



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

NOTICE PAPER

Monday 9 October, 2017

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

1. Threat to National Security in the Large Number of Condemned Inmates in the Prisons:

Hon. Anayo Nnebe:

The House:

Notes with concern the data that there are Two Thousand One Hundred and Ninety-four (2,194) Condemned inmates in Nigerian Prisons, some of whom have been there for more than ten years and beyond;

Also notes that those prisoners awaiting execution are far above the official carrying capacity of not more than 500 in each of the facilities designated for the purpose;

Recognizes the immense threat those set of inmates pose to National Security, especially in the event of jail breaks and also the concern by the Nigerian Prisons Service over the growing number of prisoners on death row;

Acknowledges that the country may be sitting on a keg of gunpowder if urgent steps are not taken to decongest the prison formations across the country, more so given the agitations and restiveness usually associated with this category of inmates.

Resolves to:

- [i] Appeal to Governors in whose States condemned criminals are being held, to either endorse the death warrants/sentences or commute same to life imprisonment;
- [ii] Urge the Federal Government to beef-up security around prison facilities in the country, with particular attention being paid to condemned inmates cells;
- [iii] Encourage the relevant agencies saddled with the task of prison decongestion (Office of the Attorney-General of the Federation, Police, Judiciary, Nigerian Prisons Service & others) to evolve more practical approaches towards restoring order to the system.
- [iv] Mandate the Committee on Interior to ensure implementation.

2. Call On the Federal Government to Provide Subsidies for Palliative Care Drugs and Chemotherapy for Cancer Patients in Nigeria:

Hon. Zubairu Abdulmalik Bungudu:

The House:

Notes the increase in cases of Cancer in Nigeria and the attendant heavy economic burden on families and individuals affected by the disease;

Aware of the excruciating pain sufferers of Cancer pass through while battling with the disease which those drugs help to ease, if they are accessible;

Also aware of the hardship and challenges faced by victims in procuring those palliative drugs as a result of their high cost or accessing chemotherapy because the machines are procured from abroad, hence unaffordable to the poor victims of the disease;

Concerned by the lack of chemotherapy machines in many public hospitals in the country which leaves the citizens at the mercies of the private hospitals;

Cognizant of the responsibility of the Government in ensuring the welfare of the citizens as guaranteed in Section 14 (2) (6) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999;

Resolves to:

- [i] Call on the Federal Government to ensure that:
 - (a) Cancer drugs are available and affordable to all citizens afflicted by the ailment;
 - (b) Chemotherapy machines are provided and made functional in all government hospitals and clinics across the country;

- [ii] Mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to ensure implementation and report back in eight (8) weeks for further legislative action.

3. Need to Investigate the Alleged Importation of Genetically Modified Maize into Nigeria:

Hon. Kingsley Obinna Onwubuariri:

The House:

Aware of the recent widespread reportage of illegal importation of genetically modified maize worth millions of dollars into Nigeria;

Also aware that following recent information by scientists and researchers, more than half of the countries within the European Union, including Germany, France, Scotland, Italy, Austria, Greece, Poland and Belgium have either completely banned or placed severe restriction on consumption of GMO products in their respective countries;

Cognizant of the grave danger to the health of the citizens given the shipment of 70,000 tons of GMO maize into the country without the knowledge and clearance of the National Biosafety Management Agency;

Concerned that since the question of the safety and long term effects of Genetically Modified Organism products has not been resolved in Nigeria, the importation of genetically modified maize reserves the danger of exposing our citizens to future health hazards, the magnitude of which nobody is in a position today to foretell or disprove with certainty;

Also concerned that importation of maize of any kind will stifle the efforts of domestic farmers and aggravate our capital flight situation;

Resolves to:

Mandate an Ad-hoc Committee to investigate the circumstances surrounding the shipment of genetically modified maize into the country without clearance from the National Biosafety Management Agency; and recommend appropriate measures to protect the nation against future importation of genetically modified products into the country.

4. Call for a Safer and More Secure Capital City:

Hon. Anayo Nnebe:

The House:

Notes the improved security situation in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja;

Also notes that this development is as a result of the support the Minister of the FCT, Alhaji Muhammad Musa Bello has been offering to security agencies through provision of patrol vehicles, security gadgets and equipment, etc.;

Observes the developmental strides in infrastructure and other endeavours as a result of the relative security pervading the capital city;

Recognises that, like other fast-growing cities in the world, there are still challenges such as rural urban migration;

Concerned that the influx of job seeking Nigerians into the Federal Capital Territory brings attendant pressure to the economic, social, environmental and other sectors of interventions by the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA);

Resolves to:

- (i) Commend the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) for the visible efforts at changing the face of the capital city;
- (ii) Encourage the Minister to explore alternative platforms for uplifting the environmental and infrastructural fortunes of the city;
- (iii) Enjoin corporate bodies and individuals to enter into Public Private Partnership (PPP) with the Administration to further the provision of infrastructure and expansion of the city;
- (iv) Mandate the Committee on FCT to ensure implementation.

5. Urgent Need to Resuscitate the 132/33 KV Arochukwu Electricity Substation:

Hon.Nkole Uko Nduke:

The House:

Recalls that in 2000, the Federal Government conceived the 2x30 MVA 132/33 KVA Substation to be sited in Uburu-Ihechiowa and Amuvi Village, Arochukwu Local Government Area of Abia State with the aim of improving power supply to communities in Abia and the neighboring Akwa Ibom and Cross River States;

Also recalls that the contract for the substation was awarded in May 2001 for the sum of \$3.4 million with additional local currency component of N91 million naira which contract sum was later varied by additional sums of \$350,000 and N21 million respectively that brought the total contract sums to \$3.7 million and N111.8 million;

Aware that the scope of the project covered comprehensive electro-mechanical and civil works that would ensure that the substation provided adequate electricity to the communities, thereby boosting power generation;

Notes that this critical power generation project was abandoned over ten (10) years ago without explanation after attaining ninety percent (90%) completion, thereby leaving the communities utterly frustrated and without immediate prospect of remedy;

Concerned that the Arochukwu power substation project was conspicuously omitted from the power privatization programme of the Federal Government without any explanation

and determined that the laudable and beneficial project be resuscitated and urgently completed for the benefit of the expectant communities;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Power to investigate the circumstances surrounding the abandonment of the Arochukwu 2x30 MVA 132/KVA Substation as well as establish the facts regarding the placement or otherwise of the project on the Federal Government's power privatization programme and make recommendations within six (6) weeks for further legislative action.

6. Urgent Need to Curb the Menace and Excesses of Heavy Duty Vehicles On the Highways:

Hon. Segun Adekola Alexander:

The House:

Notes the latest Report of the National Bureau of Statistics that no fewer than 2,673 persons were killed in Road accidents in Nigeria in the last 6 months with over 70% of the accidents caused by the recklessness of drivers of heavy duty vehicles;

Also notes that virtually on a daily basis, oil tankers, trailers, container bearing trucks and tippers wreak havoc on the highways, leading to loss of lives and destruction of properties worth billions of Naira;

Aware that the major cause of the accidents is that those vehicles are not in good conditions to ply the roads and it is always difficult to trail them at night as their tail lights/indicators are usually faulty with most of them emitting thick dark and hazardous smoke which block the view of oncoming vehicles, while those heavy duty vehicles move at snail speed, thereby endangering the lives of other road users, especially at night;

Concerned by the seeming failure of agencies that have responsibilities to enforce traffic regulations to rein in those articulated vehicles that cause nuisance on the Roads, especially at nights when traffic officials are usually absent from the Roads;

Also concerned that Nigeria has one of the worst road accident records in Africa with poor road network, badly maintained vehicles and reckless driving by drivers of heavy duty vehicles all contributing to the inglorious record;

Resolves to:

- [i] Call on the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) to devise new strategies that will curb the reckless driving of articulated and heavy duty vehicles, and also fashion out ways of recertifying both the vehicles and their drivers;
- [ii] Also call on the Inspector-General of Police and the Corps Marshal of the Federal Road Safety Corps to put in place measures that will regulate drivers of

articulated vehicles and prosecute those of them that breach traffic rules and regulations;

- [iii] Mandate the Committees on Federal Road Safety Commission and Police Affairs to ensure implementation.

7. Urgent Need to Assist Communities in Kwara State Affected by Recent Flooding of the River Niger from Kebbi State Through onto Bayelsa State:

Hon. Aliyu B. Ahman Pategi:

The House:

Notes the recent flooding of the River Niger plains from Kebbi to Bayelsa States due to incessant rain fall since the month of August 2017;

Also notes that virtually all farms lands in Kwara State within this catchment area, including the Kwara State Tada-Shonga Agricultural Project which is being financed with a N2 billion loan facility from the Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) Anchor Borrowers Scheme, have been destroyed along with fishing boats and farming equipment like tractors, portable generators, irrigation pumps etc;

Concerned that most of the farm lands that were destroyed were already getting due for harvesting;

Resolves to:

- [i] Urge the Federal Government to urgently assist the communities ravaged by the flood to ameliorate the hardships caused by loss of their crops and means of livelihood;
- [ii] Also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief and building materials to the affected communities;
- [iii] Further urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to assist the affected communities with tractors, implements and other agro inputs to position them towards the next planting season;
- [iv] Equally urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to include the sum of N1.5 billion in the 2018 Appropriations proposal for completion of the Tada-Shonga Irrigation Project which has been on-going for quite some time now;
- [v] Mandate the Committees on Water Resources, Appropriations and Agricultural Production and Services to ensure implementation.

8. Lopsided Appointments at the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation in Breach of the Federal Character Principle:

Hon. O.K. Chinda:

The House:

Notes the apparent lopsidedness in the recent appointments of Directors and other top management staff of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC);

Aware that the appointments were in clear breach of S.14(3) of the CFRN, 1999 which states that *“the composition of the Government of the Federation or any of its agencies and the conduct of its affairs shall be carried out in such a manner as to reflect the federal character of Nigeria and the need to promote national unity, and also to command national loyalty, thereby ensuring that there shall be no predominance of persons from a few States or from a few ethnic or other sectional groups in that Government or in any of its agencies”*;

Also notes that in the recent time, there have been lots of concern and discontent about an apparent lopsidedness and imbalance in other key appointments and sharing of positions into public offices by the Federal Government and some of its agencies in favour of some region(s) and / or religion;

Also aware that it was in order to achieve equity in the sharing of political offices that the Federal Character Commission (FCC) was established under the Federal Character Commission (Establishment, etc) Act, Cap. F7, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 *“with responsibility to promote, monitor and enforce compliance with the principles of the proportional sharing of all bureaucratic, economic and political posts at all levels of government”*;

Cognizant that unless urgent steps are taken to check the clear imbalance in appointments into Federal Government offices in the country, people would continue to have a feeling of discontentment with the Government;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government to ensure adherence with the principle of Federal character in section 14(3) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 in appointments into public offices;
- (ii) Mandate the Committee on Public Service Matters and Federal Character to undertake a comprehensive overview of all public appointments / recruitments made from 2015 and report back within eight (8) weeks on the level of compliance or otherwise with S.14(3) of the CFRN, 1999;

9. Call to Control the Manufacturing and Use of Single-Use Plastic Bags (Polytene) And Replace Same with Biodegradable or Fabric Material:

Hon. Sergius Ose Ogun:

The House:

Notes that the uncontrolled use of plastic materials and the arbitrary disposal of plastic waste, particularly shopping bags, present imminent danger to the people and the environment;

Also notes that these non-degradable materials that litter the country stay for decades without decaying and they eventually become a crucial cause of obstructed drainages and water channels that has precipitated flooding in some flood prone areas, thereby endangering the ecosystem and contaminating agricultural soil;

Informed that an estimated 50 billion plastic bags are used annually and they account for a staggering 20 per cent of municipal solid waste in the country;

Aware that over time, the plastic bags find their way into the marine environment and are ingested by marine animals thereby choking them;

Also aware that plastic bags gravely disrupt the ecological balance, leeching in our water and emitting dioxins into food when left in a humid environment or heated;

Concerned about the public health risk posed by their disposal because most are burnt, thus releasing harmful toxic gases such as methane and carbon dioxide into the air, increasing the level of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs);

Also concerned that several African countries like Kenya, Rwanda, Cameroon, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Mauritania and Malawi have adopted measures to reduce the production and use of plastic bags, particularly single use shopping bags through an outright ban or imposition of tax as a means to crackdown on carbon emissions;

Cognizant of the proliferation of single use plastic bag and the significant public cost in disposal, litter control and negative environmental impact, it is suggestive that the country adopts international best practices on its effective control;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Environment and Habitat and Climate Change to interface with the Federal Ministry of Environment to regulate the manufacture, arbitrary use and disposal of single – use plastic bags and effectively direct waste recycling, and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action.

10. Call On the Independence National Electoral Commission (INEC) to Decentralize the Voters Registration Exercise:

Hon. Dickson D. Tarkighir:

The House:

Notes that the Independence National Electoral Commission (INEC) has commenced the registration of new voters which is taking place at the various local government headquarters;

Concerned that a single registration point in an entire local government area makes the process cumbersome for all those seeking to register as several hundreds of citizens have

to converge at the designated centres from various parts of the local government area, and yet only a few get registered in a day;

Concerned that the cumbersome nature of the registration process could discourage many citizens from coming forward to register, thereby making them unable to carry out their civic responsibilities of voting during the elections;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to decentralize the registration exercise by creating centres at the polling units where they will be more easily accessible to prospective voters and guarantee that the process is less time consuming;
- (ii) Mandate the Committee on Electoral and Political Party Matters to interface with the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), with a view to ensuring the decentralization of the exercise and determining what challenges, if any that could attend to the process, and report back in eight (8) weeks for further legislative action.