



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 13 February, 2018

1. The House met at 11.23 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, 8 February, 2018.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.
3. **Announcement**
 - (a) **Visitors in the Gallery:**
Mr Speaker recognised the presence of the following visitors in the Gallery:
 - (i) Staff and Students of *Samuel Bill International Academy Ltd*, Jahi, Abuja; and
 - (ii) Staff and Students of *Lordsbridge Academy*, Federal Housing Authority, Lugbe, Abuja.
 - (b) **Appointment of Hon. Edward Gyang Pwajok as Life Bencher:**
Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Pwajok Edward Gyang (*Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*), informing the House of his appointment as a Life Bencher by the Body of Benchers of Nigeria.
4. A Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Commission for Refugees Act, Cap. N21, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Re-enact the National Commission for Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees, Stateless and Other Persons of Concern, to Provide a Framework for Durable Solutions to Victims of Displacement; and for Related Matters (HB. 603) — **Third Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Commission for Refugees Act, Cap. N21, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Re-enact the National Commission for Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees, Stateless and Other Persons of Concern, to Provide a Framework for Durable Solutions to Victims of Displacement; and for Related Matters, (HB. 603) be now read the Third Time" (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and Passed.

5. A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigeria Police Trust Fund; and for Related Matters (HB.894) — Third Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigeria Police Trust Fund; and for Related Matters (HB.894) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).

Question Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and Passed.

6. A Bill for an Act to Establish the Abuja Broadcasting Corporation to Provide Independent and Impartial Broadcasting Service for General Reception through the Federal Capital Territory; and for Related Matters (HB. 1255) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Abuja Broadcasting Corporation to Provide Independent and Impartial Broadcasting Service for General Reception through the Federal Capital Territory; and for Related Matters (HB. 1255) be now read a Second Time” (*Hon Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwu East/Ukwu 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 Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

7. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Value Added Tax Act, Cap. V1, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to ensure Harmony and Uniformity in the Exercise of Statutory Authority; and for Related Matters (HB. 1244) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Value Added Tax Act, Cap. V1, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to ensure Harmony and Uniformity in the Exercise of Statutory Authority; and for Related Matters (HB. 1244) be now read a Second Time” (*Hon. Rita Orji — Ajeromi/Ifelodun 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 Finance.

8. Discharge of Committees on Referrals of Bills, Pursuant to Order Seventeen, Rule 3 (1) (g) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the following Bills were read a Second time separately between 2015 and 2017 and referred to Committees of the House for legislative actions, namely:

<i>S/No.</i>	<i>Title of Bill</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Committee(s)</i>
1.	HB. 828 Local Industry Patronage Bill, 2016	19/1/2017	Public Procurement

2.	HB. 104 Nigeria Agro-Processing and Food Safety Service Commission (Establishment, etc.)	19/1/2016	Healthcare Services, and Agricultural Production and Services
3.	HBs 96 and 162 Federal Highways (Amendment) Bill, 2015	26/1/2016	Federal Road Safety Commission
4.	HBs 93 and 94 National Centre for Agricultural Mechanization (Amendment) Bill, 2015	28/1/2016	Agricultural Production and Services
5.	HB. 358 Public Private Partnership Regulatory Commission Bill, 2016	28/1/2016	Special Duties
6.	HBs 62 and 139 Education (National Minimum Standards and Establishment of Institutions) (Amendment)	28/1/2016	Tertiary Education and Services

Aware that the Committees are yet to present Reports on the Bills, contrary to the provisions of Order Seventeen, Rule 3 (1) (g) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives, to wit:

"Any matter referred to any Committee shall be treated within 30 days otherwise the Committee shall stand discharged after 60 days and the matter Committed to the Committee of the Whole for consideration";

Resolves to:

Discharge the Committees above mentioned from the Bills referred to them and commit same to the Committee of the Whole for consideration (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

9. Need to Expedite Action on the Completion of Anyigba Transmission Sub-station in Kogi State
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes with concern the increasing number of abandoned projects across the country even when resources are appropriated to such projects;

Also notes that the Anyigba Transmission Substation Contract was awarded in 2007 but work at the site was stopped due to the demise of the one of the agents of Contractor, and since then neither the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) nor the Federal Government has done anything to complete the project;

Aware that the project has been captured in the 2018 Budget proposal that is before the National Assembly and the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) is contemplating moving the equipment at the site to its Head Office in Lagos for safe-keeping;

Also aware that the Anyigba Transmission Sub-station is a strategic Sub-station set up to evacuate power generated from the Mambila Power Plant when completed, hence the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN)'s expansion plan to upgrade it to a 330/132 kv Substation;

Worried that the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) will be spending more money to transport the equipment to Lagos and back when the project takes off, than to pay security personnel to watch over the equipment at the Anyigba site;

Also worried that if the equipment at the Anyigba Transmission Sub-station is taken out of the site to the Transmission Company of Nigeria Headquarters in Lagos as proposed, the equipment may not be returned to Anyigba.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) to stop the idea of moving the equipment to the Lagos Headquarters, and employ the services of a capable security outfit to keep watch on the site, and expedite action on returning to the site; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Power to liaise with the Minister of Power, Works and Housing to ensure the immediate take-off of the Project and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Hassan A. Omale — Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 44/2018).

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

10. Need to Erect Perimeter Fence Around the Benin Airport and Other Airports in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that aviation safety is key in the aviation business and a global standard in the industry;

Also notes that safety measures go beyond flight safety, but include other security measures in and around the airports;

Recalls that in August 2013, a teenage boy sneaked into the tyre compartment of an Arik Airplane after gaining access into the Airport premises due to the lack of perimeter fence;

Disturbed that recently, herds of cattle were found grazing indiscriminately in Benin Airport without any barricade from the runway;

Cognizant that these incessant breaches of safety could lead to serious accidents with colossal consequences, especially with the increasing number of over one thousand and five hundred passengers per day using the departures and arrivals lounge of the Benin Airport.

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Federal Ministry of Transportation to erect perimeter fences around the Benin Airport and all other Airports without perimeter fencing in Nigeria; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Aviation, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and report back within Eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Johnson Egwakhide Oghuma — Etsako East/Etsako West/Etsako Central Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 45/2018).

Motion referred to the Committees on Aviation, and Legislative Compliance, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

11. Devastating Flood and Erosion in Ase-Azaga Community of Ndoni in Andoni Local Government Area of Rivers State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Ase-Azaga is the second largest town in Ndoni District and shares a common boundary with Ogwu-Ikpele town in Anambra State;

Also notes that the people of Ase-Azaga depend on farming and fishing along the River Niger as their major source of livelihood;

Worried that the recent overflow of the River Niger has resulted in devastating landslides and erosion in the community, causing untold hardship to the people as their schools, homes and farmlands have been washed away by flood;

Cognizant that Ase-Azaga community and many others bordering River Niger are constantly at risk of landslides arising from the overflow of the river, and therefore need an embankment to forestall the devastating effects of the overflow;

Disturbed that with the coming of the rainy season, another overflow of River Niger will cause more havoc, or worse still, engulf the entire community;

Also cognizant of the need to urgently send relief materials and health personnel to Ase-Azaga to alleviate the deplorable conditions of the people whose health are deteriorating from the effects of the recent disaster in the community.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to prioritize the construction of an embankment of River Niger along the Ndoni communities including Ase-Azaga in order to forestall overflow of the river;
- (ii) also urge the Nigerian Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently send relief materials and health personnel to alleviate the deplorable situation in Ase-Azaga in Ndoni, Rivers State; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Environment and Habitat, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative input (*Hon. Uchechuku Nnam-Obi — Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni/Ahoada West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 46/2018).

Motion referred to the Committees on Environment and Habitat, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

12. Need to Address the Recurring Cases of Deaths Caused by Generator Fumes in Nigeria:

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that there have been several reports of deaths caused by generator fumes, which on many occasions have wiped out entire families;

Saddened that one of such incidents occurred on June 30, 2017 in Rumuomasi community in Rivers State when a couple and four children were suffocated by generator fumes in their apartment;

Aware that many cases of deaths resulting from generator fumes are not reported, although there is an alarming increase in deaths arising from the use of generators;

Worried that despite the numerous incidents of deaths resulting from the use of generators, the Federal Government has not taken adequate measures to totally eliminate or substantially reduce the occurrence of the incidents;

Cognizant of Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) which states that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to intensify its effort towards providing adequate power supply for Nigerian citizens in order to ensure a drastic reduction in the use of generators in Nigerian homes;
- (ii) also urge the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), the National Electricity Management and Services Agency (NEMSA) and Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOs) to jointly carry out public enlightenment campaigns on the safe use of generators;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Power, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Emmanuel Akpan — Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (ii), immediately after the word “DISCOs”, *insert* the words “and Ministry of Information and Culture” (*Hon. Henry Archibong — Itu/Ibiono Ibom Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that there have been several reports of deaths caused by generator fumes, which on many occasions have wiped out entire families;

Saddened that one of such incidents occurred on June 30, 2017 in Rumuomasi community in Rivers State when a couple and four children were suffocated by generator fumes in their apartment;

Aware that many cases of deaths resulting from generator fumes are not reported, although there is an alarming increase in deaths arising from the use of generators;

Worried that despite the numerous incidents of deaths resulting from the use of generators, the Federal Government has not taken adequate measures to totally eliminate or substantially reduce the occurrence of the incidents;

Cognizant of Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) which states that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government.

