



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 16 January, 2018

1. The House met at 11.17 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Second Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 21 December, 2017.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. **Announcements**
 - (a) **Timetables and Schedules of Activities for the 2019 General Elections:**
Mr Speaker read a communication from Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) notifying the House of the schedules of activities for the 2019 General Elections:

Ordered: That the Schedules be produced and circulated to Members.

- (b) **Bereavement:**
Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Hosea Danasabe Charles (Gashaka/Kirmil/Sardauna Federal Constituency), announcing the demise of Hon. Hosea Ibi (Takum I Constituency, Taraba State House of Assembly) who was kidnaped and found dead on Monday, 15 January, 2018.
4. **Welcome Address:**
Mr Speaker addressed the House as follows:

PROTOCOLS:

My dear Honourable Colleagues, I welcome you back to the plenary of the House, from the Christmas and New Year recess and also commend you for the Committee assignments you have been undertaking since the 8th of January, 2018. I hope you, as usual, spent time with your constituents during this period. I also expect that you have briefed them on legislative activities conducted so far on their behalf. The Recess also presented us with opportunity to get feedback on the problems and developments in our various constituencies which should aid our performance going forward.

2. *We embarked on the recess at a period of great hardship faced by our constituents. The unending and shameful story of fuel shortage reached an unbearable level as to make traveling and other economic activities almost impossible. We expected that with the legislative cooperation given*

to the Executive arm, to effect an increase in the fuel price from ₦87 per litre to ₦145, and based on their assurances, incidents of fuel scarcity would be a thing of the past. We were also assured that fuel subsidy had come to an end. From recent developments on this subject, except the Executive adduces compelling reasons why the reverse is the case, we will be justified in feeling betrayed.

3. As a parliament, we must unravel the causes of this scarcity and the alleged re-introduction of fuel subsidy. I charge our relevant Committees to get to the root of these issues through the instrumentality of oversight to enable the House take an informed position on this totally undeserving precarious situation that our already overburdened citizens are subjected to. This has to be done with minimal delay.

4. Honourable Colleagues, we are all painfully aware of the wave of murders of innocent Nigerians that has been sweeping through the nation. From the senseless killings in Rivers State, to the killing rampages in Benue, Taraba, Kaduna, Zamfara, Adamawa, Edo and other States; our dear country is now being painted red with the blood of the innocents on account of unrelenting bedlam callously promoted by cold hearted merchants of death.

5. On behalf of the House of Representatives, I wish to convey our heartfelt condolences to the governments, people, and especially families of those who have lost loved ones in these primitive, mindless and despicable rounds of bloodletting across our dear country.

6. At these moments of intense outpouring of grief across the nation, it is important that we shun buck passing and accept responsibility for these wanton killings without which we will never find a solution to this evil. We cannot afford to fold our hands and pretend that all is well with our country. We cannot throw up our hands in defeat. We have a responsibility to all Nigerians regardless of creed or ethnicity in line with the constitutionally stated primary purpose of the government we serve in, which is securing the welfare including the lives and property of our people. This we must do by ensuring that every law abiding Nigerian is protected where ever he chooses to live in the country and everyone who is up in arms against our citizens is quickly brought to justice where ever they are in the country. That there are no sanctuaries anywhere in the country for killers and other hardened criminals who feed on the blood of our people.

7. Our job as leaders is to hold our people together and ensure that no one or group is allowed to foist the reign of tragedy and group polarisation on our dear nation. Those who pride themselves in violence must be reminded of the self defeating nature of violence: the fact that violence only begets violence and that true victory has never been won by violence. It was Mahatma Gandhi who delivered a timeless rebuke to the fools who worship brute force by reminding them that, "victory attained by violence is tantamount to a defeat for it is momentary". We have to preach this message to our people who must not only accept the inevitability of conflict as well as the necessity for tolerance but must learn not to pursue conflict violently but democratically, in ways that result in compromise and consensus as the culture of democracy demands.

8. This House has passed many Resolutions on the issue of herdsmen, cattle grazing and cattle rustling. These Resolutions include but not limited to: HR. 127/2015, HR. 291/2015, HR. 36/2016, HR. 77/2016, HR. 123/2016, HR. 144/2016, HR. 187/2016, HR. 164/2016, HR. 85/2017, HR. 199/2017, HR. 08/2017, HR. 09/2017, HR. 118/2016. There have also been several resolutions on kidnaping, Boko Haram Terrorism and sundry security matters. These resolutions are more of a wakeup call to the Executive on its Constitutional obligations in governance. The accentuation of violent crimes is a chronic symptom of defects in our security architecture which we must fix. I therefore call on Mr President to apply maximum sanctions on public officers who are derelict in the performance of their duties.

