



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 29 January, 2020

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1. The House met at 11.00 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
 2. **The House recited the National Pledge**
 3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 28 January, 2020.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.
 4. **Admittance into the Chamber**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do admit into the Chamber, the Executive Governor of Kano State, Alhaji Abdullahi Ganduje, and his entourage, Sen. Ibrahim Shekarau, Sen. Kabir Gaya, Sen. Jibrin Barau, and Sen. Abdullahi Abbas, to observe proceedings, pursuant to Order Nineteen, Rule 8 of the Standing Orders of the House" (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader).

Agreed to.
 5. **Oaths of Allegiance and Membership**
The following Members-elect took and subscribed the Oaths of Allegiance and Membership as prescribed by law:
 - (1) Alhassan Ado Garba (*Doguwa/Tudun Wada Federal Constituency*).
 - (2) Munir Babba Dan' Agundi (*Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).
 - (3) Egbona Alex (*Abi/Yakurr Federal Constituency*).
 - (4) Aliyu Datti Yako (*Kiru/Bebiji Federal Constituency*).
 - (5) Princess Miriam Odinaka Onuoha (*Isiala Mban/Okigwe/Onu Imo Federal Constituency*).
 - (6) Jatau Mohammed Auwal (*Zaki Federal Constituency*).
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6. Announcement

- (a) Mr Speaker announced that the All Progressive Congress (APC) Caucus of the House unanimously agreed to return Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba (*(Doguwa/Tunwada Federal Constituency)*), as the House Leader.
- (b) **Visitors in the Gallery:**
Mr Speaker recognised the presence of the following:
- (i) Staff and Students of *Spiritual International Girls' Secondary School*, Sabon Lugbe, Abuja;
 - (ii) Staff and Students of *Shepherd's International Nursery/Primary School*, Akwanga, Nasarawa State; and
 - (iii) Members of *National Association of Political Science Students (NAPSS)*, Federal University, Oye Ekiti Chapter, Ekiti State.

7. Address by Mr Speaker:

Mr Speaker addressed the House as follows:

Protocols

Good morning Honourable Colleagues. I welcome you all back to the chambers after the Christmas and New Year holidays and I thank you all for being here this morning. Though the House has not been in session these past few weeks, I am aware that for many of us, the work has never stopped and the obligations we hold have not been any less demanding. Still, I hope that you have taken time to rest, to recover and to prepare yourselves for the responsibilities that will continue to demand our time, our abilities and our continued efforts.

2. *Yesterday, we stood to observe a moment's silence in memory of our colleague Hon. Muhammadu Fagen-Gawo, who passed away recently. My dear colleagues, this 9th House of Representatives has in its very short lifetime suffered the loss of too many of our Members. I am deeply troubled by this development. Yes, it is God who gives life and it is God who takes life. We will not question the decisions of our maker. Nonetheless, allow me to say once more as I have said before in this chamber that faithful execution of the responsibilities of our office requires of us that we pay close attention to our personal health. This is still true. Beyond the obligations of our office, we have other responsibilities as fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters that require us to take matters of our personal health with the utmost care. Let us never lose sight of this fact. And may God guide, protect and keep us all in good health and good fortune.*

3. *Upon the inauguration of this 9th House of Representatives in June 2019, we hit the ground running, working with the executive, and engaging the citizens of our country to discover and present solutions to the problems of our country. Some of our efforts have already yielded positive results in certain regards and I am hopeful that we will continue in this new year to meet and exceed the standards- that we have set for ourselves.*

4. *For the first time since 1999, we have a budget passed by the, legislature and signed into law before the start of the implementation year. I commend and thank all the members of this House for your efforts towards achieving early passage of the Appropriation Act, 2019 and the Finance Act, 2019, both of which have now been signed into law by His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR. Honourable colleagues, passing the budget into law is merely the beginning. We now have a duty to ensure faithful compliance with the letter and spirit of the law by the ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) of the Federal Government. We will carry out this responsibility and we will do so with integrity, taking pains to ensure that we leave no room for neither friends nor foes to find fault with our words or deeds.*

5. *That Appropriations Act reflects the priorities of this government. These priorities are the same today as they have always been; to develop public infrastructure to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population, facilitate investment in new and existing industries; provide educational opportunities for all our people, and build an economy that allows every citizen to achieve their just ambitions. Our role as legislators is to ensure that the agencies responsible for implementing this budget maintain fidelity to these priorities. We will not be afraid to hold people's feet to the fire where necessary. Where it is required of us that we act to review and update legislation, we will do so too. We will not act alone; we will not be arbitrary in our interventions. We will seek collaboration as a matter of course so that our interventions do not exacerbate existing problems or create new ones.*

6. *In this new year, this House will further take all necessary action to pass into law the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) and to implement the much needed and long-delayed reforms of the sector. It is an unavoidable truth that the oil and gas industry is integral to the economic life of Nigeria. Achieving efficient operation in this sector is, therefore, a matter of national survival. We cannot allow these much-needed and too long-delayed reforms to continue to be hostage to the privileged interests of a few or the myopic considerations of those whose interests are served by the status quo. We will seek reform, we will achieve reform, and we will do so in collaboration with the executive, with stakeholders in the industry and with those communities that most directly bear the highest costs of our exploration and sale of fossil fuels.*

7. *In 2019, the House of Representatives led interventions to address the challenges faced by the less abled amongst our citizens. We observed the International Day of People with Disabilities with an event here in the National Assembly which was intended first to highlight the many challenges faced by those of our citizens with disabilities, and then to build support for necessary action to address those challenges. On that day we renewed our commitment to take all necessary action to promote accessibility for the less abled, bring down those barriers that stand in the way of their highest aspirations and build a future free of the injustices that limit them and condemns us all. The House of Representatives will live up to those commitments and we will do so expeditiously through legislative action and through collaboration with stakeholders across the country, in government and in the private sector.*

8. *Honourable colleagues, the ongoing evolution of our nation's democracy requires of us that we continually review and update the rules of our engagement. We have just emerged from an elections season that for its numerous successes, nonetheless exposed significant gaps in the process that if left unaddressed, threaten our democracy. Electoral reforms are not a party- political issue, they are a matter of loyalty to an ideal that is greater than the party to which one belongs to, or the personal ambitions we may each hold. Electoral reforms are a matter of our nation's future, and I ask of you all that when the time comes to achieve the reforms we need, we do so with the utmost commitment to fairness and equity, respect for the rule of law and with abiding hope for a better future for all our people.*

9. *There are a number of other initiatives we began in 2019 that require our continued commitment. These include efforts by the House to see to the full and profitable operation of the Warri, Port Harcourt, Calabar, Onne and Onitsha Inland Ports; reforms of the power sector to ensure fairness in the billing system as well as allow for the development of an industry that is attractive to investment and capable of serving the best interests of the Nigerian people. We will not relent in pursuing these goals, as creating economic opportunity for all our people helps us solve the other problems that threaten the continued viability of the Nigerian state.*

10. *Honourable colleagues, since we last convened in these chambers, there have been developments in the public space that concern us. We have witnessed across the country, a recognisable uptick in crime, manifested through the activities of bandits destroying communities, kidnappers operating for profit and insurgents seeking to remake our world in the image of a discredited theocracy.*

11. *All people of conscience mourn the loss of a reverend and a senior member of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in Adamawa State, Mr Lawan Adimi, a good and honourable man, who through the Church and in his personal capacity served the people of his community earning their reverence and our collective gratitude. In the midst of our mourning, our hearts were broken once more by the release of a video depicting the gruesome assassination of Mr Ropvil Dalep Daciya, a student from Plateau State who was abducted by suspected Boko Haram terrorists on his way back to school at the University of Maiduguri.*

12. *God forbid that it is now our nation's fate to live forever under the threat of abduction and murder. What gaps and weaknesses continue to exist in the national security infrastructure that makes us more susceptible to the machinations of those who seek to achieve wealth and power through brutal violence? How do we achieve for all our people, a just and honourable peace? These questions are never too far from my mind, and I know that it is the same for you too because often it is you who are at the frontlines responding to the concerns of constituents who have themselves been victimised and those who fear that the moment of their own affliction is only a matter of time and circumstance.*

13. *This House will shortly take action to put these questions before those agencies of our national security to whom our constitution and other legislation have granted the powers and the resources to ensure the safety and security of all our people. Our cup of endurance has run over and we are no longer willing to labour under these dark clouds of random violence inflicted upon our people by faceless cowards whose ends we do not understand, and whose means we do not know. Overcoming our overwhelming national security challenges now requires of us all that we be willing to accept new approaches and consider novel ideas. Neither the security institutions nor political leaders can afford to hold on too tightly to a status quo whose frustrating limitations are painfully evident, whilst reflexively rejecting innovations that may improve our fortunes if properly implemented.*

14. *Recently, the Governors of Lagos, Ogun, Osun, Ekiti, Oyo and Ondo States took action to implement a regional security network to support the efforts of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) in preventing crime and protecting the lives and property of those our citizens who live, work and travel through these States. The establishment of Amotekun, as the network is called, has met with commentary from across the country, both for and against. Too often, it has seemed to me that lost in these interactions is the hard, brutal and unavoidable fact that Amotekun and other such State or Zonal interventions that already quietly exist in other parts of the country are a desperate response to the vile manifestations of insecurity that trouble the lives of citizens, depriving them of the peace and security that gives life meaning.*

15. *I do not know that Amotekun or whatever iterations of it may follow represents the ultimate or perfect solution to the problem of insecurity in our country. Nobody does. What I do know with absolute certainty is that the localised manifestations of insecurity across the different parts of our country call for unique and localised approaches that take those peculiarities into account. What I also know, is that whichever approaches we seek, we are obligated to work within the limits imposed by the constitution to which we all swear allegiance. Above all else, I am certain in the knowledge that doing nothing is not an option. We have a responsibility as legislators to support the best efforts of those who act with noble intent to protect our citizens.*

16. *I, therefore, call on the Leader of the House of Representatives and the Minority Leader to take active steps to bring to the floor, appropriate amendments to the Constitution that will ensure that these and other righteous interventions to protect the life and property of our citizens are firmly in compliance with the laws of the land.*

17. *Honourable colleagues, I invite you now to avert your minds to the matter of the millions of Nigerian children and teenagers who are out of school across the country. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that about 10.5 million of our nation's children aged between*

five (5) and fourteen (14) years are not in school. The Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) puts the number higher at 13.2 million. Personally, I believe these numbers to be low estimates, but regardless of which number you accept, we cannot escape the conclusion that we have on our hands a huge problem, a clear and present danger the consequences of which are too dire to ignore.

18. Everywhere you go in the big cities of Nigeria, we now have on our streets, legions of children begging for alms from sunup till past dusk. These millions of young people with neither the training nor the awareness they need to survive, to contribute to, and to benefit from the 21st century knowledge economy are victims of the broken promises of our nationhood. They are at risk of exploitation, vulnerable to recruitment by human and organ traffickers, by criminal elements, and insurgents. Their fate is inextricably bound to the fate of Nigeria. If we work to give them a future of prosperity and progress, we will achieve the same outcomes for Nigeria. If we condemn them to a future of deprivation and exploitation, that too will be our collective fate.

19. I, therefore, propose that this House of Representatives resolves to dedicate a special plenary session with nothing else on the order paper, save to consider the issue of Nigeria's millions of out of school children, with a special focus on the fate of Almajiri children in Nigeria. This will be an open session and all members are enjoined to develop proposals for consideration, for debate and adoption by the House. We do not intend for our deliberations and resolutions on this important issue to languish unattended. Therefore, we will extend invitations to the various ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) of government who have roles to play and we will seek the participation of non-governmental organisations who have a proven track record of successful interventions in this regard. In this way, we can hope to achieve immediate implementation and measurable improvement of these dire statistics.

20. This age of rapid movement of millions of people responding to the demands of global trade every so often throws up challenges we must confront and overcome. The recently discovered coronavirus is one of such challenges. My office has been briefed by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) on our nation's preparedness to prevent the occurrence of this disease here in Nigeria, as well as contingency plans to prevent escalation. The NCDC working with the Ministry of Health, the Ports Health Services, the United States Centre for Disease Control (USCDC), and the World Health Organisation (WHO) amongst others have put in place protocols for identifying, isolating and testing those who are deemed to be most at risk. And they have enhanced screening and surveillance at our nation's ports of entry. There are no direct flights from the Peoples Republic of China to Nigeria, so we do not have the option of placing an embargo on flights coming from there. However, the NCDC maintains open lines of communication with the government of the Peoples Republic of China to ensure that passengers coming from there through whatever route are identified and screened at the ports of entry. I commend the government of the Peoples Republic of China for their proactive actions to contain the spread of this disease, even as I commensurate with them on the loss of life caused by this breakout. I ask all Nigerians and people resident in Nigeria to assist the efforts of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) by taking basic sanitary precautions. Avoid self-medication, avoid panic and report to the nearest medical facility if you or anyone you know has travelled to the affected regions within the last fourteen days.

21. Finally, my dear colleagues, I wish to acknowledge with the greatest gratitude the efforts of our men and women in uniform who are at this moment, taking risks and offering the supreme sacrifice to help peace take hold in troubled places all across our dear country. They are the best of us, to whom we owe not only our gratitude but also our continued dedication to the offices we hold. We must through our efforts in improving the lives of our people, make ourselves worthy of the sacrifices that these men and women have made and continue to make on our behalf.

22. I thank you all once more. I welcome you all back to the House of Representatives and I wish all of us a successful year of measurable achievement as we work together to achieve the joint task of nation-building.

23. God bless you all. God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

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

(i) *Need to Put Measures in Place to Prevent and Contain the Spread of Coronavirus into and Around Nigeria:*

Hon. Onyejeocha Nkeiruka (*Isuikwato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency and 5 others*) 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 Put Measures in Place to Prevent and Contain the Spread of Coronavirus Into and Around Nigeria:

The House:

Notes that there is a new strain of a novel coronavirus (nCoV) that has not been previously identified in humans;

Also notes that coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Respiratory Syndrome and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome;

Informed that coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning they are transmitted between animals and humans. Detailed investigations found that coronaviruses was transmitted from civet cats to humans and coronaviruses from the camels to humans;

Also informed that common signs of infection of coronaviruses include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and death;

Worried that coronavirus which originated at a seafood market in the central Chinese city of Wuhan on 7 January, 2020, has now spread to more than 15 Countries including Canada, United States, Australia and France;

Also worried that there are fears the transmission rate of the virus would sky rocket as hundreds of millions of people were expected to have travelled to China for business and pleasure especially during the Chinese Lunar New Year celebrations;

Aware that the World Health Organisation has assessed the Global Risk rate of transmission of the virus as "High";

Also aware that several countries have taken measures to prevent the spread of the virus to their countries or within their countries. Such measures include strict lock down of cities, asking anyone who has returned from Wuhan, China in the last 14 days to self-isolate, to stay indoors and avoid contact with other people, issued travel warnings against visiting China;

Concerned that despite Nigeria and Nigerians being major trading partner with China which is the ground zero of this coronavirus and also partner with other countries that have been affected by the virus, stands a high risk of having the virus transmitted to the country;

Believes that the National Assembly and indeed the Federal Government of Nigeria can do a lot to safeguard and ensure that the virus does not affect or transmit to the country by being proactive;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health, the Nigeria Immigration Service, the Quarantine Services, the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria, and other relevant agencies to set up screening centres at all ports of entry into the country to screen and watch out, with the view of preventing the virus from spreading into the country;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Health in collaboration with other relevant agencies to set up testing and isolation centres in all points of entry into the country for the purpose of detecting symptoms of the virus and where necessary isolate cases, with particular emphasis on travellers from counties that have already had cases of the virus;
- (iii) further urge all health institutions within the country to be on high alert for signs of the virus with the view of stopping the virus from spreading in the event that the virus is transmitted into the country; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, and Interior to ensure compliance (*Hon. Nkeiruka C. Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency 5 others*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (v) as follows:

“Urge the Federal Government to declare Public Health emergency as a result of the coronavirus outbreak in China” (*Hon. Chike John Okafor — Ehime Mban/Ihittel Uboma/Obowo Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that there is a new strain of a novel coronavirus (nCoV) that has not been previously identified in humans;

Also noted that coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Respiratory Syndrome and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome;

Informed that coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning they are transmitted between animals and humans. Detailed investigations found that coronaviruses was transmitted from civet cats to humans and coronaviruses from the camels to humans;

Also informed that common signs of infection of coronaviruses include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and death;

Worried that coronavirus which originated at a seafood market in the central Chinese city of Wuhan on 7 January, 2020, has now spread to more than 15 Countries including Canada, United States, Australia and France;

Also worried that there are fears the transmission rate of the virus would sky rocket as hundreds of millions of people were expected to have travelled to China for business and pleasure especially during the Chinese Lunar New Year celebrations;

Aware that the World Health Organisation has assessed the Global Risk rate of transmission of the virus as "High";

Also aware that several countries have taken measures to prevent the spread of the virus to their countries or within their countries. Such measures include strict lock down of cities, asking anyone who has returned from Wuhan, China in the last 14 days to self-isolate, to stay indoors and avoid contact with other people, issued travel warnings against visiting China;

Concerned that despite Nigeria and Nigerians being major trading partner with China which is the ground zero of this coronavirus and also partner with other countries that have been affected by the virus, stands a high risk of having the virus transmitted to the country;

Believed that the National Assembly and indeed the Federal Government of Nigeria can do a lot to safeguard and ensure that the virus does not affect or transmit to the country by being proactive;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health, the Nigeria Immigration Service, the Quarantine Services, the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria, and other relevant agencies to set up screening centres at all ports of entry into the country to screen and watch out, with the view of preventing the virus from spreading into the country;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Health in collaboration with other relevant agencies to set up testing and isolation centres in all points of entry into the country for the purpose of detecting symptoms of the virus and where necessary isolate cases, with particular emphasis on travellers from counties that have already had cases of the virus;
- (iii) further urge all health institutions within the country to be on high alert for signs of the virus with the view of stopping the virus from spreading in the event that the virus is transmitted into the country;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, and Interior to ensure compliance; and
- (v) still urge the Federal Government to declare Public Health emergency as a result of the coronavirus outbreak in China (**HR. 01/01/2020**).

Suspension of Plenary:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do take 15 minutes recess" (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

House in Recess — 1.03 p.m.

House in Plenary — 1.20 p.m.

(ii) ***Call on the Federal Government to Declare State of Emergency on the Control of Outbreak of Lassa Fever in Nigeria:***

Hon. Yusuf Tanko Sununu (*Ngaski/Shanga/Yauri Federal Constituency and 3 others*) 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.

Call on the Federal Government to Declare State of Emergency on the Outbreak of Lassa Fever in Nigeria:

The House:

Notes that the recent outbreak of Lassa fever which is a disease transmitted by multimammate rat, is a serious threat to lives and economic viability of Nigerians and Nigeria. The Lassa fever virus was first identified in Borno State.

Also notes that the disease is endemic in Nigeria with periodic outbreak associated with high mortality;

Further notes that from 1 January to 15 April, 2018 a total of 1,849 suspected cases of lassa fever had been reported from 21 States, according to World Health Organization (WHO), out of this number, 413 cases were confirmed and 114 deaths recorded with case fertility rate of 25.4% among which were 8 medical and health workers;

Worried that between 1 - 24 January, 2020, a total of 195 confirmed cases were reported by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control from 11 States in the country, with 29 deaths, and the figure is likely to increase;

Also worried that there are not enough laboratories in the country with the capacity to diagnose suspected cases of the disease;

Further worried that despite the large population and land mass of Nigeria, there are only three main treatment centres in the country (Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital, Federal Medical Centre, Owo and Alex Ekwueme Federal University Teaching Hospital, Abakaliki);

Cognizant that the disease is endemic with a periodic outbreak, the emergency preparedness to handle the situation should have been the option with an improved capacity of medical team, availability of personal protective equipment for health workers and high level researches toward elimination and control of the lassa fever virus, to ensure prompt management and response to suspected cases, thereby reducing the number of deaths that may be caused by the outbreak of the disease;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to declare state of emergency on the control and prevention of lassa fever outbreak;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to provide at least one fully equipped Centre with capacity to train personnel, diagnose, support, care, and treatment of lassa fever per geopolitical zones of Nigeria;

- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Health in response to the epidemic, to collaborate with relevant government ministries and departments in the control of lassa fever spread;
- (iv) still urge the Federal Government to ensure adequate compensation for all Health Workers that may die or fall ill due to contact with the disease while rendering health care services to the citizens; and
- (v) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to investigate the level of Federal Government response to the current epidemic and report back within 4 weeks (*Hon. Yusuf Tanko Sununu — Ngaski/Shanga/Yauri Federal Constituency and 3 Others*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the recent outbreak of Lassa fever which is a disease transmitted by multimammate rat, is a serious threat to lives and economic viability of Nigerians and Nigeria. The Lassa fever virus was first identified in Borno State.

Also noted that the disease is endemic in Nigeria with periodic outbreak associated with high mortality;

Further noted that from 1 January to 15 April, 2018 a total of 1,849 suspected cases of lassa fever had been reported from 21 States, according to World Health Organization (WHO), out of this number, 413 cases were confirmed and 114 deaths recorded with case fertility rate of 25.4% among which were 8 medical and health workers;

Worried that between 1 - 24 January, 2020, a total of 195 confirmed cases were reported by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control from 11 States in the country, with 29 deaths, and the figure is likely to increase;

Also worried that there are not enough laboratories in the country with the capacity to diagnose suspected cases of the disease;

Further worried that despite the large population and land mass of Nigeria, there are only three main treatment centres in the country (Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital, Federal Medical Centre, Owo and Alex Ekwueme Federal University Teaching Hospital, Abakaliki);

Cognizant that the disease is endemic with a periodic outbreak, the emergency preparedness to handle the situation should have been the option with an improved capacity of medical team, availability of personal protective equipment for health workers and high level researches toward elimination and control of the lassa fever virus, to ensure prompt management and response to suspected cases, thereby reducing the number of deaths that may be caused by the outbreak of the disease;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to declare state of emergency on the control and prevention of lassa fever outbreak;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to provide at least one fully equipped Centre with capacity to train personnel, diagnose, support, care, and treatment of lassa fever per geopolitical zones of Nigeria;

- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Health in response to the epidemic, to collaborate with relevant government ministries and departments in the control of lassa fever spread;
- (iv) still urge the Federal Government to ensure adequate compensation for all Health Workers that may die or fall ill due to contact with the disease while rendering health care services to the citizens; and
- (v) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to investigate the level of Federal Government response to the current epidemic and report back within 4 weeks (**HR. 02/01/2010**).

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. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(iii) Need to Curb the Incessant Attacks of the Boko Haram Insurgents in the North East Zone:

Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno (*Monguno/Marte/Nganzai 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 Curb the Incessant Attacks of the Boko Haram Insurgents in the North-East Zone of Nigeria:

The House:

Notes that attacks by the Boko Haram insurgents in the North-East zone of Nigeria have lingered for more than seven years;

Recalls that when the Muhammadu Buhari led administration came into being in 2015, the activities of insurgents were reduced to the barest minimum, resulting in improved security situation in Borno and Yobe States;

Also recalls that the feat achieved by the Nigerian Armed Forces had led to increased economic activities within the North-East zone;

Regrets that recently, the Boko Haram insurgents who were relegated to the background are now unleashing terror in Borno, and Yobe States;

Aware that recently, the insurgents have forced the Nigerian Military to close traffic on the Damaturu-Maiduguri Road for some days;

Also notes that the Damaturu-Maiduguri Road is the only access from Maiduguri to other parts of Nigeria;

Worried that the closure of the road has left travelers stranded and affected business activities in Maiduguri and is causing untold hardship to the people;

Disturbed that the closure of the road is an indication that the Boko Haram insurgents have

seized the road and continued to attack the communities on that axis;

Also disturbed that the incessant attacks on the communities along the Damaturu-Maiduguri road axis have forced the residents of the communities to flee to refugee camps in Maiduguri for safety;

Also regrets that the increased presence of the fleeing residents of the affected communities in the refugee camps would worsen the existing humanitarian and social crises in those camps;

Cognizant of the need to increase military presence and patrols in the Damaturu-Maiduguri road in order to restore the place to normalcy and earn the confidence of citizens carrying out their daily business activities on the road;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge President Muhammadu Buhari to direct the Nigerian Army and Air Force to intensify checks on the road;
- (ii) also urge the Chiefs of Army and Air Staff to relocate to Maiduguri until relative peace is achieved in the North-East zone; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Army, and Air Force to ensure compliance (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (iv) as follows:
“Mandate the Leadership of the House to interface with the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces to find a lasting solution to the issue of terrorism and banditry in Nigeria” (*Hon. Toby Okechukwu — Aninri/Awgu/Oji-River Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayer (iv) as amended, *insert* as follows:
“Hold a tripartite meeting of the National Assembly Leadership, Service Chiefs, and the President to discuss the security situation in the country” (*Hon. Lawan Shetima Ali — Bursari/Geidam/Yunusari Federal Constituency*)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) *Insert* a new Prayer (v) as follows:
“Urge the Federal Government to embark on massive recruitment and training of personnel into the Nigeria Police Force and other security agencies as a matter of urgency” (*Hon. Francis Waive — UHELLI Noth/Ugelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iv) *Insert* a new Prayer (vi) as follows:
“That the Service Chiefs resign their positions to allow for fresh ideas and new hands” (*Hon. Francis Waive — UHELLI Noth/Ugelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (v) *Insert a new Prayer (vii) as follows:*
“Urge the Ministry of Defence in collaboration with the House Committee on Defence to embark on a study tour of countries that have overcome gorrilla and other forms of warfare/insurgency” (*Hon. Francis Waive — Uhelli Noth/Ugelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

- (vi) *Insert a new Prayer (vii) as follows:*
“Call on the Executive Arm of Government to revisit the security arrangement bothering it and belarus security group that was suspended in 2015, with the view to re-engaging them” (*Hon. Mansur Manu Soro — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (vii) *Insert a new Prayer (viii) as follows:*
“Mandate the Committee on Defence to invite the Minister of Defence and other relevant stakeholders to brief the Committee on the progress made in the fight against insurgencies ” (*Hon. Makki A. Yalleman — Mallam Madori/Kaugama Federal Constituency*)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (vii) *Insert a new Prayer (ix) as follows:*
“Call for the immediate resignation of all the Service Chiefs, failing which the President should remove them” (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birninwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasama Federal Constituency*)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (viii) *Insert a new Prayer (x) as follows:*
“Observe a minute silence in honour of all victims of Boko Haram insurgents” (*Hon. Odebunmi Olusegun — Ogo Oluwa/Surulere Federal Constituency*)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Notes that attacks by the Boko Haram insurgents in the North-East zone of Nigeria have lingered for more than seven years;

Recalls that when the Muhammadu Buhari led administration came into being in 2015, the activities of insurgents were reduced to the barest minimum, resulting in improved security situation in Borno and Yobe States;

Also recalls that the feat achieved by the Nigerian Armed Forces had led to increased economic activities within the North-East zone;

Regrets that recently, the Boko Haram insurgents who were relegated to the background are now unleashing terror in Borno, and Yobe States;

Aware that recently, the insurgents have forced the Nigerian Military to close traffic on the Damaturu-Maiduguri Road for some days;

Also notes that the Damaturu-Maiduguri Road is the only access from Maiduguri to other parts of Nigeria;

Worried that the closure of the road has left travelers stranded and affected business activities in Maiduguri and is causing untold hardship to the people;

Disturbed that the closure of the road is an indication that the Boko Haram insurgents have seized the road and continued to attack the communities on that axis;

Also disturbed that the incessant attacks on the communities along the Damaturu-Maiduguri road axis have forced the residents of the communities to flee to refugee camps in Maiduguri for safety;

Also regrets that the increased presence of the fleeing residents of the affected communities in the refugee camps would worsen the existing humanitarian and social crises in those camps;

Cognizant of the need to increase military presence and patrols in the Damaturu-Maiduguri road in order to restore the place to normalcy and earn the confidence of citizens carrying out their daily business activities on the road;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge President Muhammadu Buhari to direct the Nigerian Army and Air Force to intensify checks on the road;
- (ii) also urge the Chiefs of Army and Air Staff to relocate to Maiduguri until relative peace is achieved in the North-East zone;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Army, and Air Force to ensure compliance;
- (iv) further urge the National Assembly Leadership, Service Chiefs, and the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, to meet on the security situation in the country with a view to finding a lasting solution to the issue of terrorism and banditry in Nigeria;
- (v) still urge the Federal Government to embark on massive recruitment and training of personnel into the Nigeria Police Force and other security agencies as a matter of urgency;
- (vi) again urge the Service Chiefs to resign their positions to allow for fresh ideas and new hands;
- (vii) call on the Executive Arm of Government to revisit the security arrangement bothering it and belarus security group that was suspended in 2015, with the view to re-engaging them;
- (viii) also mandate the Committee on Defence to invite the Minister of Defence and other relevant stakeholders to brief the Committee on the progress made in the fight against insurgencies;
- (ix) also call for the immediate resignation of all the Service Chiefs, failing which the President should remove them; and
- (x) observe a minute silence in honour of all victims of Boko Haram insurgents (**HR. 03/01/2020**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

9. Orders of the Day

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do set down items 1 - 7 on the Order Paper to another legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (3)" (Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birninwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasama Federal Constituency)

Agreed to.

10. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 30 January, 2019 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birninwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasama Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 4.52 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila
Speaker