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to intensify its effort towards providing adequate power supply for Nigerian citizens in order to ensure a drastic reduction in the use of generators in Nigerian homes;
- (ii) also urge the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), the National Electricity Management and Services Agency (NEMSA), Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOs), and Ministry of Information and Culture, to jointly carry out public enlightenment campaigns on the safe use of generators; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Power, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (HR. 47/2018).

13. **Alleged Grant of Amnesty by Governor Rochas Okorocha to Persons who had been declared wanted by the Rivers State Security Council**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes with concern the recent grant of Amnesty to some persons who had been declared wanted by the Rivers State Security Council consisting of the State Governor, Commissioner of Police, Heads of Army, Navy, Air Force and the Security and Civil Defence Corps in the State;

Aware of the deadly attacks carried out by the notorious Don Wanny (now deceased) led criminal gang in Omoku Town, Rivers State on January 1, 2018, leading to the death of about twenty-three (23) innocent citizens who were returning home from cross over night service;

Also notes that following the said dastardly attack, the Rivers State Government and the State Security Council acting on security reports on or about the 8th day of January, 2018 declared thirty (30) persons suspected to be part of a criminal gang that has been terrorizing the State wanted, with a monetary sum of ₦20 million ransom placed on each of them;

Also aware that at least four (4) of the criminal gang members, including the younger brother of the said Don Wanny were killed in a gun duel;

Further aware that the alleged amnesty granted by Governor Okorocha in concert with some 'highly placed' politicians to persons who have been declared 'wanted' by the security agencies was clearly in bad faith, unimaginable, preposterous and part of a wider plan to re-integrate and arm these 'criminal elements' into society ahead of the 2019 general elections;

Also notes that Nigeria is one indivisible and indissoluble Sovereign State as provided in Section 2 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFRN), 1999 (as amended) and maintains a united security force;

Cognizant that the primary purpose of government at all levels is to provide security and welfare of the people as provided for in Section 14 (2) (b) CFRN, 1999, an Inter-governmental co-operation is thus very key to achieving this purpose;

Again notes that those that were declared wanted by the Security Agencies are all from Rivers State and spread across twelve out of the twenty three (23) Local Government Areas of the State and thus strange and unexplainable that a State Governor within the Federation of Nigeria could purportedly grant amnesty to persons who are at present on the 'wanted list' of the Security Council of a sister State;

Further notes that even the Presidential Amnesty programme upon which ex-Niger Delta militants were re-integrated into the society in 2009 was a proclamation with a definite time line of sixty (60) days 'grace period' after which no one would benefit therefrom, except upon further proclamation or an Act of the National Assembly;

Recalls that the Rivers State Government had earlier raised an alarm over plans by the Federal Government to grant Amnesty to some persons who have been declared wanted by the Rivers State Security Council, yet nothing was done to avert same at the time;

Worried that a State Governor within an indivisible and indissoluble Federation of Nigeria could deliberately purport to grant amnesty to persons who are at present on the 'wanted list' of the Security Council of another State;

Concerned that the action of the Imo State Governor is capable of affecting the cordial relationship between Rivers and Imo States, who hitherto had lived and maintained peaceful co-existence, and in turn lead to serious tension and the 'fragile' peace prevailing in both States and other parts of the Niger Delta region and indeed the entire country would be seriously threatened;

Convinced that if the action of the Imo State Governor and the activities of these 'highly placed' persons and politicians are not immediately checked, it could in the long run plunge Imo and Rivers States and indeed the entire Niger Delta region into another round of avoidable violence and total breakdown of Law and order.

Resolves to:

- (i) condemn the alleged grant of amnesty by the Imo State Governor to the wanted criminals;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government and law enforcement agencies not to recognize the amnesty allegedly granted to wanted persons by Governor Rochas Okorocha and ensure the immediate arrest and prosecution of the wanted persons; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure implementation of the resolutions (Hon. Betty Apiafi — Ahoada East/Abua/Odual Federal Constituency and 11 others).

Ordered: Chairmen of the Committees on Justice, Ethics and Privileges, and National Security and Intelligence, to look at the issues raised in the Motion, advise the House accordingly and report back within one (1) week.

14. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 14 February, 2018 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.49 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker