



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 1 March, 2017

1. The House met at 11.05 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 Tuesday, 28 February, 2017.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.
3. **Announcements**
 - (a) *Visitors in the Gallery:*
Mr Speaker recognized the presence of the following visitors:
 - (i) Staff and Students of the *Regent Secondary School*, Mabushi District, Abuja;
 - (ii) Staff and Students of *Stargate International Academy*, Kubwa, Abuja;
 - (iii) Staff and Students of *Cedar International Secondary School*, Kubwa, Abuja; and
 - (iv) Officials and Students of the *United States Air War College*, United States of America.
 - (b) *Request for a Resolution of the National Assembly for the Issuance of USD 500 Million Eurobond in the International Capital Market for the Funding of the 2016 Budget Deficit:*
Mr Speaker recalled that on Wednesday, 22 February, 2017, he read a communication from the Acting President, requesting for a Resolution of the National Assembly for the Issuance of USD 500 Million Eurobond in the International Capital Market for the Funding of the 2016 Budget Deficit; he referred the matter to the Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management for appropriate legislative action and to report back on Tuesday, 7 March, 2017.
4. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**
Need for the Intervention of the Federal Government by Building Public Schools, to Save School Age Children in Mairi-Kuwait of Jere Federal Constituency, Borno State, from Falling into the Trap of Boko Haram Recruiters:
Hon. Ayuba Mohammed Bello (*Jere Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to consider and approve it 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).

5. Presentation and First Reading of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Nigerian Co-operative Societies Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 887).
- (2) Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 888).
- (3) Public Officers Protection Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 890).
- (4) National Housing Trust Fund Bill, 2017 (HB. 891).
- (5) Nigerian Export Promotion Council Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 892).
- (6) National Agricultural Machinery Supply and Management Agency Bill, 2017 (HB. 893).
- (7) Nigeria Police Reform Trust Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 894).
- (8) Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 895).
- (9) Nigerian Automotive Industry Development Plan (Fiscal Incentives and Guarantees) Bill, 2017 (HB. 896).
- (10) Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) (Establishment, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 921).
- (11) Currency Offences Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 922).
- (12) Nigerian Law Reform Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 923).
- (13) National Council of Radiology and Radiation Medicine Bill, 2017 (HB. 924).
- (14) Nigerian Social Insurance Trust Fund Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 925).
- (15) National Sugar Development Council Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 926).

6. Presentation of Reports

(i) Committee on Public Petitions:

Report on the Petition by Chinda Chidum:

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Chinda Chidum, against Sterling Oil Exploration and Energy Production Company on wrongful termination of employment.

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

(ii) Committee on Public Petitions:

Report on the Petition by Odoh Jude Ifeanyi:

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Odoh Jude Ifeanyi, against Huawei Technologies Nigeria Limited on wrongful termination of appointment, unfavourable conditions of service and increasing cases of replacement of Nigerians with illegal Chinese immigrants.

Order deferred by leave of the House.

(iii) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

Report on the Petition by Richard Termough Yough:

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Richard Termough Yough, against the Council of Legal Education for wrongful termination of appointment from service.

Order deferred by leave of the House.

(iv) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

Report on the Petition by Mr Ije Ikenna Okemini Ije:

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Mr Ije Ikenna Okemini Ije, against the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on wrongful termination of appointment.

Order deferred by leave of the House.

(v) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

Report on the Petition by Aggrieved Trainees of Industrial Training Fund Model Skills Training Centre, Abuja:

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Aggrieved Trainees of the Industrial Training Fund Model Skills Training Centre, Abuja, against the Management of the Institution for non-graduation of the trainees after two years of graduation period of the Institution.

Order deferred by leave of the House.

(vi) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

Report on the Petition by Akinyemi Olusegun Abimbola:

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Akinyemi Olusegun Abimbola, against the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) on alleged unlawful termination of appointment.

Order deferred by leave of the House.

(vii) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

Report on the Petition by Mr Emmanuel Ajayi and Others:

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Mr Emmanuel Ajayi and Others, against the Director General of National Space Research and Development Agency, Dr S. O. Mohammed on wrongful redeployment of the National Coordinator of Cooperative Information Network (COPINE), Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife and termination of appointment of some members of staff.

Order deferred by leave of the House.

(viii) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

Report on the Petition by Elias Okorie Chidi:

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Elias Okorie Chidi, against the Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund on wrongful termination of appointment.

Order deferred by leave of the House.

(ix) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

Report on the Petition by Hauwa Ahmed Pategi:

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Hauwa Ahmed Pategi, against First Bank of Nigeria Plc on unlawful termination of appointment.

Order deferred by leave of the House.

(x) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

Report on the Petition by Akipelai Community:

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Akipelai Community in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, against Shell Petroleum Development Company on the non-compliance with their terms of agreement.

Order deferred by leave of the House.

(xi) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

Report on the Petition by Mohammed M. Yahaya:

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Mohammed M. Yahaya, against the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), on alleged unlawful termination of appointment.

Order deferred by leave of the House.

(xii) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

Report on the Petition by Enoch O. Oyeniyi:

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Enoch O. Oyeniyi, against the Centre for Management of Development on alleged wrongful and compulsory retirement from service.

Order deferred by leave of the House.

(xiii) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

Report on the Petition by Olarenwaju Aderemi Obafemi:

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Olarenwaju Aderemi Obafemi, against the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution on alleged dismissal from service.

Order deferred by leave of the House.

7. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Import (Prohibition) Act, Cap. 13, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Introduce Mental Element in the Offences and for Other Related Matters (HB. 673) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Import (Prohibition) Act, Cap. 13, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Introduce Mental Element in the Offences and for Other Related Matters (HB. 673) be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Bukar Lawan Goni — Bursari/Geidam/Yunusari Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

8. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of City Technical University, Yaba, Lagos and for Other Related Matters (HB. 874) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Council for the Regulation of Freight Forwarding in Nigeria Act, Cap. C54, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Related Matters (HB. 920) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Council for the Regulation of Freight Forwarding in Nigeria Act, Cap. C54, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Related Matters (HB. 920) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Patrick Asadu — Nsukka/Igboeze South 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 Ports, Harbours and Waterways.

10. **Need to Commence Rehabilitation Work on the Failed Portion of the Road on the Ikpoba River Bridge**

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that the Ikpoba River Bridge was constructed over the Ikpoba River connecting Benin City Centre to the Benin-Auchi and Benin-Asaba expressways, and serves over five hundred thousand residents living in the Ikpoba hill axis of the State Capital;

Aware that from statistics, over four thousand vehicles ply the bridge from one end of the ancient city of Benin to another, and from various Eastern, South-South, South-West and Northern States of the country;

Concerned that about 25% of the portion of the road has already caved in and the rate is increasing rapidly, thereby endangering the lives of commuters and pedestrians using the bridge daily, already, there are reported cases of vehicles having plunged into the gully;

Also concerned that motorists are stranded daily on the road because only one portion of the dual carriage way is in use since the other portion caved in, thereby causing suffocating traffic jam;

Dismayed that the relevant government authorities have turned deaf ears to the plight of, and the danger the road portends for commuters and pedestrians;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to urgently undertake the rehabilitation of the caved in portions of the road to save the lives of Nigerians and ease the pains of motorists and pedestrians plying the road daily; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to ensure implementation and report back to the House within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Agbonayinma Johnson Ehiozuwa — Egor/Ikpoba/Okha Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 48/2017).

Motion referred to the Committee on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

11. Abandonment of the Construction of Bonny-Bodo Road

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes with concern the abandonment of the construction of the Bonny-Bodo Road, which when completed will be of strategic commercial importance not only to the people of the locality, but also to Rivers State and Nigeria as a whole;

Also notes that Bonny is host to the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) which is the single largest oil investment in the country that has so far paid \$1,500,000.00 (one million, five hundred thousand dollars) only as tax and \$5,000,000.00 (five million dollar) only as dividend to the Federal Government, an amount from which some states of the federation had received bailout, and in the recent past, the three tiers of government benefitted from the sum of ₦150,000,000.00 (one hundred and fifty million Naira) from the NLNG and Bonny also plays host to Exxon Mobil which is the largest crude oil export terminal in Africa, to mention but a few;

Aware that in 1973, Commander Alfred Diete Spiff, the then Military Governor, proposed the construction of the Bonny-Bodo road and by 1974, the Rivers State Government received a feasibility study and design of the road;

Also aware that on 4th December, 2002, the Federal Government awarded the contract for the construction of the road to Gitto Costruzioni Generali Nig. Ltd for the sum of ₦24,045,255,405.86 (twenty-four billion, forty-five million, two hundred and fifty thousand, four hundred and five Naira, eighty-six Kobo) only, out of which ₦10,463,233,981.26 (ten billion, four hundred and sixty-three million, two hundred and thirty-three thousand, nine hundred and eighty-one Naira, twenty-six Kobo) only representing 43.51% of the contract sum, was disbursed but only 19% of the job was said to have been done;

Further aware that the construction work was stalled until 3rd December, 2014, when the road was re-awarded to Julius Berger Nigeria Plc for the sum of ₦120,000,000,000.00 (one hundred and twenty billion Naira) only, by the Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan's administration;

Cognizant of the fact that the NLNG indicated interest to provide 50% of the contract sum while Julius Berger Nigeria Plc, having signed its part of the contract document, also agreed to proceed to site if 15% of the contract sum was paid upfront by the Federal Government;

Also cognizant that the Federal Government appropriated ₦1,000,000,000.00 (one billion Naira) only in the 2015 budget for the project estimated to be completed in 54 months;

Concerned that out of the 54 months period given for the completion of the project, over 24 months have already lapsed due to the Federal Government's lack of commitment with regard to the disbursement of the mobilization funds;

Also worried that unless urgent steps are taken to maximally utilize the remaining period of the estimated time for the project, take advantage of the offer by the NLNG to provide 50% of the contract sum and avoid the inevitable likelihood of mounting inflation, the primary aim of the project will be defeated, and expected increase in the commercial, social and economic lives of the residents of the area will remain a mirage;

Further worried that the huge (almost 500%) extra cost expended on operational logistics of doing business for companies and individuals alike when compared to other areas, is most likely to increase drastically with inflation as well as the fact that the inevitable constant loss of lives and property via boat mishaps owing to the nature of the only easily affordable access route for the average resident to the area, will become a norm as very few residents can afford to be flown by air or ferried via NLNG large boats to the island;

Resolves to:

- (i) Mandate the Committees on Works, and Appropriations to include the requested mobilization fee of ₦18,000,000,000.00 (eighteen billion Naira) only, in the 2017 appropriation budget and disburse same to Julius Berger Nigeria Limited for immediate commencement of the project; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and report back to the House within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Randolph O. Brown — Degema /Bonny Federal Constituency and 8 others*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 49/2017).

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, and Appropriations, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

12. **Call for Upgrade of the Federal College of Education (Technical), Bichi to the Status of a University of Technical Education**
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that the National Universities Commission was established by an Act of the National Assembly which vests upon the Commission, amongst others, the power to grant approval for the establishment of all higher educational institutions offering degree programmes;

Also notes the role of the Federal Ministry of Education in recommending and justifying the need for the establishment of Federal Universities in the country;

Further notes that the Federal College of Education (Technical), Bichi was established alongside other Colleges to, among other things, provide full-time courses of teaching, instruction and training in technology, applied science, commerce, arts, social sciences, humanities and management and to carry out research in the development and adaptation of techniques;

Observes that there is no Federal University of Technical Education in the country to help galvanize government's plan of enhancing job opportunities and employment through self-sustained educational policies that promote vocational training and technology;

Also observes that by virtue of existing technical colleges and institutions awarding National Certificate of Education as well as the need to encourage job creation via vocational, trade and skills development and technical education in the country, has provided the need to establish Universities that would absorb the surge of preliminary graduates and provide higher qualifications such as Bachelor of Technology Education, B.Tech (Edu) in these fields of endeavor;

Aware of the potentials of the Federal College of Education (Technical), Bichi, if it is upgraded to Federal University of Technical Education, given its existing facilities which include amongst others, 6 Schools, 27 Academic Departments, 6 furnished Lecture Theatres and Lecture Halls with 2,900 sitting capacity, 15 fully equipped laboratories with 1,110 sitting capacity, over 10 workshops as well as 66 classrooms to accommodate 13,450 students and 670 hectares of land for New Site Development;

Desirous of improving the aspiration of the present administration to diversify the economy and equip the teeming unemployed population with self-sustaining skills and also eliminate the current perceived inferior status of polytechnics and technical colleges which cannot award degree equivalent grades;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Education and the National Universities Commission (NUC) to initiate the process of upgrading the Federal College of Education (Technical), Bichi to a Federal University of Technical Education and report back to the House within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Ahmed Garba Bichi — Bichi Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.**Agreed to.*

The House:

Noted that the National Universities Commission was established by an Act of the National Assembly which vests upon the Commission, amongst others, the power to grant approval for the establishment of all higher educational institutions offering degree programmes;

Also noted the role of the Federal Ministry of Education in recommending and justifying the need for the establishment of Federal Universities in the country;

Further noted that the Federal College of Education (Technical), Bichi was established alongside other Colleges to, among other things, provide full-time courses of teaching, instruction and training in technology, applied science, commerce, arts, social sciences, humanities and management and to carry out research in the development and adaptation of techniques;

Observed that there is no Federal University of Technical Education in the country to help galvanize government's plan of enhancing job opportunities and employment through self-sustained educational policies that promote vocational training and technology;

Also observed that by virtue of existing technical colleges and institutions awarding National Certificate of Education as well as the need to encourage job creation via vocational, trade and skills development and technical education in the country, has provided the need to establish Universities that would absorb the surge of preliminary graduates and provide higher qualifications such as Bachelor of Technology Education, B.Tech (Edu) in these fields of endeavor;

Aware of the potentials of the Federal College of Education (Technical), Bichi, if it is upgraded to Federal University of Technical Education, given its existing facilities which include amongst others, 6 Schools, 27 Academic Departments, 6 furnished Lecture Theatres and Lecture Halls with 2,900 sitting capacity, 15 fully equipped laboratories with 1,110 sitting capacity, over 10 workshops as well as 66 classrooms to accommodate 13,450 students and 670 hectares of land for New Site Development;

Desirous of improving the aspiration of the present administration to diversify the economy and equip the teeming unemployed population with self-sustaining skills and also eliminate the current perceived inferior status of polytechnics and technical colleges which cannot award degree equivalent grades;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Education and the National Universities Commission (NUC) to initiate the process of upgrading the Federal College of Education (Technical), Bichi to a Federal University of Technical Education and report back to the House within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 50/2017**).

13. Need to Rehabilitate the Museum of National Unity, Ibadan

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Aware that in 1973, three years after the civil war that lasted from 1967-70, the Federal Government, as part of efforts to enhance unity among Nigerians, proposed to establish museums of National Unity (MNU) in Ibadan, Enugu, Maiduguri and Sokoto in Southwestern, Southeastern, Northeastern and Northwestern Nigeria, respectively;

Also aware that the Ibadan Museum of National Unity was opened on April 4, 2002, thus becoming the first of the four National Museums proposed in 1973 and has four (4) galleries, namely Unity, Masquerade, Pottery and Yoruba homes, which boast of many antiquities that attract tourists from within and outside the country, thus promoting the socio-cultural values of the Nation and also aiding educational research and entertainment;

Concerned that the museum lacks standard conservation laboratory, research tools, modern storage system for antiquities, well-equipped library a functional amphitheater, an alternative source of power supply, potable water, modern furniture/equipment, and following years of neglect, nearly all the buildings within the complex are dilapidated and require urgent rehabilitation;

Cognizant that the museum has not received running costs for the maintenance of the complex since 2014, coupled with the fact that the contractor in charge of cleaning and clearing of weeds within the complex has not been paid for the last two years;

Concerned that the dilapidated state of the museum will discourage potential tourists from visiting it, thus negating the goal of using tourism as a means of economic diversification currently being pursued by the Federal Government;

Resolves to:

- (i) call the attention of the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture to the deplorable state of the Museum of National Unity, Ibadan and urge for its rehabilitation; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Culture and Tourism to monitor the state of compliance with this resolution, and report back to the House within six (6) weeks for further legislative action
(Hon. Adedapo Lam-Adesina — Ibadan Northeast/Ibadan Southeast Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

(HR. 51/2017).

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

14. Need to Investigate the Dumping of Toxic Waste in Koko Community of Warri Federal Constituency of Delta State

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Recalls that in June 1988, a national phenomenon of toxic waste dumping with massive sludge, slurry and carcinogenic occurred in Koko community, Warri North in Delta State which resulted into illnesses, including stomach upset, headache, failing sight and death, apart from the environmental damage to the aquatic life of the people;

Notes that nearly three decades after the above infamous toxic waste dumping in Koko, another toxic and carcinogenic waste dump has occurred in the same Koko community this year 2017;

Also notes that the toxic waste was found to be laden with Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH), Oil and Grease, Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH) and BETEX (Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene and Xylene) and some heavy metals with values higher than acceptable by the Department of Petroleum Resources and the World Health Organization standards;

Aware that while Sections 25 and 26 of the Petroleum (Drilling and Production) (Amendment) Regulations Act, 2006, on the one hand regulate the production and discharge of sludge and accidental spills from oil and gas production installations within the territory and territorial waters of Nigeria, sections 20 and 21 of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency Act of 1988 and the Harmful Waste (Special Criminal Provisions) Act of 1988, on the other hand specifically regulate hazardous wastes management in Nigeria;

Also aware that the Environmental Guidelines and Standards for the Petroleum Industry in Nigeria issued in 1991 by the Petroleum Industry which was reviewed in 2002 prohibit the discharge of harmful wastes and pollution of inland waterways, rivers, watercourses of Nigeria or sea by oil;

Concerned that about 80% of oily sludges are considered hazardous because of the presence of toxic organics such as aromatics, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) and complex compounds with very high molecular weight, such as asphaltenes;

Also concerned that carcinogenic wastes contain substances or agents that can cause cells to become cancerous by altering their genetic structure so that they multiply continuously and become malignant;

Worried that consumption and/or absorption of toxic and carcinogenic contaminants by plants and lower animals will ultimately lead to bioaccumulation in humans from food chain in nature which will result in failure of organs and ultimately death;

Also worried that during the rainy season, surface and underground water which is the source of drinking water for the people is gravely contaminated through seepage of toxic and carcinogenic substances into aquifer;

Disturbed that the area around the dump site is residential and a Primary School, with its numerous pupils and teachers, also shares a common perimeter fence with the waste dump site facility;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Environment and Habitat, Petroleum Resources (Downstream), and Gas Resources to investigate the dumping of toxic waste and the extent of its environmental impact on the community and report back to the House within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Reyenieju Daniel Oritsegbubemi — Warri South/Warri West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Recalled that in June 1988, a national phenomenon of toxic waste dumping with massive sludge, slurry and carcinogenic occurred in Koko community, Warri North in Delta State which resulted into illnesses, including stomach upset, headache, failing sight and death, apart from the environmental damage to the aquatic life of the people;

Noted that nearly three decades after the above infamous toxic waste dumping in Koko, another toxic and carcinogenic waste dump has occurred in the same Koko community this year 2017;