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NO. 15

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

NOTICE PAPER

Monday 16 October, 2017

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

1. **Need to Investigate the Loss of Over $14 Billion as a Result of Non-Payment of Gas Flared Penalties by International Oil Companies (IOCs) From April 2008 –2016:**

Hon. Ehiozuwa Johnson Agbonayinma | **Hon. Uchechuku Nnam-Obi**
Hon. Johnny Johnson E. Oghuma | **Hon. Randolph O. Brown**
Hon. Jerome Eke Amadi | **Hon. Edward Pwajok**
Hon. Issa Jessy Ali:
The House:

Notes that Gas flaring is harmful to the economy and the environment as gas flared contains toxic substances which cause respiratory diseases and air pollution leading to depletion of the Ozone layer, and ultimately, having adverse effects on the weather and climate;

Also notes the statistics which show that the quantity of gas flared in Nigeria exceeds over 40% of gas flared across Africa, which amounts to trillions of Naira which have been wasted over the years;

Further notes that the consequences of gas flaring include destruction of farmlands, damaging of crops, contamination of the air and acid rains which, apart from corroding corrugated aluminium roofs, acidify the soil in the areas where gas flaring takes place;

Aware that the Federal Government, in a bid to discourage gas flaring and encourage the redirection of gas flared from waste to wealth and to save the environment and the lives of the people living in the gas flared environment, imposed a penalty of $3.5 per 1000 SCF of gas flared by Oil Companies;

Also aware that the Deputy Director and Head, Upstream of the Department of Petroleum Resources, (DPR) while speaking at a Conference in Houston, Texas, U.S.A said that the country has lost $14,298 billion between April 2008 and October 2016 in form of penalties for gas flaring which the International Oil Companies (IOCs) failed to pay and in a similar vein, the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), in its latest Oil and Gas Audit Report, noted that Firms operating in the country have failed to abide by the regulating penalty of $3.5 for every 1000 SCF of gas flared by the oil companies;

Concerned that Multi National Oil Companies which adhere strictly to internationally acceptable environmental best practices in their countries and other parts of the globe have refused to pay the agreed penalties on gas flared in Nigeria;

Resolves to:

(i) Call on relevant Government Agencies to undertake a damage and post impact assessment of the gas flared environment and direct the payment of compensation by the Oil Companies to the affected communities;

(ii) Set up an Ad-Hoc Committee to investigate the non-payment of penalties on gas flaring by Oil Companies and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action.

2. **Urgent Need to Curb the Fatality Rate of Sickle Cell Anaemia Disease in Nigeria:**
Hon. Segun Adekola Alexander:
The House:

Notes the statistics which show that Nigeria has the highest ratio of Children born with Sickles-Cell disorder as over one hundred and fifty thousand children are born with it annually and the increasing fatality rate from the disease is having adverse effects on the health sector;

Also notes that Sickle Cell Disease is an incurable genetic disorder passed on to Children by their parents as part of their genetic makeup, and it is characterized by acute or chronic pain, damage to vital organs and increased risk of infection, among others;

Concerned about the high level of ignorance and indifference nationwide regarding the Disease and the lack of adequate sensitization campaigns by the government for an ailment that causes excruciating pains, leads to neglect and discrimination of victims and also makes them vulnerable to other diseases that could be life threatening;

Resolves to:

(i) Urge the Federal Government to provide more resources in the efforts to control Sickle Cell Anaemia Disease and support the Non-Governmental and International Organizations towards mitigating the burden of the Disease across the country;

(ii) Also urge the Federal Ministry of Information to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Health to commence sensitization campaigns and public awareness programmes aimed at educating the populace on the management and prevention of Sickle Cell disease;

(iii) Mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to ascertain measures to ameliorate the plight of victims and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action;

3. **Call on Regulatory Agencies to Desist from Charging Extraneous Fees/Levies on Entrepreneurs:**
Hon. Kingsley Obinna Onwubuariri:
The House:

Notes with displeasure the fact that Nigeria has consistently been rated poorly in the world with respect to the ease and cost of doing business;

Concerned that despite the commitment of the Federal Government to provide a conducive environment for doing business in Nigeria, Departments and Agencies having regulatory responsibilities devise and implement clogs that continue to stifle the process;

Also concerned that those activities of the Agencies hamper the ability of young entrepreneurs to render services to Government, build capacity and earn income independently;

Aware of allegations of racketeering by the Agencies which foster corruption, cause avoidable delays and frustrate investors, thereby giving the country a bad image;

Resolves to:

(i) Urge the Federal Government to direct regulatory Departments and Agencies to desist from charging extraneous levies that overstretch the capacity of entrepreneurs to pay;

(ii) Mandate the Committee on Commerce to investigate the allegations that regulatory agencies charge extraneous fees / levies on entrepreneurs and make recommendations on ways to create an enabling environment for entrepreneurship in Nigeria.

4. **Call to Investigate the Operations of the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency:**
Hon. Wole Diya:
The House:

Notes that the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency was established to address health issues in rural communities in Nigeria;

Concerned that many rural communities lack Primary Healthcare Centres, which leaves people at risk of dying from diverse ailments and diseases due to unavailability of drugs or medical personnel;

Also concerned that existing healthcare centres are inadequately equipped and lack sufficient drugs and personnel required to effectively attend to patients

Aware that in order to achieve the aims of the Sustainable Development Goals, it is important for the government to tackle healthcare challenges, especially at the grassroots level;

Cognizant of the need to adequately monitor allocations appropriated to the National Healthcare Development Agency to ensure that the Federal Government achieves the targeted Vision 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG);

Resolves to:

(i) Urge the Federal Government to establish Primary Healthcare Centres in all rural communities and adequately equip them to function effectively;

(ii) Mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to investigate the operations of the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency to ascertain its level of compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action.

5. Call for Purchase of Adequate Radiotherapy Machines for Cancer Patients:
Hon. James Abiodun Faleke:
The House:

Notes the precarious situation that over two (2) million cancer patients in Nigeria find themselves due to insufficient or non-availability of Radiotherapy machines;

Concerned that out of seven Radio-therapy machines existing in the country, only one is said to be functional, a development that results in cancer patients dying premature due to lack of proper treatment;

Aware that most African Countries are well equipped to cater for their cancer patients as they have procured the following number of Radiotherapy machines in their respective countries;

- South Africa - 92
- Algeria - 20
- Morocco - 28
- Tunisia - 16
- Egypt - 76

Cognizant that if urgent steps are not taken to provide adequate Radiotherapy machines in hospitals across the country, majority of patients battling the disease would die;

Resolves to:

(i) Urge the Federal Ministry of Health to urgently purchase adequate Radiotherapy machines for Government Hospitals across the country;

(ii) Mandate the Committee on Health Institutions to ensure compliance and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action.

6. Urgent Need to Increase Taxes on Tobacco as a Means of Curbing Tobacco Use and Funding Healthcare Services:
Hon. Sergius Ose Ogun Hon. Albert Abiodun Adeogun:
The House:

Notes that issues concerning Tobacco and its various uses have engaged the attention of Governments all over the world because of the grave danger it poses to human health and the environment;

Also notes that annually, Tobacco use accounts for more than seven (7) million deaths around the world, thus resulting in decreased household incomes, increased Government expenditure in healthcare provision and loss of productivity;

Further notes that even though it is a leading and avertable cause of non-communicable diseases, it remains a leading public health threat as, Nigeria for instance, has an estimated five (5) million smoking adults, who in turn expose thirty (30) million non-smokers to harmful effects of second-hand smoking;

Informed that an average smoker spends about N2,000 on tobacco monthly, which averages to about N10 billion monthly for the five (5) million adult smokers, thus amounting to N120 billion annually, for a product that causes cardiovascular and chronic respiratory diseases and which waste contains over seven (7) thousand toxic chemicals that poison the environment;

Recalls that the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) was ratified in 2005 and Nigeria agreed to reduce tobacco consumption and prohibit duty free sales of tobacco products, thus becoming the first African country to implement the requirements of the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS);

Aware that in 2008, the Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) carried out a survey which revealed that nine (9) percent out of the 11.5 percent of men between 15 and 49 years of age smoke cigarettes;

Also aware that the GATS data which was collected from the six (6) geo-political zones was meant to assist the country in enhancing its capacity to design, implement and evaluate tobacco control programs and to fulfil its obligations under the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC);

Also informed that the tax levied on tobacco products in the country is twenty (20) percent of the retail price, a far cry from the WHO-FCTC benchmark of seventy-five (75) percent, and does not conform to international best practices when compared with the 80.5 percent in the United Kingdom; 43 percent in the United States of America; 49.3 percent in South Africa and 52.3 percent in Kenya;

Further informed that taxes on tobacco contributes £12 billion in the United Kingdom and $14.1 billion in the United States annually, thus showing that a policy of increasing tax on tobacco will curb public health concerns and substantially increase revenue potentials of the Government and help in mitigating the funding challenges of the healthcare services delivery;

Concerned that the M-Power aims postulated by the World Health Organisation have not been fully implemented by the Federal Government, namely;

[i] Monitor Tobacco use and prevention policies;

[ii] Protect people from Tobacco use;

[ii] Offer help to quit tobacco use;

[iv] Warn about the danger of tobacco;

[v] Enforce ban on tobacco advertising;

[vi] Raise taxes on tobacco;

Resolves to:

[i] Urge the Federal Government to embark on sustained compaigns to control tobacco use; implement the M-Power policy package, adopt stringent measures to restrict advertisement of tobacco products and promote smoke-free policies that cover public places to protect non-smokers from the harmful effects of second-hand smoking;

[ii] Mandate the Committee on Finance to interface with the Federal Ministry of Finance to review the tax regime in order to increase the current tax on tobacco products which percentage increase should be used to fund healthcare services, and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action.

7. Call for More Security Checkpoints on Hawan Kibo Road in Plateau State:
Hon. Beni Lar:
The House:

Notes that Hawan Kibo road is a major link between Kaduna, Plateau, Bauchi, Gombe and Adamawa States and is usually busy as if is used in the transportation of goods and services to and from the States;

Aware that the road is narrow and surrounded by mountains and thick forests, thus making it a conducive place for criminals to carry out their nefarious activities of robbing and killing travelers;

Concerned that if security is not beefed up along the stretch of the road, negative impact of the activities of the criminals will continue to hurt the country's economy as socio-economic activities between the affected States;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to liaise with the Nigeria Police Force to, as a matter of urgency, increase the number of security checkpoints on the road to ensure safety of travelers and report back within three (3) weeks for further legislative action.

8. Need to Curb Incessant Attacks on Personnel of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC):
Hon. Solomon Bulus Maren:
The House:

Notes the increasing cases of violent attacks, harassment and intimidation of personnel and officer of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) by highly placed individuals, motorists and hoodlums across the country, particularly in Zamfara, Jigawa, Abia and Lagos States;

Also notes that between 2015 to date, there have been 149 cases of attacks on officers and 201 cases of damage to properties and equipment of the Federal Road Safety Corps;

Further notes that despite Section 19 of the FRSC (Establishment) Act, 2007 which stipulates that members of the Corps who are exposed to high risk in the enforcement of the provisions of this Act, shall have same powers, authorities and privileges, including power to bear arms, as are granted by law to members of the Nigeria Police Force, the Federal Government has not provided Road Safety officers with arms to enable them protect themselves in the course of performing their duties;

Concerned that the United Nation’s Declaration on Reduction of Roads Accidents by fifty (50) percent by year 2020 may not be achieved by Nigeria if the attacks are not urgently curbed;

Observes that in order to avoid the attacks, Road Safety officers stay off the roads at night and motorists are taking advantage of the situation to breach traffic regulations, which often lead to accidents;

Aware that officers sometimes discover offensive weapons in vehicles during routine operations on highways but are incapable of challenging motorists as they lack capacity to protect themselves from any attack that could arise;

Resolves to:

(i) Urge the Federal Government to facilitate the procurement of arms and ammunitions for officers of the Federal Road Safety Corps to protect themselves while performing their duties;

(i) Mandate the Committee on FRSC to investigate the cases of attacks on FRSC offices and personnel, ensure implementation of Resolution (i) and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action.

9. Urgent Need to Rehabilitate Katsina-Ala Bridge in Benue State:
Hon. Emmanuel M. Udende:
The House:

Notes that the Katsina-Ala Bridge is a major link connecting the Northern and Southern parts of Nigeria;

Also notes that the bridge is critical to socio-economic activities that are carried out alongWukari-Zaki-Biam-Katsina-Ala-Ugep-Calabar Road, Ugbema-Vandeikya-Obudu-Obudu Cattle Ranch Road and Lafia-Makurdi-Gboko-Katsina-Ala axis;

Aware that the roads enhance transportation of agricultural produce to and from the Zaki-Biam Yam market, and other business activities such as distribution of cement from the Gboko plant of the Dangote Cement to Taraba and Adamawa States, respectively;

Concerned that the Katsina-Ala Bridge is on the verge of collapse, thus creating transportation difficulties for commuters and hampering socio-economic activities;

Also concerned that Ugbema Junction, a major intersection linking the Katsina-Ala Bridge with Gboko Road and the Ikon-Calabar axis is also dilapidating and requires urgent repairs and damaged portion of the bridge has become a death trap and a den for criminals who hide under the bridge from where they terrorize commuters;

Resolves to:

(i) Urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing and the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to urgently rehabilitate the Katsina-Ala Bridge and the Ugbema Junction intersection to facilitate free flow of traffic and enhance economic activities;

(ii) Mandate the Committees on Works, FERMA and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance.

10. Call on the Federal Ministry of Education to Regularize the Appointment of Teachers Employed by the Parents Teachers Association (PTA) at the Federal Government College, Ohafia, Abia State and all Other Affected Federal Government Colleges:
Hon. Nkole Uko Ndukwe:
The House:

Notes that the Federal Government College, Ohafia, Abia State was established, along with other Colleges to provide qualitative education for the youth in order to boost the literacy level in Nigeria;

Also notes that due to lack of teachers for such core subjects like Mathematics, English Language, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, etc the Parents Teachers Association (PTA) of the College undertook to employ teachers for those subjects and pay them, a situation that is replicated at other Federal Government Colleges;

Further notes that while those teachers have been on the payroll of the Parents Teachers Association (PTA) for up to sixteen years on meagre emoluments of between N20,000 and N30,000 per month without any indication that the Federal Government would regularize their appointments, those of other teachers who were employed by the Federal Government many years after them, have been regularized;

Aware that it is becoming increasingly more difficult for the Parents Teachers Association (PTA) to continue to shoulder the burden of paying the salaries of those teachers given the failure of the Federal Ministry of Education to regularize their appointments despite several requests to do so;

Also aware that those teachers that were employed by the Parents Teachers Association (PTA) are far more in number than the regular teachers, and given the magnitude of the teaching responsibilities they bear, the College will be forced to shut down if those teachers are eventually frustrated out, a development that will have disastrous consequences for parents and pupils alike;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services to interface with the Federal Ministry of Education with a view to ensuring the regularization of the appointments of the teachers employed and being paid by the Parents Teachers Association (PTA) at the Federal Government College, Ohafia and all other such Federal Government Colleges, and report back within six (6) weeks.

12. Need to Investigate the Non Patronage of the Nigerian Communications Satellite (NIGCOMSAT):
Hon. D.C. Hosea:
The House:

Recalls that the Federal Government had contracted Kosmo – 3m Rocket from Russian Plesetsk Spaceport to launch its first Earth Observation Satellite, the Nigeria – 1 on September 17, 2003, at the cost of N30million;

Also recalls that subsequently, Nigcomsat – 1 Communications Satellite was launched in China at the cost of N200 million, but it failed in orbit in 2008 after running out of power, owing to an anomaly in its solar array;

Aware that the Federal Government had, since 2003, spent about N85 billion on five (5) Satellites which were meant to provide communication data and images for government agencies and the private sector with the aim of saving billions of foreign exchange and generating revenues estimated at $ 20 billion for the country;

Also aware that Nigcomsat – IR was relaunched in 2011 at no extra cost while Nigeria sat – 2 and Nigeria sat X Satellite, which was built at a cost of $35 million was launched in the same year;

Concerned that the Multi-Billion Naira Communication Satellites are under-utilized in space due to low patronage by Government agencies and private companies which continue to spend money running into billions of Naira to procure satellite images from other Service Providers, services which Nigeria's Satellite could supply, thereby depleting our foreign reserves;

Cognizant that Nigcomsat IR has effective signal coverage of the entire country and the West African sub-region, and if Federal and States Government agencies are mandated to subscribe with the Nigerian Communications Satellite for their satellite services, the billions of Naira being expended will be conserved for their satellite images need;

Resolves to:

(i) Call on the Federal Ministry of Telecommunications to issue a guideline making it mandatory for Federal Government agencies to patronize the Nigeria Communications Satellite (NIGCOMSAT);

(ii) Urge Governments of the States of the Federation to mandate the Agencies to do likewise;

(iii) Mandate the Committee on Information Technology to determine the cause of non–patronage of the Nigeria Communications Satellite and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action.

13. Need to Investigate the Violations of the Constitution, the Fiscal Responsibility and Public Procurement Acts by the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) Over Foreign Loans of $1.5b and $500m for its Operations and Contract Processes:
Hon. Simon Y. Arabo:
The House:

Notes that the privatization of the power sector under section 8 of the Power Sector Reform Act of 2005 gave birth to the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) as one of the successor companies in the power sector;

Also notes that under section 9 of the Act, the TCN is wholly owned by the Federal Government through the Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MFI) and the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) which hold the shares on its behalf;

Aware that the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) has taken loans amounting to $1.5B from the World Bank and other International Lenders over a period of time without complying with the provisions of section 44 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act;

Also aware that the loans were utilized without the appropriation of the National Assembly contrary to Sections 80-83 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999;

Further aware that the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) is currently negotiating another loan of $500M with Islamic Development Bankand has been violating the provisions of the Public Procurement Act in contract procedures as its contract processes are opaque;

Resolves to:
Mandate the Committees on Power, Public Procurement and Aids, Loans and Debt Management to investigate the activities of the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) for past 10 years in respect of foreign loans and contracts awards and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action.

14. Directive of the National Petroleum Investment Services to Operators in the Petroleum Industry to Contribute to the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Intervention Fund for the North East:
Hon. Obinna Chidoka:
The House:

Notes the report in the Guardian Newspaper of Thursday, October 5, 2017 that the National Petroleum Investment Management Services (NAPIMS), a subsidiary of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), had directed operators in the petroleum industry to make contributions to a "Dedicated Account" for intervention on behalf of the Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the North East zone of the country;

Also notes that the letter to the operators identified specific areas of infrastructural and developmental interventions for the funds will be utilized;

Aware that the report alleged that the NNPC/NAPIMS and some of the petroleum industry operators were reluctant to speak on the widely publicized directive which several commentators had described as illegal and discriminatory as there are no similar interventions in other parts of the country;

Concerned that details of the proposed "Dedicated Account" into which industry operators were required to remit their contributions were not disclosed in the directive, thus raising questions and concerns about accountability of the funds to be contributed;

Also concerned that the failure and/or refusal of NAPIMS to clarify on the matter has encouraged rumours which are capable of reinforcing the perception of corruption in the oil industry and creating disaffection which will further polarize the country;

Resolves to:

(i) Call on the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation/National Petroleum Investment Management Services (NNPC/NAPIMS) to stay action on the directive to operators in the petroleum industry to contribute to the internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Intervention Fund for the people of the North East;

(ii) Mandate the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream) to investigate the matter and report back within two (2) weeks for further legislative action.