



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 19 February, 2020

1. The House met at 1.45 p.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, 18 February, 2020.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcement**
Visitors in the Gallery:
Mr Speaker recognised the presence of Members of *Student Union Government*, Southeast Law Students Association.
5. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**
Need for the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) to Suspend the National Identity Number as a Precondition for Scholarships:
Hon. Ben Rollands Igbakpa (*Ethiophe East/Ethiophe West 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 for the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) to Suspend the National Identity Number as a Precondition for Scholarships:

The House:

Notes that the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) has stated in its portal, that applicants for its 2020 scholarship for Masters and PhD degrees, must have a verifiable National Identity Number (NIN);

Concerned that most Nigerians are yet to obtain the NIN due to no fault of theirs, but due to bottlenecks with the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC), the NIN as a precondition for the scholarship is now a major stumbling block to other eligible applicants who are yet to obtain the NIN;

Cognizant that the registration process of the NIMC is indeed very laborious and slow due to inadequate facilities and manpower, as recently admitted by the Director-General, NIMC, who attributed it to inadequate centres for the exercise;

Aware that the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) recently suspended the use of the National Identity Number as requirement for the 2020 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME), due to technical hitches at the NIMC;

Also aware that the same hitches that greeted JAMB over the NIN are likely to affect the PTDF scholarship programme for the 2020 if nothing is urgently done to reverse the decision by the PTDF;

Further aware that whilst it is important to have a national data capture in lieu of the NIN, especially for purposes of security, it must be done in a manner that it does not impinge on important national exercises like the PTDF scholarship and JAMB;

Observes that it does not take more than two weeks to obtain a Social Security Number in the USA, same feat can be replicated here in Nigeria with the proper funding and right deployment of technology;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the management of the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) and indeed all government agencies to suspend forthwith, the requirement of the National Identity Number (NIN) as a precondition to access any government programme, project or patronage until further notice;
- (ii) also urge the President to direct all government agencies to provide at least one-year moratorium for Nigerians who have not obtained the NIN, to do so, and in the interim, use other forms of government identity such as international passport, voters' card and bank verification number in lieu of the NIN pending when the NIN is finally obtained; and
- (iii) call on the Executive arm of government to properly fund and equip the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) for speedy and efficient nationwide service delivery (*Hon. Ben Rollands Igbakpa — Ethiope East/Ethiope West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (iv) as follows:
“Urge the Federal Government to put in place mechanism for an Integrated National Identification Programme” (*Hon. Onofiok Luke — Etinan/Nsit Ibom/Nsit Ubuim Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert a new Prayer (v) as follows:*
“Urge the PTDF and other government agencies to recognise Local Government Indigene Certificate in the absence of National Identity Number for Nigerians residing in the country and those in diaspora” (*Hon. Benjamin Bem Mzondu — Makurdi/Guma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) *Insert a new Prayer (vi) as follows:*
“Mandate the Committee on Population to investigate the difficulties face by most Nigerians in accessing the National Identity Card” (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Immunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iv) *Insert a new Prayer (vii) as follows:*
“Urge the National Identity Management Commission to extend their services to Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps and Nigerians who are refugees in Niger Republic, Chad, and Cameroun” (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) has stated in its portal, that applicants for its 2020 scholarship for Masters and PhD degrees, must have a verifiable National Identity Number (NIN);

Concerned that most Nigerians are yet to obtain the NIN due to no fault of theirs, but due to bottlenecks with the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC), the NIN as a precondition for the scholarship is now a major stumbling block to other eligible applicants who are yet to obtain the NIN;

Cognizant that the registration process of the NIMC is indeed very laborious and slow due to inadequate facilities and manpower, as recently admitted by the Director-General, NIMC, who attributed it to inadequate centres for the exercise;

Aware that the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) recently suspended the use of the National Identity Number as requirement for the 2020 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME), due to technical hitches at the NIMC;

Also aware that the same hitches that greeted JAMB over the NIN are likely to affect the PTDF scholarship programme for the 2020 if nothing is urgently done to reverse the decision by the PTDF;

Further aware that whilst it is important to have a national data capture in lieu of the NIN, especially for purposes of security, it must be done in a manner that it does not impinge on important national exercises like the PTDF scholarship and JAMB;

Observed that it does not take more than two weeks to obtain a Social Security Number in the USA, same feat can be replicated here in Nigeria with the proper funding and right deployment of technology;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the management of the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) and indeed all government agencies to suspend forthwith, the requirement of the National Identity Number (NIN) as a precondition to access any government programme, project or patronage until further notice;
- (ii) also urge the President to direct all government agencies to provide at least one-year moratorium for Nigerians who have not obtained the NIN, to do so, and in the interim, use other forms of government identity such as international passport, voters' card and bank verification number in lieu of the NIN pending when the NIN is finally obtained; and
- (iii) call on the Executive arm of government to properly fund and equip the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) for speedy and efficient nationwide service delivery;
- (iv) further urge the Federal Government to put in place mechanism for an Integrated National Identification Programme;
- (v) still urge the PTDF and other government agencies to recognise Local Government Indigene Certificate in the absence of National Identity Number for Nigerians residing in the country and those in diaspora;
- (vi) urge the National Identity Management Commission to extend their services to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps and Nigerians who are refugees in Niger Republic, Chad, and Cameroun; and
- (vii) mandate the Committee on Population to investigate the difficulties face by most Nigerians in accessing the National Identity Card (**HR. 38/02/2020**).

6. Orders of the Day

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do set down items 1 - 15 on the Order Paper to another legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (3)" (Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency)

Agreed to.

7. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 20 February, 2020 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 3.00 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila
Speaker