FOURTH REPUBLIC
8TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SECOND SESSION
NO. 21

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 4 October, 2016

1. The House met at 11.21 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, 29 September, 2016.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. **Message**
Mr Speaker read a message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as follows:

PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

30 *September*, 2016

Rt. Hon. Yakubu Dogara
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

Dear Rt. Hon. Speaker,

SUBMISSION OF 2017-2019 MEDIUM-TERM EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK AND FISCAL STRATEGY PAPER

I am pleased to submit the 2017 - 2019 *Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Fiscal Strategy Paper ('FSP') to the National Assembly. Let me also use this medium to express my gratitude for the enduring partnership between the Legislative and Executive arms of government. In particular, I note, with appreciation, the commitment and support that Honourable Members have*

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continued to demonstrate with respect to the preparation, passage and implementation of the Federal Budget.

Pursuant to provisions of the ***Fiscal Responsibility Act of*** **2007**, *the preparation towards the submission of the* 2017 *Budget to the National Assembly is progressing well. The MTEF and FSP, which provide the framework for the development of the* 2017 *Budget, was designed against the backdrop of a generally adverse global economic environment, as well as fiscal challenges in the domestic economy. In this regard, the* 2017 - 2019 *MTEF and FSP articulates the Federal Government's economic, social and developmental objectives, as well as the strategies for achieving these defined objectives and priorities.*

I hereby forward the 2017 - 2019 *MTEF and FSP to the House of Representatives, and trust that it would be kindly considered and expeditiously approved, so as to move the* 2017 *Federal Budget preparation process forward.*

Please accept, Rt. Hon. Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Muhammadu Buhari

4. **Announcements**

(*a*) ***Visitors in the Gallery*:**
Mr Speaker recognized the presence of the following visitors:

(*i*) Students of Umaru Musa Yar'Adua University, Katsina State;

(*ii*) Staff and Students of Barvij International School, Niger State.

(*b*) ***Notice of Pre-Retirement Leave*:**
Mr Speaker read a communication from the Clerk, House of Representatives, Mr Basil Edhere, by which he informed him of the commencement of his preretirement leave. Mr Edhere expressed appreciation for the support and cordial relationship he enjoyed during his tenure.

5. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4 (4))**
***Illegal Arrest and Detention of* 50 *Nigerian Students of Fathi University in Istanbul by the Turkish Authorities*:**
Hon. Solomon Bulus Maren (*Mangu/Bokkos 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 (4) 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 (4) *to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.*

Illegal Arrest and Detention of 50 Nigerian Students of Fahti University in Istanbul by the Turkish Authorities:

The House:

Notes the recent report on ThisDay online news of 1st October, 2016 on the illegal arrest and detention of 50 Nigerian students in Istanbul Airport on arrival to pursue their education;

Also notes the continuous humiliation of Nigerian students and Nationals in various countries of the World without any diplomatic intervention by the Nigerian Government;

Recalls the murder of a Nigerian student in Dubai who was thrown from a multi-storey building, the case of our dear sister Julie who is bedridden in a rehabilitation home for the elderly and mentally ill in Italy due to Doctors torture and maltreatment, the death of a Nigerian student in Malaysia who died because his travels document could not be updated on time to enable him come back home for medical treatment and the many other cases of maltreatment and torture of Nigerian students and nationals around the globe on flimsy excuses;

Also recalls the July 15th failed coup in Turkey and the clampdown on 2099 schools, dormitories and Universities; their subsequent shot down alleging they were terrorists schools due to their links with Islamic Scholar Fetullar Gulen, whom the Turkish Government has accused of being the mastermind of the failed coup in Turkey;

Again recalls that the Turkish Ambassador in Nigeria had requested the Nigerian Authorities to close down 17 Turkish schools in Nigeria for alleged links with the Hizmet movement, which the Government rejected the call due to lack of concrete evidence linking the schools or their proprietors with the failed coup;.

Worried that these students are being held in a dark room and sleeping on bare floor. Some are sick already without any form of medication due to the condition in which they are illegally detained;

Also worried that they are being forced into signing documents for deportation, forced to pay penalties on the allegation of entering the country illegally, humiliated and abuse;

Disturbed that of the 102 countries that have students in that University only Nigerian students are being treated in this manner, whereas other Countries have sorted out theirs diplomatically;

Also disturbed that if urgent steps are not taken immediately to checkmate this ugly trends of humiliation, abuse and extortion of this innocent law abiding citizens, who are lawfully pursuing their carriers. The students may have their carriers truncated thereby leading them into crime and the destruction of human resources that is required for the growth of the country;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government to explore all diplomatic means of rescuing the students and resolve the issue; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Diaspora to investigate the matter and report back to the House within one week for further legislative duties (*Hon. Solomon Bulus Maren — Mangu/Bokkos Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out the words in Prayer (*ii*), and *insert* as follows:
"Mandate the Committees on Interior, Tertiary Education and Services, Foreign Affairs, and Diaspora to investigate the row between the governments of Turkey and Nigeria" (*Hon. Nnanna Raphael Igbokwe — Ahiazu Mbaise/Ezinihitte Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the recent report on ThisDay online news of 1st October, 2016 on the illegal arrest and detention of 50 Nigerian students in Istanbul Airport on arrival to pursue their education;

Also notes the continuous humiliation of Nigerian students and Nationals in various countries of the World without any diplomatic intervention by the Nigerian Government;

Recalled the murder of a Nigerian student in Dubai who was thrown from a multi-storey building, the case of our dear sister Julie who is bedridden in a rehabilitation home for the elderly and mentally ill in Italy due to Doctors torture and maltreatment, the death of a Nigerian student in Malaysia who died because his travels document could not be updated on time to enable him come back home for medical treatment and the many other cases of maltreatment and torture of Nigerian students and nationals around the globe on flimsy excuses;

Also recalled the July 15th failed coup in Turkey and the clampdown on 2099 schools, dormitories and Universities; their subsequent shot down alleging they were terrorists schools due to their links with Islamic Scholar Fetullar Gulen, whom the Turkish Government has accused of being the mastermind of the failed coup in Turkey;

Again recalled that the Turkish Ambassador in Nigeria had requested the Nigerian Authorities to close down 17 Turkish schools in Nigeria for alleged links with the Hizmet movement, which the Government rejected the call due to lack of concrete evidence linking the schools or their proprietors with the failed coup;.

Worried that these students are being held in a dark room and sleeping on bare floor. Some are sick already without any form of medication due to the condition in which they are illegally detained;.

Also worried that they are being forced into signing documents for deportation, forced to pay penalties on the allegation of entering the country illegally, humiliated and abuse;

Disturbed that of the 102 countries that have students in that University only Nigerian students are being treated in this manner, whereas other Countries have sorted out theirs diplomatically;

Also disturbed that if urgent steps are not taken immediately to checkmate this ugly trends of humiliation, abuse and extortion of this innocent law abiding citizens, who are lawfully pursuing their carriers. The students may have their carriers truncated thereby leading them into crime and the destruction of human resources that is required for the growth of the country;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government to explore all diplomatic means of rescuing the students and resolve the issue; and

(*ii*) mandate the Committees on Interior, Tertiary Education and Services, Foreign Affairs, and Diaspora to investigate the row between the governments of Turkey and Nigeria (**HR. 95/2016**).

6. **Presentation of Report**
Committee on Public Petitions:
Report of the Petition by Asa Development Union of Abia State; Oru Patriots and Egbema Forum of Imo State:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Asa Development Union of Abia State; Oru Patriots and Egbema Forum of Imo State against the Nomination of Hon. Donatus Enyinnaya Nwankpa and Senator Osita Izunaso as Abia and Imo States Representatives, Respectively on the Board of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and request for their immediate replacement" (*Hon. Ekanem Iboro Asuquo — Ini/Ikono Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

7. **Consolidation of Bills**
(*i*) *Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Criminal Justice (Release from Custody) (Special Provisions) Act, Cap. C40, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Order the Release of a Person detained in Custody Pending Trial where the Prosecution fails to commence Prosecution after the Person had spent ? of the Maximum Sentence Prescribed for the Offence; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 229); a Bill for an Act to Amend the Criminal Justice (Release from Custody) (Special Provisions) Act, Cap. C40, LFN, 2011 to make Provisions for the Decongestion and Reduction in the Number of Pretrial Inmates in Nigeria Prisons; and for Related Matters (HB. 453) be now consolidated" (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(*ii*) *Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Council for Public Assistance to Widows, Dependent Children and Orphans; a Bill for an Act to Establish a Welfare Trust Fund and Management Commission for Effective Management of the Welfare of the Unemployed, People with Disability (Temporal/Permanent), Orphans, Widows, the Elderly and the Youths, Compensation for Citizens who are deprived of means of Livelihood as a result of Population, Demolition, Forced Relocation, Retirement and Health, Provision of Medical Care and Subsidies for Poor Families and to Protect the Less Privileged in the Society and a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Registration and Control of Orphanages and Other Institutions for the Boarding, Care and Maintenance of Orphans and Deserted Children; and for Other Related Matters (HBs 124, 126 and 183); a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Social Security and Welfare Board and vest it with Responsibility for the Control and Administration of Benefits and Assistance to Enhance the Welfare of Citizens, especially Disadvantaged Persons, Children, Women, the Handicapped, the Sick, the Aged and the Unemployed; and for Other Related Matters (HB 324) be now consolidated" (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

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

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Wages Boards and Industrial Councils Act, Cap. W1, LFN, 2004 to Review Upwards the Fines Stipulated under the Act; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 282) — *Second Reading***

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Regulate and Prohibit Unfair Competition and Unreasonable Combinations in Restraint of Commerce, Industry and Trade, including Monopolies, Trusts and Interlocking Directorates for the Purposes of Maintaining and Strengthening the Free Enterprises System, Ensuring Unrestraint Competition, and Establishing a Level Playing Field in Business in the Federation; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 325) — *Second Reading***

Order read; Withdrawn by leave of the House.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Utilization, Sustainability and Adequate Supply of Renewable Energy for Electricity and Heat Generation; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 440) — *Second Reading***
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Utilization, Sustainability and Adequate Supply of Renewable Energy for Electricity and Heat Generation; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 440) be now read a Second Time *(Hon. Nnam-Obi Uchechuku — Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni/Ahoada 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 Power.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Casino Taxation Act, Cap. C3, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 by Extending the Operation of the Act beyond Lagos; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 365) — *Second Reading***
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Casino Taxation Act, Cap. C3, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 by Extending the Operation of the Act beyond Lagos; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 365) be now read a Second Time" *(Hon. Edward Gyang Pwajok — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency)*.

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committees on Finance, and Justice.

13. **Urgent Need to Stop the Indiscriminate Erection of Speed Bumps on Federal Highways**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Aware that the authority to manage, control and maintain federal highways is vested in the Minister charged with responsibility for the highways but concerned about the indiscriminate erection of speed bumps on the highways across the country which cause obstruction to the movement of vehicles;

Worried that a number of communities (linear settlements) along highways had on their own constructed speed-bumps to check over-speeding and dangerous driving and had often failed to approach the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to request for the construction of pedestrian bridges to ease crossing of busy roads;

Concerned that a lot of accidents, leading to loss of lives, had occurred when vehicles climbed the bumps on high speed as there are often no signs to warn motorists of the existence of bumps on the roads;

Cognizant that in developed countries, a portion of the road is designated as pedestrian/zebra crossing (where vehicles must stop to allow people to cross) and this has greatly assisted their citizens to overcome the risk of incessant knocking down of the aged and pupils;

Acknowledges the need to put an end to the erection of speed-bumps on federal highways and removal of the existing ones as they constitute danger to motorists, which often cause them to apply emergency brakes, resulting to accidents and vehicle breakdowns;

Recognizes the need to encourage communities suffering from incessant loss of lives from vehicles plying their areas to approach the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing and the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) for assistance rather than resorting to indiscriminate construction of speed bumps;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to dismantle all unauthorized speed-bumps erected on Federal Highways nation-wide;

(*ii*) also urge the Ministry to construct pedestrian bridges on dangerous spots to check death from vehicles knocking down pedestrians on Federal Highways;

(*iii*) further urge the Ministry to construct traffic lights at major junctions in urban and semi-urban areas to assist in the easy flow of traffic;

(*iv*) equally urge the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) to initiate the children's traffic education, in schools, where their officials visit schools to give talks on road safety users education enforce its proposal on speed limit on particular roads nation-wide and intensify the sensitization of Nigerians on the need to obey traffic rules with a view to reducing accidents on the highways;

(*v*) mandate the Committees on Works, and Federal Road Safety Commission to ensure compliance and report back to the House within four (4) weeks, for further legislative action (*Hon. Adbulrazak Sa'ad Namdas —Mayo Belwa/Ganye/Jada/Toungo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out all the words in Prayer (*iii*) and *insert* as follows:
"Further urge the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to provide functional traffic control measures at major junctions in urban and semi-urban areas to assist in the easy flow of traffic" (*Hon. Taiwo Akintola — Egbeda/Onara Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that the authority to manage, control and maintain federal highways is vested in the Minister charged with responsibility for the highways but concerned about the indiscriminate erection of speed bumps on the highways across the country which cause obstruction to the movement of vehicles;

Worried that a number of communities (linear settlements) along highways had on their own constructed speed-bumps to check over-speeding and dangerous driving and had often failed to approach the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to request for the construction of pedestrian bridges to ease crossing of busy roads;

Concerned that a lot of accidents, leading to loss of lives, had occurred when vehicles climbed the bumps on high speed as there are often no signs to warn motorists of the existence of bumps on the roads;

Cognizant that in developed countries, a portion of the road is designated as pedestrian/zebra crossing (where vehicles must stop to allow people to cross) and this has greatly assisted their citizens to overcome the risk of incessant knocking down of the aged and pupils;

Acknowledged the need to put an end to the erection of speed-bumps on federal highways and removal of the existing ones as they constitute danger to motorists, which often cause them to apply emergency brakes, resulting to accidents and vehicle breakdowns;

Recognized the need to encourage communities suffering from incessant loss of lives from vehicles plying their areas to approach the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing and the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) for assistance rather than resorting to indiscriminate construction of speed bumps;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to dismantle all unauthorized speed-bumps erected on Federal Highways nation-wide;

(*ii*) also urge the Ministry to construct pedestrian bridges on dangerous spots to check death from vehicles knocking down pedestrians on Federal Highways;

(*iii*) further urge the Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to provide functional traffic control measures at major junctions in urban and semi-urban areas to assist in the easy flow of traffic;

(*iv*) equally urge the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) to initiate the children's traffic education, in schools, where their officials visit schools to give talks on road safety users education enforce its proposal on speed limit on particular roads nation-wide and intensify the sensitization of Nigerians on the need to obey traffic rules with a view to reducing accidents on the highways;

(*v*) mandate the Committees on Works, and Federal Road Safety Commission to ensure compliance and report back to the House within four (4) weeks, for further legislative action **(HR. 96/2016)**.

14. **Urgent Need to Address the Alarming Rate of Maternal Mortality in Nigeria**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that a report by the United Nations International Children's Education Fund (UNICEF) indicates that Nigeria loses about 145 women of childbearing age every day during pregnancies from causes that could have been prevented;

Also notes that the report states further that the country loses about 2,300 under five year olds every day, which is a very alarming figure;

Worried that the likelihood of a woman dying during pregnancy and childbirth in Nigeria is reported at 1 in 13 cases and is higher in women living in rural areas and poorer communities;

Also worried by the claim that Nigeria is the next country after India with the highest maternal mortality rate in the world;

Concerned that underneath these alarming statistics is the pain of human tragedy, which has far reaching adverse effects as it renders children motherless, thus depriving them of maternal care that is necessary for proper physiological and psychological development;

Aware that Nigeria is challenged by socio-economic factors that contribute to maternal mortality and birth-related injuries, including ineffective government policies on maternal health, poverty and malnutrition, ill-equipped hospitals and gender inequalities;

Also aware that cultural issues such as pressure on girls to marry early and give birth to numerous children, preferences to deliver children at home and mistrust of family planning services are also factors that aid maternal death;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Call on governments at all levels to make qualitative antenatal services, provided by trained and skilled health workers at primary, secondary and tertiary health facilities, free and accessible;

(*ii*) also call on the Federal Government to take a firm stand in aiding maternal child health in Nigeria and, specifically, tackle challenges related to health and nutrition, education, agriculture, livelihoods, gender equality and other vital issues; and

(*iii*) further call on the Federal Government to take necessary steps in improving maternal health education, being a feasible option that has proven to be effective in other areas with previous high maternal death rates (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

(*i*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*iv*) as follows:
"Mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to investigate the current status of the Midwives Service Scheme under the National Primary Health Care Development Agency adopted by the Ministry of Health to address the issue of National and Infant mortality in Nigeria and the reported lack of payment or absorption of the Midwives under this scheme for over one year and report back to the House within one (1) week" (*Hon. Mark Gbillah — Gwer East/Gwer West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(*ii*) In Prayer (*iii*) line 2, immediately after the word "education" *insert* the words "and encourage collaboration between the health workers and other care givers, like the traditional birth attendants" (*Hon. Henry Archibong Okon — Itu/Ibiono Ibom Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(*iii*) In Prayer (*i*), line 2, immediately after the words "health facilities", *leave out* the word "free", and insert the word "affordable" (*Hon. Taiwo Akintola — Egbeda/Onara Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(*iv*) *Insert* a new Prayer (*v*) as follows:
"Urge the Federal Government to develop a national policy on family planning and population" (*Hon. Chris Azubogu — Nnewi North/Nnewi South/Ekwusigo Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that a report by the United Nations International Children's Education Fund (UNICEF) indicates that Nigeria loses about 145 women of childbearing age every day during pregnancies from causes that could have been prevented;.

Also noted that the report states further that the country loses about 2,300 under five year olds every day, which is a very alarming figure;

Worried that the likelihood of a woman dying during pregnancy and childbirth in Nigeria is reported at 1 in 13 cases and is higher in women living in rural areas and poorer communities;

Also worried by the claim that Nigeria is the next country after India with the highest maternal mortality rate in the world;

Concerned that underneath these alarming statistics is the pain of human tragedy, which has far reaching adverse effects as it renders children motherless, thus depriving them of maternal care that is necessary for proper physiological and psychological development;

Aware that Nigeria is challenged by socio-economic factors that contribute to maternal mortality and birth-related injuries, including ineffective government policies on maternal health, poverty and malnutrition, ill-equipped hospitals and gender inequalities;

Also aware that cultural issues such as pressure on girls to marry early and give birth to numerous children, preferences to deliver children at home and mistrust of family planning services are also factors that aid maternal death;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Call on governments at all levels to make qualitative antenatal services, provided by trained and skilled health workers at primary, secondary and tertiary health facilities, affordable and accessible;

(*ii*) also call on the Federal Government to take a firm stand in aiding maternal child health in Nigeria and, specifically, tackle challenges related to health and nutrition, education, agriculture, livelihoods, gender equality and other vital issues;

(*iii*) further call on the Federal Government to take necessary steps in improving maternal health education, and encourage collaboration between the health workers and other care givers, like the traditional birth attendants, being a feasible option that has proven to be effective in other areas with previous high maternal death rates;

(*iv*) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to investigate the current status of the Midwives Scheme under the National Primary Health Care Development Agency adopted by the Ministry of Health to address the issue of National and Infant mortality in Nigeria and the reported lack of payment or absorption of the Midwives under this scheme for over one year and report back to the House within one (1) week; and

(*v*) urge the Federal Government to develop a national policy on family planning and population. **(HR. 97/2016)**

15. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 5 October, 2016 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.32 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker