



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 3 March, 2020

1. The House met at 11.39 a.m. Mr Deputy Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge
3. **Votes and Proceedings**  
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 27 February, 2020.

*The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.*

#### 4. Announcements

(a) *Visitors in the Gallery:*

Mr Deputy Speaker recognised the presence of the following:

- (i) Staff and Students of *The Zenith Train Foundation Schools*, Masaka, Nasarawa State;
- (ii) Staff and Students of *Euston British International School*, Gwarimpa, Abuja;
- (iii) Staff and Students of *The Regent School*, Maitama, Abuja;
- (iv) Staff and Students of *Bettyvine Montessori International School*, Kubwa, Abuja.

(b) *Bereavement:*

Mr Deputy Speaker read a communication from:

- (i) Hon. Chinedu Ogah (*Ezza South/Ikwo Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of a former Member, Hon. Tobias Chukwuemeka Okwuru (*Ezza South/Ikwo Federal Constituency, 2011 — 2015*), which occurred on Friday, 27 February, 2020; and
- (ii) Hon. Aliyu Magaji Dau (*Birnin-Kudu/Buji Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of his father Alhaji Aminu Aliyu, which occurred on Saturday, 29 February, 2020, at the age of 92.

5. **Petitions**

- (i) A petition from Finidi Jahbless against Shell Petroleum Development Company, on the alleged refusal to pay various sums of money due to his company from the contract agreement, was presented and laid by Hon. Gbefwi Gaza Jonathan (*Karu/Keffi/Kokona Federal Constituency*); and
- (ii) A petition from Cpl Umeh Sunday and 2 others, on their alleged dismissal from the service of the Nigerian Army, was presented and laid by Hon. Chinedu Ogah (*Ezza South/Ikwo Federal Constituency*).

*Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.*

6. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**

***Need for Emergency Response to Tackle the Deadly Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Nigeria:***

Hon. Unyime Idem (*Ukanfun/Oruk Anam 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 Emergency Response to Tackle the Deadly Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Nigeria:***

The House:

*Aware that Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation has recorded its first case of the deadly Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) which was diagnosed in Lagos State and was confirmed on 27 February, 2020 by the Minister of Health, Dr Osagie Ehanire. The victim, an Italian citizen works in Nigeria and had just returned from Milan, Italy to Lagos, Nigeria on 25 February, 2020. He was confirmed at the Virology Laboratory of the Lagos University Teaching Hospital, part of the Laboratory Network of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and is the first case to be reported in Nigeria since the beginning of the outbreak in China in January 2020;*

*Also aware that the coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV). A novel coronavirus (nCoV) is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans;*

*Notes that the haemorrhagic disease was first diagnosed in the Chinese City of Wuhan, with a population of 11 million residents, and has spread to over 58 countries since that time. The coronavirus has killed over 3,000 people and infected over 91,000 globally;*

*Also notes that the outbreak was declared a Public Health Emergency of international concern on 30 January, 2020 and was immediately reported to the World Health Organization's Country Office in China. The main reason for the declaration is that the virus will likely spread to countries with weaker health systems;*

*Further aware that the Federal Ministry of Health's Emergency notification to the public that the Coronavirus influenza outbreak is highly contagious. According to Centre for Disease Control, the symptoms of coronavirus may appear within the minimum of 2 days and a maximum of 14 days on the affected person;*