provide a basis for direction of Programmes for Research and for Cancer Prevention; and for Related Matters (HB. 110) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish Cancer Registry to make Provision for Compilation of Statistics Record of the Incidence of Cancer, to Provide a basis for direction of Programmes for Research and for Cancer Prevention; and for Related Matters (HB. 110) be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Healthcare Services.

10. Need to Address Erosion Menace in Aguata Local Government Area of Anambra State
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Aguata Local Government Area has 13 active erosion sites which are eating up houses, farmlands and threatening roads in Umumeonye Umueze Uga, Umuchiana-Ekwulobia, Umuoru-Uga, Ezionye-Aku-Aguku Ezinifite, Umugama-Umuchu, Ogu Osete-Umuchu, Amaopkalanwa-Umueleke Achina, Umueziyi Achina, Ifite-Aguluezechukwu, Umumono-Igboukwu, Uhuala-Agbaenu-Igweakwu Akpo, Ogbugwunaezi-Umuonyia and Kpologwu, all in Aguata Local Government Area;

Aware that the destruction being experienced this rainy season requires urgent steps to be taken to address the untold hardship on the people due to the loss of houses, economic trees and farmlands in the Area;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send relief materials to the victims of the erosion;
- (ii) also urge the Ecological Fund Office to intervene with a view to solving the erosion problems;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to undertake palliative measures on Achina-One-Ogboji road already cut off by erosion; and
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Environment to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Environment to ensure the provision of funds in the 2020 Budget Proposal to address the erosion menace (*Hon. Umeoji Chukwuma Michael — Aguata Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 78/09/2019).

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

11. Need to Lift the Ban on Importation of Vehicles Through the Land Borders

Order deferred by leave of the House.

12. Need to Curb the Lingering Activities of Cult Groups in Awka South Local Government Area in Anambra State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Awka, the Capital of Anambra State is located between Onitsha and Enugu, with an estimated population of 301,657;

Also notes that cult groups have been used by politicians and influential individuals to perpetrate corruption, intimidation, killings, kidnappings, robberies and other criminal activities over the years;

Informed that these cult members and other thugs are mobilized and funded to rig, stuff ballot boxes, intimidate and chase off legitimate voters during elections;

Also informed that Cultural and Festive activities are not left out as these cult groups come out enmasse with all sorts of weapons, shooting sporadically into the air, thus triggering fear in the area;

Further informed that as a result of the activities of these cult groups, over 100 youths were shot dead on the streets of Awka, leaving residents terrorized with its attendant deleterious effect on economic activities;

Conceded that no arrests have been made as the cult groups continue to perpetrate their activities, moving freely in Awka town and spreading rapidly without any check, thus making the town vulnerable to further attacks;

Also concerned that if the cultists are not urgently brought to book, they will infiltrate Tertiary Institutions, Secondary and Primary Schools within the environment, which could lead to total anarchy;

Acknowledges that it is the responsibility of Government to protect the lives and properties of its citizens;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Inspector-General of Police and the Director-General, Department of State Services (DSS) to deploy security personnel to Awka South Local Government Area to intensify patrol, investigate and arrest the perpetrators and sponsors of cultism with a view to restoring normalcy in Awka town; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, and National Security and Intelligence to liaise with the Inspector-General of Police and the Director-General, DSS to ensure implementation and report back within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Samuel Chinedu Onwuaso — Awka North/Awka South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Awka, the Capital of Anambra State is located between Onitsha and Enugu, with an estimated population of 301,657;

Also noted that cult groups have been used by politicians and influential individuals to perpetrate corruption, intimidation, killings, kidnappings, robberies and other criminal activities over the years;

Informed that these cult members and other thugs are mobilized and funded to rig, stuff ballot boxes, intimidate and chase off legitimate voters during elections;

Also informed that Cultural and Festive activities are not left out as these cult groups come out enmasse with all sorts of weapons, shooting sporadically into the air, thus triggering fear in the area;

Further informed that as a result of the activities of these cult groups, over 100 youths were shot dead on the streets of Awka, leaving residents terrorized with its attendant deleterious effect on economic activities;

Concerned that no arrests have been made as the cult groups continue to perpetrate their activities, moving freely in Awka town and spreading rapidly without any check, thus making the town vulnerable to further attacks;

Also concerned that if the cultists are not urgently brought to book, they will infiltrate Tertiary Institutions, Secondary and Primary Schools within the environment, which could lead to total anarchy;

Acknowledged that it is the responsibility of Government to protect the lives and properties of its citizens;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Inspector-General of Police and the Director-General, Department of State Services (DSS) to deploy security personnel to Awka South Local Government Area to intensify patrol, investigate and arrest the perpetrators and sponsors of cultism with a view to restoring normalcy in Awka town; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, and National Security and Intelligence to liaise with the Inspector-General of Police and the Director-General, DSS to ensure implementation and report back within four (4) weeks (**HR. 79/09/2019**).

13. **Need to Improve the Budget Process in Nigeria**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the annual budget plays a crucial role in economic management and development of policies of any nation as it is the main mechanism of fiscal policy framework and the tool available to government to stabilize and influence the economic direction of a country;

Also notes that standard global public sector budgetary practice requires the implementation of a defined budgetary framework synchronized with timelines or a standardized budgetary calendar to reduce uncertainties and promote compliance and coordination;

Aware that the Federal Government's budgeting process perennially experiences delays despite the efforts of all the relevant stakeholders involved in the budgeting process;

Also aware that budget delays impact negatively on economic growth, as a 2018 study shows that 100 days delay in its implementation tends to depress the economy by at least 2.5 percent;

Further aware that Nigeria's experience of prolonged budget process has imposed substantial economic costs on the public and private sectors of the economy;

Concerned that such a delay leads to poor budget implementation which has a direct correlation on poor service delivery in the Public Service;

Worried that the delay introduces opacity into the budget process, leading to induced diversion of public funds and resources and corruption which has become the scourge of society.

Also worried that foreign and domestic private sector investments are adversely affected due to uncertainties in the strategic direction of the government;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to automate the National Budget formulation, execution and reporting process; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Finance, Appropriations and Justice to convene a legislative summit with relevant stakeholders to improve the budget process in Nigeria (*Hon. Mansur Manu Soro — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.**Agree to.**The House:*

Noted that the annual budget plays a crucial role in economic management and development of policies of any nation as it is the main mechanism of fiscal policy framework and the tool available to government to stabilize and influence the economic direction of a country;

Also noted that standard global public sector budgetary practice requires the implementation of a defined budgetary framework synchronized with timelines or a standardized budgetary calendar to reduce uncertainties and promote compliance and coordination;

Aware that the Federal Government's budgeting process perennially experiences delays despite the efforts of all the relevant stakeholders involved in the budgeting process;

Also aware that budget delays impact negatively on economic growth, as a 2018 study shows that 100 days delay in its implementation tends to depress the economy by at least 2.5 percent;

Further aware that Nigeria's experience of prolonged budget process has imposed substantial economic costs on the public and private sectors of the economy;

Concerned that such a delay leads to poor budget implementation which has a direct correlation on poor service delivery in the Public Service;

Worried that the delay introduces opacity into the budget process, leading to induced diversion of public funds and resources and corruption which has become the scourge of society.

Also worried that foreign and domestic private sector investments are adversely affected due to uncertainties in the strategic direction of the government;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to automate the National Budget formulation, execution and reporting process; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Finance, Appropriations, and Justice to convene a legislative summit with relevant stakeholders to improve the budget process in Nigeria (**HR. 80/09/2019**).

14. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 18 September, 2019 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.40 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila
Speaker

CORRIGENDUM

In the *Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 25 July, 2019:

- (i) item 4 (a) (iv), number 9, *leave out* the name “Hon. Olajide A. Stanley”, and *insert* “Hon. Adedeji Stanley Olajide”;
- (ii) item 4 (c), number 20, *leave out* the name “Hon. Yusuf Kila”, and *insert* “Hon. Yuguda Hassan Kila”.