



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 2 May, 2017

1. The House met at 11.16 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 Thursday, 27 April, 2017.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.
3. **Announcement**
Visitors in the Gallery:
Mr Speaker recognized the presence of Staff and Students of *Royal Family Academy*, Wuye District, Abuja.
4. **Petitions**
 - (i) A petition from Olufemi Erinoluwa, on the refusal of CNC Quarry Nigeria Limited to pay for services rendered to the company, was presented and laid by Hon. Rotimi Agunsoye (*Kosofe Federal Constituency*);
 - (ii) A petition from Wariboko Simeon and 8 others, on behalf of Central Community Development Committee Okrika (Walga), Rivers State, on the frequent gas leakages, and environmental pollution in their community by the Nigeria National Petroleum Company (NNPC) and Pipeline Producing Marketing Company (PPMC), was presented and laid by Hon. Gogo Bright Tamuno (*Okrika/Ogu/Bolo Federal Constituency*).
Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.
5. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**
Need to Appreciate the Efforts and Resilience of Nigerian Workers in Commemoration of the International Workers Day Celebration:
Hon. Ezenwa Onyewuchi (*Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
 - (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

Need to Appreciate the Efforts and Resilience of Nigerian Workers in Commemoration of the International Workers Day Celebration:

The House:

Notes that on the 1st of May, 2017, Nigerians joined workers all over the world to mark its annual Workers Day or Labour Day Celebration;

Also notes that the May Day celebration is a commemoration of the achievements and general progress of the labour movement;

Aware that despite lean resources worsened by the decline in the economy and a myriad of other challenges, the resilience, steadfastness and tenacity of our Nigerian workers have been unimpeachable in the discharge of their duties;

Worried that the economic recession has been hard on the average Nigerian worker with massive depreciation of workers' purchasing power, job losses, unpaid salaries and benefits;

Also worried that the resolve of the average Nigerian worker is being tested with the inability of government at all levels and the private sector to address issues of workers welfare, under-employment, casualization, delayed salaries and pay-cuts, pensions, promotions, provision of occupational safety in workplaces and massive job loss in both private and public sector;

Concerned that there is a correlation between a productive workforce and economic growth and over-all well-being of any nation;

Resolves to:

- (i) congratulate and appreciate all Nigerian workers on their resilience and commitment in the face of severe economic challenges;
- (ii) call for an immediate review of the national minimum wage to reflect current realities; and
- (iii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to interface with relevant stakeholders with a view to ameliorating the plight of Nigerian workers and report back within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/North/West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (iii), line 1, *leave out* the words "set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee" and *insert* the following words:

"Mandate the Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity" (*Hon. Bode Ayorinde — Owo/Ose Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on the 1st of May, 2017, Nigerians joined workers all over the world to mark its annual Workers Day or Labour Day Celebration;

Also noted that the May Day celebration is a commemoration of the achievements and general progress of the labour movement;

Aware that despite lean resources worsened by the decline in the economy and a myriad of other challenges, the resilience, steadfastness and tenacity of our Nigerian workers have been unimpeachable in the discharge of their duties;

Worried that the economic recession has been hard on the average Nigerian worker with massive depreciation of workers' purchasing power, job losses, unpaid salaries and benefits;

Also worried that the resolve of the average Nigerian worker is being tested with the inability of government at all levels and the private sector to address issues of workers welfare, under-employment, casualization, delayed salaries and pay-cuts, pensions, promotions, provision of occupational safety in workplaces and massive job loss in both private and public sector;

Concerned that there is a correlation between a productive workforce and economic growth and over-all well-being of any nation;

Resolved to:

- (i) congratulate and appreciate all Nigerian workers on their resilience and commitment in the face of severe economic challenges;
- (ii) call for an immediate review of the national minimum wage to reflect current realities; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity to interface with relevant stakeholders with a view to ameliorating the plight of Nigerian workers and report back within four (4) weeks (HR. 176/2017).

6. Presentation of Report

Committee on Tertiary Education and Services:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services on the Need to Avert Loss of Lives and Property at Federal University, Akure (HR. 163/2016)" (Hon. Aminu Suleiman — Fagge Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

7. Consolidation of Bills

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend Sections 2, 4, 7, 11 and 15 of the Compulsory, Free, Universal Basic Education Act, Cap. C52, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for the Return of Unused Federal Government Book Grant, make Provision for Rehabilitation of Delinquent Children, Provide a Comprehensive Definition for Services, Stakeholders and Child or Ward as Captured in the Enabling Act and for Other Related Matters (HB.994), and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Compulsory, Free, Universal Basic Education Act, Cap. C52, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to enhance the Welfare of Teachers by ensuring that before States Access the Federal Government Grant, the States are required to fulfill their Obligations to Teachers by ensuring that Eligible Teachers due for Promotion and Salary Increment are Promptly Paid their Entitlements to Encourage Efficiency and for Other Related Matters (HB. 995) be now consolidated" (Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Explosives Act, Cap. E18, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 Relating to their Regulations, Penalties for Defaulters, to make Provisions for the Control of Importation, Manufacture, Distribution, Storage, Possession and Use of Firecrackers and Explosives, to Repeal the Explosives Act, Cap. E18, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Re-Enact the Explosives Act, 2016 to make Comprehensive Provisions for the Use and Control of Explosives in Nigeria and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 379, HB. 498, HB. 552 and HB. 670) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Explosives Act, Cap. E18, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 Relating to their Regulations, Penalties for Defaulters, to make Provisions for the Control of Importation, Manufacture, Distribution, Storage, Possession and Use of Firecrackers and Explosives, to Repeal the Explosives Act, Cap. E18, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Re-Enact the Explosives Act, 2016 to make Comprehensive Provisions for the Use and Control of Explosives in Nigeria and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 379, HB. 498, HB. 552 and HB. 670) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency and 3 other*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committees on Police Affairs, National Security and Intelligence, and Justice.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Animal Diseases (Control) Act, Cap. A17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Increase some Penalties and for Other Related Matters (HB. 682) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

10. **Need for Construction of Shoreline Protection and Embankment at Eastern Obolo and Other Coastal Communities Affected by Coastal Erosion**

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Aware that the entire 853 kilometers of Nigeria's coastline is prone to coastal erosion and natural disaster;

Notes the damage being caused by sea encroachment and erosion in the coastal areas of Eastern Obolo communities and many other coastal areas of Akwa Ibom State in particular and the Niger-Delta Area in general;

Also notes that most of the villages close to the Atlantic Ocean are on the brink of extinction due to the devastating marine erosion that is washing away the shoreline and is pushing further into the towns and other communities;

Also aware that the erosion is being aided by manmade activities like oil exploration and exploitation being carried on in the areas;

Believes that there is an urgent need for the construction of shoreline protection for communities like Emereoke, Agansa, Isi'otoyo, Iko Nta/Obianga, Iwofe, Edowik and Elekpon from tidal waves and storm surges to save them from being submerged;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to urgently embark on construction of shoreline protection and embankment at Eastern Obolo and other coastal communities; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Environment and Habitat to undertake an investigation of the threat posed by coastal erosion on the communities along the coastline and recommend long term solution to the menace (*Hon. Francis Charles Uduyok — Ikot Abasi/Mkpat Enin/Eastern Obolo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 177/2017).

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

11. Calling Oil Companies to Establish Operational/Administrative Offices in the Niger Delta Area where they engage in Exploration and Exploitation

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that exploration and exploitation of crude oil, which is the main source of revenue for the country, are carried out in the Niger Delta Area communities by oil companies that have their administrative and operational offices outside the communities;

Aware that establishment of those offices outside the areas of operations of the companies account for adoption of policies and taking of decisions that are, in the main, inconsiderate of the real effects of their exploratory and exploitative activities in those communities, such as pollution, environmental hazards and degradation, under development, etc.;

Also aware that this policy is depriving the indigenes of those communities access to the companies in the event of complaints on their operational activities and is also not making the oil companies to be truly alive to their corporate social responsibilities to those communities;

Observes that although the companies have non-resident administrative officers who purportedly report to their offices outside the host communities about their operational effects and complaints of the host communities, it cannot be as effective as having the administrative offices in the communities, thus leading to loss of confidence, crisis and conflicts;

Believes that if no urgent action is taken, the problem will defeat the efforts of the government to ensure peace in the Niger Delta Area and peaceful co-existence between the host communities and the oil companies;

Resolves to:

- (i) mandate the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream) to liaise with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), the Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources and the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs to review the policies and guidelines of oil companies regarding location of their administrative and operational offices and ensure that they open the offices in the communities where they engage in oil exploration and exploitation; and
- (ii) also mandate Committees on Petroleum Resources (Upstream), Niger Delta Affairs, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Opiah Goodluck Nanah — Ohaji/Egbema/Oguta/Oru West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:*
“forward the resolution to the Senate for concurrence” (*Hon. Chinda Kingsley — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

- (ii) *Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:*
“Mandate the companies to return to their previous operational bases to forestall excess waste, through cash calls, and enhance economic and social development of the areas of exploration” (*Hon. Asuquo Daniel Effiong — Akamkpa/Biase Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

Question on the Motion — Negatived.

12. **Need to Determine the Level of Production of Automotive Gas Oil (AGO) and Dual Purpose Kerosene (DPK) by the Nation's Refineries for Local Consumption**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

13. **Call for the Establishment of a Paramilitary Academy for the Training of Paramilitary Personnel**

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that the Federal Government, in a bid to provide and maintain adequate, efficient and effective security of lives and properties in the country, established some paramilitary organizations such as the Nigeria Prisons Service, the Nigeria Immigration Service and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, among others:

Aware that each of the above organizations has its training school but with limited and inadequate training capacities and facilities required to meet the modern day security challenges of the country;

Concerned that there is no Paramilitary Academy in Nigeria with capacity and modern training facilities to serve as a central institution for the training of officers of the paramilitary organizations for efficient and effective discharge of their statutory duties to maintain peace and order and protect lives and properties;

Cognizant that a centralized Paramilitary Academy will remove the duplication of, and drastically reduce the expenses being incurred in the running of the respective training schools whose training facilities are grossly inadequate to meet modern day security challenges;

Also aware of a Prisons Academy that is occupying a very wide expanse of land at Ijebu- Igbo, in Ijebu-North Local Government Area of Ogun State which has the capacity to accommodate a Paramilitary Academy for the training of paramilitary personnel of the Nigeria Prisons Service, Nigeria Immigration Service, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps and any other Paramilitary organization that may be established in the future;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to convert the "Prisons Academy" at Ijebu-Igbo to a Paramilitary Academy so that the existing facility could be maximally utilized for the training and retraining of paramilitary personnel and in the process, avoid the duplication of, and drastically reduce the cost of maintaining different training facilities; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Interior, and Defence to ensure implementation (*Hon. Adekoya Adesegun Abdel-Majid — Ijebu North/Ijebu East/Ogun Waterside Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Motion withdrawn by leave of the House.

14. Need to Re-energise the Nigerian Military and Paramilitary Forces to Meet Urgent National Demands

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that Nigeria is presently facing unprecedented security challenges that have over stretched the security forces, realising that the major consideration of every human being when confronted with danger is self-defence, likewise a sovereign state which needs to survive external aggression;

Also notes that citizen's loyalty to the state, among other factors, is premised on the famed social contract theory which vests on the state the obligation of protecting the people;

Aware that the Nigerian state has had its sovereignty threatened a few times in the recent past and is currently embattled at several fronts with militancy in the South South, Boko Haram insurgency in the North East, election violence, kidnaping, cattle rustling and the menace of herdsmen in various other parts of the country;

Also aware that despite the increased engagement of the military within and outside Nigeria, there has not been corresponding increase in the number of military and paramilitary personnel resulting in under blind spots that make it easy for rogue elements to hide;

Further aware of the United Nations' report that out of over 80 million small arms floating freely in the West African sub region, 70% are in the hands of few individuals and groups in Nigeria;

Concerned that Nigeria presently has one of the lowest ratio of civilian to military, 1.14 military men to 1000 people, while countries with less security challenges and even less endowed economically have significantly higher ratio as presented below:

(1)	Syria	21.84 per 1000 people
(2)	Egypt	10.79 per 1000 people
(3)	Norway	10.17 per 1000 people
(4)	Russia	10.15 per 1000 people
(5)	Pakistan	5.91 per 1000 people
(6)	United State	5.22 per 1000 people
(7)	Canada	2.2 per 1000 people
(8)	Nigeria	1.14 per 1000 people
(9)	Sub Saharan average is	4.01 per 1000 people

Also concerned that despite the increased frontier of action and increase in the number of crisis points, the Nigerian military performs internal security roles which ordinarily should be undertaken by other paramilitary agencies. Almost all the security agencies are operating with too few obsolete weapons and equipment, well below the internationally acceptable standard;

Cognizant that if prompt action is not taken to strengthen the military and paramilitary agencies, the Nigerian State, in the no distant future may be embarrassed by the inability of the military to perform its duty of protecting the territorial integrity of the country and protecting its citizen's infrastructure from rogue elements;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Army, Defence, Police Affairs, Finance, and National Security and Intelligence to investigate and determine the pressing needs and gaps in the Nigerian security sector and recommend appropriate legislative and budgetary measures to cure them (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In the Prayer, immediately after the word "Defence", *insert* the following:

"Air Force, Navy, Interior" (*Hon. Daniel Reyenieju — Warri South/Warri West Federal Constituency*)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Nigeria is presently facing unprecedented security challenges that have over stretched the security forces, realising that the major consideration of every human being when confronted with danger is self-defence, likewise a sovereign state which needs to survive external aggression;

Also noted that citizen's loyalty to the state, among other factors, is premised on the famed social contract theory which vests on the state the obligation of protecting the people;

Aware that the Nigerian state has had its sovereignty threatened a few times in the recent past and is currently embattled at several fronts with militancy in the South South, Boko Haram insurgency in the North East, election violence, kidnaping, cattle rustling and the menace of herdsmen in various other parts of the country;

Also aware that despite the increased engagement of the military within and outside Nigeria, there has not been corresponding increase in the number of military and paramilitary personnel resulting in under blind spots that make it easy for rogue elements to hide;

Further aware of the United Nations' report that out of over 80 million small arms floating freely in the West African sub region, 70% are in the hands of few individuals and groups in Nigeria;

Concerned that Nigeria presently has one of the lowest ratio of civilian to military, 1.14 military men to 1000 people, while countries with less security challenges and even less endowed economically have significantly higher ratio as presented below:

(1)	Syria	21.84 per 1000 people
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(8)	Nigeria	1.14 per 1000 people
(9)	Sub Saharan average is	4.01 per 1000 people

Also concerned that despite the increased frontier of action and increase in the number of crisis points, the Nigerian military performs internal security roles which ordinarily should be undertaken by other paramilitary agencies. Almost all the security agencies are operating with too few obsolete weapons and equipment, well below the internationally acceptable standard;

Cognizant that if prompt action is not taken to strengthen the military and paramilitary agencies, the Nigerian State, in the no distant future may be embarrassed by the inability of the military to perform its duty of protecting the territorial integrity of the country and protecting its citizen's infrastructure from rogue elements;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Army, Defence, Air Force, Navy, Interior, Police Affairs, Finance, and National Security and Intelligence to investigate and determine the pressing needs and gaps in the Nigerian security sector and recommend appropriate legislative and budgetary measures to cure them (HR. 178/2017).

15. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 3 May, 2017 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 3.03 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker

