



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
NOTICE PAPER
Monday, 19 February, 2018**

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

- 1. Need to Extend the Payment of Occupational Hazard Allowances to Agricultural Professionals in the Civil/Public Service of the Federation:
Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno:**

The House:

Notes that Agriculture is the largest employer of labour in many countries especially in Africa and Asia, therefore Nigeria cannot be an exception;

Also notes that Agriculture in addition to been the largest employer of labour in Nigeria is one of the three most dangerous sectors in terms of Occupational Safety and Health; the two others being Construction and Mining;

Aware that the Safety and Health in Agriculture convention held at Geneva on 5 June, 2001 defined "Agriculture" to cover Agricultural and Forestry activities carried out in agricultural undertakings including crop production, forestry activities, animal husbandry, insect raising, and agricultural installation including any process storage, operation or transportation in an agricultural undertaking which are directly related to Agricultural Production;

Concerned that despite hazards being faced by agricultural professionals in Nigeria, they do not enjoy any form of occupational hazard allowances as currently enjoyed by their counterparts in the Veterinary, Livestock and other related Animal Health fields;

Conscious of the fact that Agricultural officers like their counterparts in Veterinary and Livestocks faces a lot of hazard which sometimes lead to incapacitation, deformity and, or death;

Also Aware that the nature of hazards being faced by the Agricultural Professionals include Chemical Poisoning, Acid spill, inhaling poisonous gases, susceptibility to attacks by wild animals, poisonous insects, reptiles, bees and snakes etc;

Acknowledges the need to mitigate the exposure of the Agricultural Professional by extending to them the benefits to enjoy occupational hazard allowances;

Recalls that the Agricultural Professionals through its recognized body, the Agriculture and Allied Employees made several requests to enjoy the occupational hazard allowances but were turned down on no justifiable grounds;

Convinced that extending the payment of occupational hazard allowances to Agricultural Professionals like their counterpart in the Veterinary, Livestock and other related Animal Health fields will spur them into putting in their best services;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Secretary to the Government of the Federation to direct the National Council on Establishment to extend the payment of occupational hazard allowances to Agricultural Professionals in the Civil/Public Service of the Federation;
- (ii) Mandate the Committees on Agricultural Production and Services and, Labour, Employment and Productivity to monitor compliance and report within three (3) weeks for further legislative action.

2. Need to Investigate Activities of the Presidential Amnesty Office to Ensure Accountability and Efficiency of the Programme:

Hon. Abubakar Chika Adamu:

The House:

Notes that Late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua GCFR, on June 25, 2009, proclaimed a 60-day unconditional amnesty period for militants in the Niger Delta, as a step towards resolving the protracted insecurity in the region occasioned by militancy which resulted in huge oil revenue loss to the Nation;

Also notes that the proclamation gave rise to the establishment of the Presidential Amnesty Programme Office to institutionalize programmes to assist in the Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation and provision of reintegration assistance to the militants;

Aware that the budget of the Presidential Amnesty Programme Office which ranges between 60 to 70 Billion Naira annually has been shrouded in secrecy in terms of implementation towards achieving the core objectives of the programme;

Also Aware that on November 1, 2017, hundreds of ex-agitators stormed the National Assembly to protest the non-payment of their stipends and other allowances spanning several months by the Presidential Amnesty Programme Office and called on the National Assembly to intervene;

Disturbed that allegations of corruption and ineptitude have always bedeviled the Amnesty programme since its inception, resulting in hitches in the implementation of the amnesty programme, especially the non-payment of outstanding allowances to the ex-militants running into billions of naira;

Also disturbed that the non-payment of tuition fees of ex-agitators schooling abroad has resulted in Embassies and Schools throwing out the students despite billions of naira being allocated to cater for the programme annually;

Worried that the Presidential Amnesty Programme Office has been enmeshed in several allegations of financial impropriety and other acts that are allegedly detrimental to the objectives of the Programme and the ex-agitators are at the receiving end;

Again aware that few days ago, President Muhammadu Buhari relieved the coordinator of the Presidential Amnesty Programme, Brig-Gen. Paul Boroh (Rtd) of his duties on the heels of allegations of mismanagement of funds by the Office under his watch;

Further aware that President Muhammadu Buhari has directed the National Security Adviser to carry out full investigation into the activities of the Amnesty Programme from 2015 to date covering only 3 out of the 9years existence of the Presidential Amnesty Programme Office;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Niger Delta Ministry to carry out a comprehensive probe into the management of the funds allocated to the office from inception to date and assess the impact of the programme on the ex-agitators,

3. Need to Initiate and include Skills Acquisition Programme in the NYSC Scheme to achieve Self-reliance and Reduce Unemployment among Nigerian Youths.

Hon. Taiwo Michael Akintola.

The House:

Notes that the National Youth Service Corps was established to, among other things, develop the Nigerian Youth and Nigeria into a great and dynamic economy and with the objectives of enabling Nigerian Youth to acquire skills for self-reliance;

Also notes that the National Youth Service Corps has, among other Objectives, achieved proper advancement of common ties among Nigerian Youths and has helped maintain National Unity among Nigerians;

Further notes that the NYSC has consistently furnished the Corps Members with some entrepreneurial teachings during the period of camping in which basic skills in some areas of production and services are provided;

Equally notes that most of the skills provided by NYSC are hardly appreciated by the corps members which further exacerbate unemployment in Nigeria;

Aware that the reason why most ex-corpers crave for employment in the Civil Service and private service is because they do not possess skills required for self-employment as against the objectives of the National Youth Service Corps Act;

Observes that efforts have been made to address this ugly trend through other agencies of government and other research institutions in the country, yet such efforts have yielded little result;

Determined to reduce the rate of unemployment in Nigeria through the provision of entrepreneurial skills to NYSC corps members, to reduce the huge deficit in SMEs

thereby encouraging the Nigerian Youths to achieve self reliance as contemplated in the National Youth Service Corps Act;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Ministries for Youth and Sports development, Industry, Trade and Investment, Agriculture and Rural development, Labour and Employment to collaborate towards providing sellable skills in form of apprenticeship to provide opportunities of learning a trade/skill;
- (ii) Also urge the Federal Ministries of Labour and Employment, Youth and Sport development to develop, within the NYSC scheme an intensive and comprehensive entrepreneurial skills acquisition and training programme for corp members, as alternative to mitigating unemployment in Nigeria;
- (iii) Mandate the Committees on Youth Development Sports and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance.

**4. Call on the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to Deploy Men of the Nigeria Police to Dekina and Bassa Local Government Areas of Kogi State to Halt Further Entry of Herdsmen to Oganengwu Ward and to Establish a Police Outpost at Agojeju in Oganengwu Ward:
Hon. Benjamin Ikani Okolo**

The House:

Notes that some communities in Oganengwu ward of Dekina Local Government Area and Akakana Ayede Ward in Bassa Local Government Area of Kogi State have come under severe attacks in the last 18 months leading to several deaths and destruction of property;

Worried by the incessant killings of innocent, unarmed and defenceless farmers who are often butchered in cold blood by these well armed herdsmen in their farms;

Also worried that in the last 18 months, seven communities in Oganengwu Ward have been attacked by these herdsmen and 55 deaths were recorded;

Again worried that the people of Ofuwo-Omayeji in Bassa LGA and Aloko in Dekina LGA have also been under severe attacks in the last few days and also 12 deaths were recorded;

Convinced that the establishment of a Police Post at Agojeju will assist to curb or possibly halt the free entry of the armed herdsmen into these communities to unleash mayhem;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Inspector General of Police to quickly deploy men and officers of the Nigeria Police Force into these Communities to avert further killings;
- (ii) Further urge the Inspector-General of Police to establish a Police Outpost at Agojeju to check the marauding herdsmen;

(iii) Mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to ensure Compliance.

5. Urgent Need to Revitalise the Cassava Bread Project in Nigeria:

Hon. Emmanuel Akpan:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Government of Nigeria came up with policy decision in 1982 to explore the means of using cassava flour in production of Bread in the country;

Also notes that the policy decision was not pursued further due to the sudden change in administration in 1983;

Further notes that in 2004, the Federal Government of Nigeria deemed it necessary to again explore the advantage of using cassava to bake bread and this development was warmly welcome and embraced by most Nigerians;

Worried that this cassava bread project again suffered another setback, and was abandoned after a few months of products introduced in the market;

Also notes that in 2014, the craving of Government to move away from dependence on conventional flour for baking and production of bread was vigorously campaigned but again it was not realized;

Aware that bread is one of the major food items eaten by both high and low income earners in Nigeria;

Also aware that the demand for bread is very high and therefore require high production level to meet the high demand for local consumption and then for export to earn the much need foreign exchange to boost our economy;

Concerned that the components of bread making like sugar and flour are mostly imported and the price are soaring high and thus affecting the prices of bread;

Also aware that effort is made by government to revitalize the cassava bread project, foreign exchange will be saved, economic diversification will be enhanced, cost of production will be cheaper and affordable by the vast majority of Nigerians and it will also create employment for Nigerians;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources to revitalize the cassava breed policy;
- (ii) Mandate the Committees on Agricultural production and services and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to work out modalities towards bringing alive the cassava bread project in Nigeria and report back within six weeks for further legislative action.

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