9. In the same vein, our security related Committees must aggressively conduct oversight of the various MDAs and institutions handling security matters, to detect lapses in the operations of these security agencies and pro-actively ensure compliance with approved funds and procurement of appropriate equipment.

10. Dear Colleagues, you will recall that on **Tuesday, 13th June, 2017**, this House convened a Joint meeting with all the Service Chiefs, Inspector-General of Police, the Hon. Ministers of Defence, and Interior! Heads of Paramilitary services on the **State of our National Security**. Our security-related Committees were expected to conduct a follow-up action on all the issues canvassed, and the House expects to be briefed soon. Only 2 days ago, Mr President, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria, briefed the President of the Senate and I on measures being taken to contain killer Herdsmen and other criminals who kill with impunity across National flash points. I won't speak to the measures because of the sensitivity of security issues and in order not to jeopardise ongoing operations. However, I must say that I am totally satisfied that if Mr President's Plan is carried out to the latter, we will sooner than later begin to see the desired fruits.

11. Dear Hon. Colleagues, as you are aware, the **2018 Appropriation Bill** is before us for legislative action. We have promised to do our utmost to pass it expeditiously. We should keep our word. However this can only be possible if the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) cooperate effectively with relevant Committees of the House by providing the required information as may be requested of them. I understand, from reports reaching me, that there is lack of cooperation from some of the MDAs, and I call on the Heads of all MDAs to expedite action on demands from our Committees. We should all in a constructive manner, resolve any problems that may hinder the smooth and early passage of the Budget. The deadline we have given to ourselves must remain sacrosanct.

12. As we enter 2018, political activities will pick up. We must however remember that we were elected to represent the people for a four year term. The work is not finished. This is the time to conclude many outstanding legislative measures pending before us.

13. Dear Colleagues, the economy, must remain the central focus of our legislative activities in 2018, in order to consolidate Nigeria's exit from economic recession. To this end, we must prioritise high economic impact Bills and pass them before the onset of political activities. The Committee on Rules and Business is hereby charged to schedule the consideration of these Bills at the earliest possible time.

14. The Electoral Act Amendment process must be speedily concluded, this first quarter. Same with Constitutional alteration process, especially those on electoral matters. The Rules of the game must be clear to the actors early enough before the game begins. This is absolutely necessary in order to improve on the standards we set in the last general elections.

15. Furthermore, the practice of divesting various Ad-Hoc and Standing Committees with jurisdiction over referrals that have refused or neglected to submit their Reports on various Bills and Resolutions would continue in the new year. We would strengthen the Rules and Business Committee of the House, which is the secretariat of the Committee of Whole, to consider the Reports divested from various Committees. Indeed, all Ad-Hoc Committees that have not submitted their Reports within the time frame given to them, and without getting an extension of time from the House would be divested of jurisdiction and that without further notice.

16. In conclusion, may I use this opportunity to once again thank all of you for all your support to the leadership of the House since 2015 and to plead that we work even harder this year to justify our mandate and to set a record of legislative productivity that will be difficult for our successors to equal.

17. Hon. Colleagues, the economic and security challenges facing the country are daunting. indeed at no time in the recent past has the nation's peace and unity been so vigorously and persistently challenged. This however is the real test for true leadership. I believe that together with God on our side, we shall solve our economic, social, and political problems. It is my hope that we faint not as we run this race and when we hit the finish line, all of us shall breast the tape standing tall.

18. God bless you and may God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The House observed a minute silence in honour of the deceased.

5. Petitions

- (i) A petition from Innocent Chukwuma on his arrest and detention by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), was presented and laid by Hon. Chris Azubogu (*Nnewi North/Nnewi South/Ekwusigo Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) A petition from Hon. Kabiru Muhammed, on the non-payment of his outstanding benefits by the Nigerian Electricity Liability Management Company (NECMCO), was presented and laid by Hon. Danburam Abubakar Nuhu (*Kano Municipal Federal Constituency*);
- (iii) A petition from Igwe A. A. Ngoddy, on behalf of Atani Kingdom, Ogbaru Local Government Area, Anambra State, Atani, on the encroachment on a portion of land by the Nigeria Police, was presented and laid by Hon. Chukwuka Onyema (*Ogbaru Federal Constituency*); and
- (iv) A petition from Greg Anumenechi & Co (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Diobo Dankoru Albertine, on his assault and damage to vehicle by the Nigeria Customs Service, Federal Operations, Edo State, was presented and laid by Hon. Frederick Agbedi (*Ekeremor/Sagbama Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

6. Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)

- (i) ***Herdsmen Killings in Guma and Logo Local Government Areas of Benue State and the Alarming Humanitarian Situation that has Arisen:***
Hon. Tarkighir Dickson (*Makurdi/Guma 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.

Matter to be consolidated with Motion on the Order Paper; item 6 “Need for the Federal Government to Declare a State of Emergency on Security over Spate of Deadly Attacks in the Country by Suspected Herdsmen”.

- (ii) ***Request for Full Protection and Assistance for Camerounian Asylum Seekers and Refugees by the Federal Government:***
Hon. Muhammed Sani Zorro (*Gumel/Gagarawa/Mai Gatari/Sule Tankankar 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.

Request for Full Protection and Assistance for Cameroonian Asylum Seekers and Refugees by the Federal Government:

The House:

Aware of the presence and continued influx of tens of thousands of Asylum Seekers and Refugees from Cameroun into Nigeria, since the last quarter of 2017;

Recalls that these category of persons of concern have continued to cross the border into Nigeria mainly through Boki, Ikom, Obudu and Etung Local Government Areas of Cross River State, as well as border towns and villages in North-Western parts of Benue and Taraba States;

Also aware of reports of vulnerability of the Asylum Seekers and Refugees as a result of incessant incursions into Nigerian territory by Cameroonian gendarmes allegedly in hot pursuit of terrorists, and the consequent arrest and fear of deportation of about 40 of the Asylum seekers and Refugees back to Cameroun;

Conscious of the provision of Section 33 of the Geneva Convention on the Treatment of Refugees dealing with *Non-Refoulment* of persons facing likely persecution and those whose lives are at grave risk in their countries of nationality, as well as relevant provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the People;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to extend full protection and assistance to the Asylum Seekers and Refugees through timely provision of physical security at their various camps and sites, adequate shelter, food and non-food items, especially in Benue, Cross River and Taraba States;
- (ii) request all concerned security agencies and authorities not to deport the arrested Asylum Seekers as the measure would run contrary to the Non-Refoulment provision of the Geneva Convention Regarding the Treatment of Refugees and Other Protocols Governing the Treatment of Refugees;
- (iii) also request that both state and federal authorities allow the construction of refugee camps of up to 50 kilometers inside Nigerian territory, to guard against cases of reported cross border raids at the camps by alleged members of the Cameroonian Armed Forces, which is inconsistent with humanitarian principles and best practices; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Interior, and National Security and Intelligence to monitor compliance with provisions of this motion and report back within two weeks (*Hon. Muhammed Sani Zorro — Gumel/Gagarawa/Mai Gatari/Sule Tankarkar Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Negatived.

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (4) to enable it take more than 2 matters of urgent public importance” (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(iii) ***Need to Investigate the Alleged Carting Away of \$44 Million from National Intelligence Agency (NIA) and the Issues Surrounding the Appointment of its New Director-General:*** Hon. Douye Diri (*Yenagoa/Kolokuma/Opokuma 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 Investigate the Alleged Carting Away of \$44 Million from National Intelligence Agency (NIA) and the Issues Surrounding the Appointment of its New Director-General (DG)

The House:

Notes that, the President and Commander-in-Chief recently approved the appointment of a new Director General, National Intelligence Agency (NIA) in the person of Rufai Abubakar;

Concerned that the identity, nationality, citizenship and even competence of the new DG has become a subject of public speculation and controversy;

Disturbed that the NIA has again been visited by another scandal merely two days after assumption of office by the new DG where \$44 million cash in the Agency's vaults in Abuja was allegedly carted-away;

Aware that the nation is yet to recover from the shock of the Ikoyigate Safe House scandal involving \$43.4 Million, ₦23.2 Million and 27,800 Pounds, the report of which is yet to be made public;

Also disturbed that the issues of the controversy over the appointment and the cash scandals paint a poor picture of our National Security and diminishes the reputation of the Agency in the eyes of the Nigerian public and the international community;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on National Security and Intelligence to investigate the matter and report back within two weeks for further legislative actions (*Hon. Douye Diri — Yenagoa/Kolokuma/Opokuma Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that, the President and Commander-in-Chief recently approved the appointment of a new Director General, National Intelligence Agency (NIA) in the person of Rufai Abubakar;

Concerned that the identity, nationality, citizenship and even competence of the new DG has become a subject of public speculation and controversy;

Disturbed that the NIA has again been visited by another scandal merely two days after assumption of office by the new DG where \$44 million cash in the Agency's vaults in Abuja was allegedly carted-away;

Aware that the nation is yet to recover from the shock of the Ikoyigate Safe House scandal involving \$43.4 Million, ₦23.2 Million and 27,800 Pounds, the report of which is yet to be made public;

Also disturbed that the issues of the controversy over the appointment and the cash scandals paint a poor picture of our National Security and diminishes the reputation of the Agency in the eyes of the Nigerian public and the international community;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on National Security and Intelligence to investigate the matter and report back within two weeks for further legislative actions (**HR. 01/2018**).

7. **Presentation of Bills**

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) West African Examinations Council Act (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (HB. 1264).
- (2) Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund Act (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (HB. 1265).
- (3) National Orientation Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (HB. 1266).
- (4) National Health Act (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (HB. 1267).
- (5) Animal Diseases (Control) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (HB. 1268).
- (6) Nigerian Communications Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (HB. 1269).
- (7) Harmonised Retirement Age of the Staff of the National Assembly Service Bill, 2018 (HB. 1270).
- (8) Nigerian Research Institutes Act (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (HB. 1271).
- (9) Industrial Training Fund Act (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (HB. 1272).
- (10) Nigerian Children Trust Fund Act (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (HB. 1273).
- (11) Criminal Code Act (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (HB. 1274).
- (12) Companies and Allied Matters Act (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (HB. 1275).
- (13) Insurance Act (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (HB. 1276).
- (14) Allocation of Revenue (Federation Account, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (HB. 1277).
- (15) Urban and Regional Planning Act (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (HB. 1278).

8. **Presentation of Report**

Ad-hoc Committee on Petroleum Industry Bill:

Motion made and Question proposed "That the House do receive the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on Petroleum Industry on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Governance and Institutional Framework for the Petroleum Industry and for Other Related Matters (HB. 477, HB. 878, HB. 1053)" (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — Doguwa/Tudun Wada Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) of Nigeria with Responsibility, among Others, for Determining the Standards of Knowledge, Skill and Qualification for Persons seeking to become Registered Professionals and Practitioners in Logistics and Transport in Nigeria and Licensing and Regulating the Practice of Logistics and Transport in all Ramifications; and for Related Matters (HB. 973) — *Third Reading***
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) of Nigeria with Responsibility, among Others, for Determining the Standards of Knowledge, Skill and Qualification for Persons seeking to become Registered Professionals and Practitioners in Logistics and Transport in Nigeria and Licensing and Regulating the Practice of Logistics and Transport in all Ramifications; and for Related Matters (HB. 973) be now read the Third Time” (Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — *House Leader*).

Question agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Character Commission Act, Cap. F7, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to give Married Women Option of Indigeneship and to Provide for the Establishment of Federal Character Tribunal for the Prosecution of Violations of the Federal Character Act; and for Related Matters (HB. 1190 and HB. 1203) — *Second Reading***

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University, Aba, Abia State as a Conventional University with Restricted Programmes, Limited and Focused Facilities to ensure Equity and Access to Tertiary Education in the Country; and for Related Matters (HB. 1232) — *Second Reading***
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University, Aba, Abia State as a Conventional University with Restricted Programmes, Limited and Focused Facilities to ensure Equity and Access to Tertiary Education in the Country; and for Related Matters (HB. 1232) be now read a Second Time” (Hon. Solomon Adaelu — *Obingwa/Osisioma/Ugunagbo 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 Tertiary Education and Services.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Environmental Impact Assessment Act, Cap. E12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Ensure that Persons to be Affected by a Proposed Project are involved in the Decision Making in order to Ensure Remediation of the Environment and to make it Responsive by Ensuring that Project Developers, Approving Authorities and Persons whose Livelihood will be Affected by Proposed Projects are involved in the Decision Making to Safeguard the Environment and Ensure Adequate Remediation of the Environment among others; and for Related Matters (HB. 414 and HB. 977) — *Second Reading***
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Environmental Impact Assessment Act, Cap. E12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Ensure that Persons to be Affected by a Proposed Project are involved in the Decision Making in order to Ensure Remediation of the Environment and to make it Responsive by Ensuring that Project Developers, Approving Authorities and Persons whose Livelihood will be Affected by Proposed Projects are involved in the

Decision Making to Safeguard the Environment and Ensure Adequate Remediation of the Environment among others; and for Related Matters (HB. 414 and HB. 977) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Bede Uchenna Eke — Aboh Mbaise/Ngor Okpala Federal Constituency and 1 other*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Environment and Habitat.

13. Need to Investigate the Operational Utilization of Funds Accruing to the Police Special Protection Unit

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

14. Need for the Federal Government to Declare a State of Emergency on Security over Spate of Deadly Attacks in the Country by Suspected Herdsmen

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes the deadly and sustained attacks across the country from the beginning of the year by suspected herdsmen, particularly in Benue State, supposedly over some missing cows which attacks led to the death of over eighty (80) people;

Also notes the attack on worshipers in Rivers State who were returning from a religious programme to mark the New Year which led to the killing of about seventeen (17) people;

Further notes the report that thirty-seven (37) people were killed in a violent clash between farmers and herdsmen in Kajuru Local Government Area of Kaduna State, while the traditional ruler of Numana Chiefdom in Zanga Local Government Area of the State and his wife were shot dead on new year day by suspected herdsmen;

Equally notes that fifty-five (55) people were reportedly killed and two hundred (200) houses and food stuff burnt in Taraba State, while Kwara, Edo and Ondo States also had attacks unleashed on their people, with scores of other attacks in other States of the country going unreported, all of which resulted in mass burials that are now becoming the order of the day;

Aware that scores of farmers have been killed in those attacks, including women and children, a development that has brought a great sense of insecurity and distrust among ethnic groups, thus raising a spectre of instability in the country;

Cognizant that those orgies of bloodletting were carried out in violation of section 33 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 which guarantees right to life to every citizen which shall not be deprived of any citizen save in execution of the sentence of a Court in respect of a criminal offence of which he has been found guilty;

Concerned that incessant attacks on farmers and farming communities will ultimately result in food shortages, artificial scarcity and hampering of the drive of the Federal Government to diversify the nation's economy through agriculture;

Desirous of the need for pro-active steps to be taken to avoid further attacks with consequent loss of lives.

Resolves to:

- (i) condemn the attacks and killings in all ramifications;
- (ii) observe a minute of silence in honour of the departed souls; and
- (iii) summon the Minister of Interior, the Service Chiefs, the Inspector-General of Police and the Director-General of the Department of State Service to explain to the House the measures being put in place to forestall further attacks and loss of lives across the country (*Hon. Babatunde Gabriel Kolawole — Akoko Southwest/Akoko East Federal Constituency and 1 other*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* Prayer (iii) and *insert* a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
“Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to interface with all the Security Chiefs for a lasting solution to the killings, especially with a view to discovering all persons with illegal arms and brief the House within four weeks” (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (iv) as follows:
“Mandate the *Ad-hoc* Committee to call for a two-day public hearing on the matter where all the stakeholders will come and proffer solution” (*Hon. Nkem-Abonta Uzoma — Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the deadly and sustained attacks across the country from the beginning of the year by suspected herdsmen, particularly in Benue State, supposedly over some missing cows which attacks led to the death of over eighty (80) people;

Also noted the attack on worshipers in Rivers State who were returning from a religious programme to mark the New Year which led to the killing of about seventeen (17) people;

Further noted the report that thirty-seven (37) people were killed in a violent clash between farmers and herdsmen in Kajuru Local Government Area of Kaduna State, while the traditional ruler of Numana Chiefdom in Zanga Local Government Area of the State and his wife were shot dead on new year day by suspected herdsmen;

Equally noted that fifty-five (55) people were reportedly killed and two hundred (200) houses and food stuff burnt in Taraba State, while Kwara, Edo and Ondo States also had attacks unleashed on their people, with scores of other attacks in other States of the country going unreported, all of which resulted in mass burials that are now becoming the order of the day;

Aware that scores of farmers have been killed in those attacks, including women and children, a development that has brought a great sense of insecurity and distrust among ethnic groups, thus raising a spectre of instability in the country;

Cognizant that those orgies of bloodletting were carried out in violation of section 33 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 which guarantees right to life to every citizen which shall not be deprived of any citizen save in execution of the sentence of a Court in respect of a criminal offence of which he has been found guilty;

Concerned that incessant attacks on farmers and farming communities will ultimately result in food shortages, artificial scarcity and hampering of the drive of the Federal Government to diversify the nation's economy through agriculture;

Desiroused of the need for pro-active steps to be taken to avoid further attacks with consequent loss of lives.

Resolved to:

- (i) condemn the attacks and killings in all ramifications;
- (ii) observe a minute of silence in honour of the departed souls;
- (iii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to interface with all the Security Chiefs for a lasting solution to the killings, especially with a view to discovering all persons with illegal arms and brief the House within four weeks; and
- (iv) mandate the *Ad-hoc* Committee to call for a two-day public hearing on the matter where all the stakeholders will come and proffer solution (**HR. 02/2018**).

15. Consideration of Reports

That items 7 to 12 on the *Order Paper* be deferred to the next legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (3) (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*)

16. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 17 January, 2018 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Munguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 3.24 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker