FOURTH REPUBLIC
8TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SECOND SESSION
NO. 17

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 22 September, 2016

1. The House met at 11.08 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 Wednesday, 21 September, 2016.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. **Announcement**
(*i*) ***Bereavement:***
(*a*) Mr Speaker read the following communications from:

(*i*) Hon. Opiah Goodluck Nanah (*Ohaji/Egbema/Oguta/Oru West Federal Constituency*), announcing the death of his mother, Ezinne Comfort Sabaina Opiah on Friday, 5 August, 2016.

(*ii*) Hon. Samuel Ikon (*Etinan/Nsit Ibom/Nsit Ubium Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of Senator Ime Ikpatt, a former Member of the House of Representatives (*Etinan Federal Constituency*, 1979 - 1983) on 21 June, 2016.

(*iii*) Hon. Ezekiel A. Adaji (*Otukpo/Ohimini Federal Constituency*), announcing the transition of a former Member, Hon. Eigege Ejiga (*Otukpo/Ohimini Federal Constituency*, 1979 - 1983) on Monday, 15 August, 2016.

(*b*) By leave of the House, the Minority Leader, Hon. Leo Ogor (*Isoko North/Isoko South Federal Constituency*) informed the House of the transition of a former Chief Whip of the House of Representatives, Hon. Tom U. B. Egbuwoku (*Isoko North/Isoko South Federal Constituency*, 1979 - 1983), at the age of 78. He described Hon. Egbuwoku as an erudite politician and an astute administrator who contributed to the development of the legislature in Nigeria. He prayed for the repose of the soul of the deceased.

A minute silence observed in honour of the deceased.

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(*ii*) ***Conference Committee on the Disability Bill*, 2016:**
Mr Speaker named members of the Conference Committee as follows:

(1)	Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa	—	*Chairman*
(2)	Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari	—	*Member*
(3)	Hon. Lovette Idisi	—	*Member*
(4)	Hon. Uchenna Obiageli N.	—	*Member*
(5)	Hon. Asabe Vilita Bashir	—	*Member*
(6)	Hon. Ayo Omidiran	—	*Member*

4. Petitions

(*i*) A petition from Kenneth Kola Adeniji on the unlawful erection of obsolete telecommunications mast on his property by the Irewole Local Government Area, Ikire, Osun State, was presented and laid by Hon. Ayo Omidiran (*Ayedaade/Irewole/Isokan Federal Constituency*);

(*ii*) A petition by the National Association of Plateau State Students (NAPSS) NTA- TVC Chapter and the Plateau Youth Council, on the transfer of five top management staff of NTA Television College, Jos, was presented and laid by Hon. Solomon Bulus Maren (*Mangu/Bokkos Federal Constituency*);

(*iii*) A petition from Chidum Chinda on the termination of his appointment by HR Sterling Oil Group, was presented and laid by Hon. Kingsley Chinda (*Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*);

(*iv*) A petition by Dr Christopher Ikpenwa Ugbor on his unpaid pension arrears, was presented and laid by Hon. Jones Onyereri (*Nkwerre/Isu/Nwangele/Njaba Federal Constituency*);

(*v*) A petition from Mrs Akinyemi Oluseun Abimbola on the termination of her appointment by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), was presented and laid by Hon. Afe Olowookere (*Akure North/Akure South Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

(*i*) ***Need to Revitalize Core Industrial Projects as a Catalyst for the Nigerian Industrialization*:**
Hon. Chris Azubogu (*Nnewi North-South/Ekwusigo 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.*

Need to Revitalize Industrial Core Projects as a Catalyst for the Nigerian Industrialization:

The House:

Notes that in the quest for the Industrialization of Nigeria, past governments since independence have made several policies expected to bring about rapid economic growth and development;

Also notes that these policies as made by the past administrations have not and did not turn our economy into an industrial/manufacturing economy due to its inconsistency in implementation;

Worried that these policies as propagated instead of increasing our productive capacity have rather turned us into an import dependent and consumer nation;

Also worried that 56 years after our political independence we are still running an extractive economy whereby all our agricultural produce, solid minerals, liquid/gaseous minerals are exported as primary raw materials with no additional value;

Convinced that we can only run a productive economy by processing and manufacturing our abundant resources into finished goods ready for local consumption and export to international communities;

Aware that if we develop our local technology and capacity we can become competitive especially in the areas of comparative advantage thereby building a ustainable economy through genuine activities that will bring about economic growth and job creation;

Also aware that to achieve industrialization, government must invest heavily in Industrial Core Projects (ICPs) and that there is urgent need for immediate completion and rehabilitation of these ICPs no matter the cost. These include but not limited to the following:

1. Iron and Steel Plant at Ajaokuta,
2. Steel rolling mills Aladja, Kaduna, Oshogbo,
3. Aluminum Smelter, Ikot Abasi,
4. Machine Tools Industries at Shagamu and Ozubulu,
5. Petro Chemical in Port Harcourt, Warri and Kaduna,
6. Fertilizer Industries,
7. Paper/ Pulp Industries at Oku Iboku and Iwopin,
8. Crude Oil Refineries at Port Harcourt, Kaduna, Warri,
9. Defence Industries of Nigeria (DICON);

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Industry to liaise with the relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) towards revitalising our ailing Industries Core Projects (*Hon. Chris Emeka Azubogu — Nnewi North-South/Ekwusigo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question agreed to.

(HR. 74/2016).

Motion referred to the Committee on Industry.

(ii) ***Need to Investigate the Over $17 Billion Dollars Stolen from Undeclared Crude Oil and Liquefied Natural Gas Exports to Global Destinations:***
Hon. E. J. Agbonayinma (*Egor/Ikpoba-Okha 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.*

Need to Investigate the Over $17 Billion Dollars Stolen from Undeclared Crude Oil and Liquefied Natural Gas Exports to Global Destinations:

The House:

Notes that following the colossal figures of crude Oil theft, the past administration in 2013 held a meeting with all the major oil companies to proffer solution to the embarrassing challenge of crude oil theft which meeting was attended by the President, Vice President, Governors of Delta, Bayelsa and Akwa Ibom States, Ministers, the Attorney General of the Federation and the Service Chiefs;

Also notes that following the resolve of the meeting at the behest of the President, Molecular Power System (Nigeria) Limited was engaged to provide technical data (records of Crude Oil and Liquefied Natural Gas Lifting in Nigeria as obtained from NNPC and landing certificates at global destinations) to verify possibilities of non declaration to the Federal Government by Multinational Companies;

Aware that the data gathering of shipment to the USA for the period 2011 to December 2014 through critical NNPC data and the Central Bank pre-shipment inspection report show an undeclared crude oil short falls of 57,830,000 of Nigeria Crude Oil, translating to well over $12 Billion to the United States of America, also over $3 Billion to China and $839,522,600 to Norway, and that these figures were conclusively ascertained by buyers, bill of lading, arrival dates, destination ports, quantity of crude oil and other documented information;

Also aware that this job has been done in 51 countries where Nigerian crude oil has been exported, that the report of the United States of America being the largest receiver of crude oil and that of other countries was made available to the former President, the Office of the Attorney General, NIMASA and EFCC, and that as at today the country has to its credit over $17 billion of recoverable shortfalls from undeclared crude oil exports to global destinations;

Dismayed that the physicalisation policy of the Federal Government which warrants loading of Crude Oil from Nigeria to be monitored by the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), the Navy, the Custom, Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) and the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) have been crippled over the years till date, and that these agencies have majorly lost the capacity to go to offshore locations to witness loading, as the machines that monitor loading into vessels were bought, owned, calibrated and operated by the International Oil Companies (IOCs) without monitoring;

Also dismayed that these data so gathered show for LNG shortfall, a total of 727,460 metric ton of Liquified Natural Gas, estimated at about $461,044 million was firmly established shortfall from shipment to 7 countries, and that this revenue loss was traced to cargoes at each destination port of entry, and have been established as undeclared cargoes;

Observed that Nigeria has a recoverable shortfalls of over $17 billion from undeclared crude oil and liquefied natural gas exports to Global Destination;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the over $17 billion stolen from undeclared Crude Oil and Liquefied Natural Gas Exports to global destinations involving twenty (20) companies, two Agencies of Government, two law firms and the consultant (Technical Expert) appointed by the past government (*Hon. E. J. Agbonayinma — Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question agreed to.

(HR. 75/2016).

6. **Consolidation of Bills**
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 for Other Matters Related Thereto (HBs 124 and 126); 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 (HB. 183).

Order deferred by leave of the House.

7. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Forest Research Institute of Nigeria; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 41) — *Third Reading*.**

Order deferred by leave of the House.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Commodity Brokers of Nigeria (CICBN); and for Other Related Matters (HB. 417) — *Second Reading*.**

Order deferred by leave of the House.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure Act, Cap. N3, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 206) — *Second Reading*.**

Order deferred by leave of the House.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Make Development Planning Compulsory for all Tiers of Government in Nigeria and to Create Coherent and Measureable Targets in Developmental Initiatives in support of the attainment of the Goals of Vision 20:2020; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 592) — *Second Reading*.**

Order deferred by leave of the House.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Recovery of Public Property (Special Provisions) Act, Cap. R4, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 221)** — ***Second Reading.***

Order deferred by leave of the House.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Quarantine Act, Cap. Q2, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Increase the Penalty; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 289)** — ***Second Reading.***

Order deferred by leave of the House.

13. **Urgent Need to Address the Economic Downturn in Nigeria**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that due to the crash of crude oil prices from over $120 per barrel in the last quarter of 2014 to about $45 presently, Nigeria has been witnessing a dramatic reduction in oil earnings, which has impacted negatively on revenues available to finance expenditure, as a result, the foreign reserves had been depleted to bridge the gap;

Also notes that the loss of confidence in the nation's economy has led to increase in the rate of outflow of businesses worth more than four trillion Naira following declining oil revenue and the devaluation of the Naira;

Further notes the unprecedented level of youth unemployment of about 70% which has continued to grow unabated as businesses keep folding up;

Concerned that bank lending rate of between 25-30% per annum and other hidden charges are discouraging borrowers, especially the Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs) and is also counterproductive for meaningful economic growth;

Also concerned about the economic downturn that is looming in the country which was predicted in 2014 by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) based on the aforementioned events, coupled with declining foreign reserves and rising external debts which, according to the Debt Management Office (DMO) now hovers around $10bn from $3.5bn nine years ago;

Aware that the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) condemned the high interests charged by Banks and the CBN's foreign exchange policy has created more problems for the real sector since it made access to foreign exchange more difficult for importation of raw materials by genuine users and coupled with the weak Naira, the policy has fuelled cost production increases;

Further concerned that industries such as the steel rolling mills, paper mills, aviation and textile industries, etc. that are supposed to provide cushion for the aforementioned policies and conserve foreign exchange have become moribund;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government to direct the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the Federal Ministry of Finance and the National Planning Commission to review the existing monetary policy with a view to developing sustainable lending rates and right environment that will foster real sector growth to enhance economic development;

(*ii*) also urge the Federal Government to take steps to resuscitate the comatose government owned industries which will generate employment, provide raw materials for local producers and preserve scarce foreign exchange;

(*iii*) further urge the Federal Government to develop policies that will be attractive to private investment for the commercial exploration of solid minerals and also pay attention to non-oil sector such as tourism, automobile industry, information technology etc. in order to bring about the diversification of the nation's economy; and

(*iv*) mandate the Committees on Banking and Currency, Finance, and National Planning and Economic Development to ensure compliance, and report back to the House within four weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Mukaila Olayiwola Kazzim — Abeokuta North/Obafemi-Owode/Odeda Federal Constituency*).

Debate resumed.

Amendment Proposed:
Insert a new Prayer (*v*) as follows:
"Get the concurrence of the Senate to invite the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, to address a Joint Session of the National Assembly to intimate it on plans to get the country out of the recession, to enable the House take further legislative action" (*Hon. Kingsley Chinda — Obor/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that due to the crash of crude oil prices from over $120 per barrel in the last quarter of 2014 to about $45 presently, Nigeria has been witnessing a dramatic reduction in oil earnings, which has impacted negatively on revenues available to finance expenditure, as a result, the foreign reserves had been depleted to bridge the gap;

Also noted that the loss of confidence in the nation's economy has led to increase in the rate of outflow of businesses worth more than four trillion Naira following declining oil revenue and the devaluation of the Naira;

Further noted the unprecedented level of youth unemployment of about 70% which has continued to grow unabated as businesses keep folding up;

Concerned that bank lending rate of between 25-30% per annum and other hidden charges are discouraging borrowers, especially the Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs) and is also counterproductive for meaningful economic growth;

Also concerned about the economic downturn that is looming in the country which was predicted in 2014 by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) based on the aforementioned events, coupled with declining foreign reserves and rising external debts which, according to the Debt Management Office (DMO) now hovers around $10bn from $3.5bn nine years ago;

Aware that the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) condemned the high interests charged by Banks and the CBN's foreign exchange policy has created more problems for the real sector since it made access to foreign exchange more difficult for importation of raw materials by genuine users and coupled with the weak Naira, the policy has fuelled cost production increases;

Further concerned that industries such as the steel rolling mills, paper mills, aviation and textile industries, etc. that are supposed to provide cushion for the aforementioned policies and conserve foreign exchange have become moribund;

Resolved to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government to direct the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the Federal Ministry of Finance and the National Planning Commission to review the existing monetary policy with a view to developing sustainable lending rates and right environment that will foster real sector growth to enhance economic development;

(*ii*) also urge the Federal Government to take steps to resuscitate the comatose government owned industries which will generate employment, provide raw materials for local producers and preserve scarce foreign exchange;

(*iii*) further urge the Federal Government to develop policies that will be attractive to private investment for the commercial exploration of solid minerals and also pay attention to non-oil sector such as tourism, automobile industry, information technology etc. in order to bring about the diversification of the nation's economy;

(*iv*) mandate the Committees on Banking and Currency, Finance, and National Planning and Economic Development to ensure compliance, and report back to the House within four weeks for further legislative action; and

(*v*) get the concurrence of the Senate to invite the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, to address a Joint Session of the National Assembly to intimate it on plans to get the country out of the recession, to enable the House take further legislative action (**HR. 76/2016**).

14. **Pollution of Ndokwa Communities by Sterling Exploration and Energy Production Company (SEEPCO) Ltd through Crude Oil Barges**

Order deferred by leave of the House.

15. **Call for Investigation of the Extra Budgetary Spending by the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) between 2012 and 2015**

Order deferred by leave of the House.

16. **Call for Decongestion of Abuja Municipal Area Council**

Order deferred by leave of the House.

17. **Urgent Need to Address the Problem of Casualization and Outsourcing of Jobs and Its Socio - Economic Consequences in Nigeria**

Order deferred by leave of the House.

18. **Adjournment**

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 27 September, 2016 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Buba Jibril Umar — Deputy House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.51 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker