



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

ORDER PAPER

Tuesday, 28 April, 2020

1. Prayers
 2. National Pledge
 3. Approval of the Votes and Proceedings
 4. Oaths
 5. Messages from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*if any*)
 6. Messages from the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*if any*)
 7. Messages from Other Parliament(s) (*if any*)
 8. Other Announcements (*if any*)
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PRESENTATION OF BILL

Quarantine Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2020 (HB.836) (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila and 2 Others*)
– *First Reading.*

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BILL

1. A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Quarantine Act, Cap. Q2, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Control of Infectious Diseases Bill, make provisions Relating to Quarantine and make Regulations for Preventing the Introduction into and Spread in Nigeria of Dangerous Infectious Diseases; and for Related Matters (HB. 836) (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila and 2 Others*) – *Second Reading.*

MOTIONS

2. **Regulating Plenary Sittings in the Period of COVID-19 Pandemic and Lockdown, pursuant to Order One, Rule 1 (2) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives:**

Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata:

The House:

Notes that on Tuesday, 24 March, 2020, the House of Representatives adjourned plenary sessions for a period of two weeks to enable members enlighten their constituents on the dangers of Coronavirus infection, also known as COVID-19;

Also notes that because of the lockdown order issued by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on Sunday 29 March 2020, the resumption which was earlier scheduled for 7 April, 2020 was suspended and subsequently adjourned indefinitely;

Aware of the constitutional responsibility of the National Assembly to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Federation or any part thereof and which responsibility could not be discharged because of the lockdown order;

Also aware of the provisions of Order Five, Rules 4 and 5 of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives which regulate the sittings of the House from Monday to Friday on every legislative day except when it is on recess;

Further aware of the Stimulus Plan of the Federal Government to cushion the effects of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Nation's economy;

Desirous to provide legislative support to the Executive Arm by approving measures to address the welfare of the citizens during the period of the lockdown, as well as the period after the lockdown;

Resolves to:

Sit in Plenary at least once every week until the lockdown order is lifted.

3. **Maltreatment and Institutional Acts of Racial Discrimination against Nigerians Living in China by the Government of China:**

Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu
Hon. Babajimi Benson
Hon. Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo
Hon. Tolu Shadipe:

Hon. Yusuf Buba
Hon. Tunji Olawuyi
Hon. Nnoli Nnaji

Hon. John Dyegh
Hon. Zakari Galadima
Hon. Dennis Idahosa

The House:

Aware that as a result of the mutually beneficial diplomatic and economic relationship between Nigeria and China, about 10,000 Nigerians, including investors, traders, workers and students, currently reside in and around Guangzhou in the Guangdong Province of the Peoples Republic of China and have generated massive trade volumes between the two countries such that for 2019 alone, the Nigeria-China trade value was worth over \$8.6 billion;

Recalls that sometimes on April 8, 2020, photos and videos appeared on various social media outlets depicting institutionalized acts of racial discrimination, maltreatment, xenophobic assaults, embarrassments, illegal detentions and forceful evictions of Nigerians and other Africans living in Guangzhou;

Concerned that under the pretext of curbing the spread of COVID-19, which ironically originated in Wuhan, China, several kinds of maltreatments of Nigerian citizens in Guangzhou have been perpetrated by Chinese people and authorities including wrongful confiscation of Nigerian International Passports, prolonged and illegal detention of Nigerians in the name of mandatory quarantine despite their having certificates of clean health and no recent travel history, outright refusal to test or release the test results, and the eviction of Nigerians from their homes and hotel accommodations, etc.;

Worried that in the exercise of his function of protecting the interests of nationals of a Sending State as provided for under Article 5 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963, the Nigerian Consul General was treated in clear violation of Article 40 of the said treaty which requires the Receiving State to treat consular officers with due respect and to take all appropriate steps to prevent attacks on their persons, freedom or dignity;

Also recalls the troubling case of Mr. Felix Awah Elijah, a Nigerian citizen and legal resident in China who mysteriously disappeared after his abduction and prolonged illegal detention by Chinese Police Authorities sometime around 6 February, 2019; and of which all letters and appeals from Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu, his representative in the House of Representatives, were ignored by the Chinese Authorities;

Also concerned that the actions of the Chinese authorities do not reciprocate the favourable treatment their nationals enjoy in Nigeria, but have instead, put a strain on the diplomatic and economic relations between Nigeria and China thereby endangering Nigerian businesses in China valued at billions of dollars;

Also worried that the actions and inactions of the Chinese Authorities clearly establish a trend of racial discrimination as defined in Article 1(1) of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to mean "any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.", and that such actions and inactions are in breach of several other international conventions to which Nigeria and China are signatories;

Reminded that China is under an obligation to guarantee equality between citizens and non-citizens in the enjoyment of their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights to the extent recognized under international law and enunciated especially in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

Also aware that the Honourable Speaker of the House, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Geoffrey Onyeama and the Nigerian Ambassador to China, Ahmed Jidda undertook various independent and coordinated interventions, including meetings with the Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria, Dr. Zhou Pingjian, to register Nigeria's displeasure with the incidents;

Further concerned that despite the assurances of the Chinese Government to arrest the situation, the maltreatment of Nigerians in China persists;

Acknowledges that it has become imperative to take further actions to ensure the safety and welfare of Nigerians in line with the provisions of Section 14(2)(b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);

Resolves to:

- (i) condemn, in its entirety, the maltreatment, discrimination and xenophobic attacks against Nigerians in the Peoples Republic of China;

- (ii) urge the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and all relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies to, as a matter of urgency, ensure that all Nigerians who wish to return home, including Nigerians that only visited for business, Nigerians with any form of travel document and identification, Nigerians with passports but expired visas, and Nigerians with passports and valid visas who have been ejected by house owners, Nigerians who have tested negative to COVID-19, are evacuated from China and quarantined upon arrival;
- (iii) also urge the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and all relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies to provide all necessary financial and other assistance to affected Nigerian citizen in China who wish to seek redress in any local or international court for breach of fundamental rights, loss of property or any other actionable cause occasioned by their maltreatment or discrimination in China;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Interior, Nigeria Content Development and Monitoring, and Commerce to investigate the Nigerian Immigration, Corporate Affairs Commission, Nigerian Content and Development Monitoring Board, and any other relevant Ministry, Department or Agency to check the validity of all immigration documents of every Chinese person in Nigeria and the expatriate quota of all the Chinese businesses in Nigeria to ascertain the number of illegal and undocumented Chinese immigrants in Nigeria and to repatriate them to China to regularise;
- (v) also mandate the Committees on Inter-Parliamentary Relations, Foreign Affairs, Human Rights and Diaspora to ascertain the extent of violation of rights of Nigerians in China as well as losses arising from such maltreatments and to further engage the Chinese Parliament appropriately to register Nigeria's National Assembly condemnation of the maltreatment, discrimination and xenophobic attacks against Nigerians in China and to ensure the cessation of such actions by its people and government and that treatments meted to Nigerians are compatible with China's human rights obligations, and to report back within two (2) weeks for further legislative action;
- (vi) seek the concurrence of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

4. Call on the Federal Government to Ensure the Provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Regular Release of Overhead Costs and Special Intervention Funds for all Federal Tertiary Hospitals in Nigeria:

Hon. Yusuf Tanko Sununu Hon. Samuel Babatunde Adejare Hon. Haruna Mshelia
Hon Shehu Balarabe Kakale:

The House:

Notes that since the official confirmation of Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection on December 28 2019, the global health, political and economic conditions have been unstable and witnessing very radical upheavals with limited indication of when normalcy will be restored;

Aware that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has since declared the infection a pandemic and called on all nations to individually and collectively deploy human and material resources to fight the infection and warning nations with weak health systems to prepare for very severe and shocking experience;

Also aware that Nigeria as a country is not spared from the global economic, health and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic;

Also notes that various Arms of Governments at different levels of governance have been adequately mobilised and are contributing to the control of COVID-19 infection;

Cognizant of the sacrifices being made by Nigerian medical and other healthcare professionals to combat the infection in order to safeguard the health of the nation, even with the enormous risks to life through being exposed to;

Appreciates Team Nigeria for the unparalleled sense of patriotism, practical sacrifices and its contributions to national building and that the House of Representatives which donated 100% of the members' two months consecutive salaries for the procurement of PPE to protect healthcare providers in appreciation of their sterling performances;

Further aware that the Hon. Minister of Health, during the regular media briefings held in the Situation room of the Presidential Task Force (PTF) stated that so far 40 Healthcare Providers have tested positive to COVID-19 out of which 4 died within few weeks and many have been further infected;

Concerned about the growing outcry over shortages of PPE by both practitioners and Managements of Tertiary Health Institutions leading to continued exposure of health practitioners to COVID-19 infections while attending to patients without observing Infection Prevention and Control Protocols due to the unavailability of PPE;

Acknowledges the provisions of the pledge of Physicians which, in part, instructs practitioners to take care of themselves first so as to be able to take care of others;

Worried that the monthly overhead costs of running Federal Tertiary Health Institutions have not been regularly paid with February payment made only a week ago, coupled with increased demand for consumables to address special needs for control of COVID-19 in the face of drastic reductions of internally generated revenues of the hospitals;

Cognizant of the need to effectively strengthen hospitals and the Health system to enable them provide effective healthcare delivery for Nigerians and to protect practitioners in Isolation and Treatment Centres, Public as well as Private Hospitals and maintain minimum standards of hygiene;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government to provide adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for all Isolation Centres and Federal Tertiary Health Institutions; while supporting States to do same for State owned and Private Health Facilities in order to break the chain of transmission from those Centres and also in appreciation of the roles of healthcare providers and personnel during the pandemic;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Finance to pay all arrears of overhead costs to Federal Tertiary Hospitals and to maintain regular payments as a matter of national priority;
- (iii) call on the Federal Government to expedite actions in funding the Federal Ministry of Health upon submission of comprehensive proposal for control of COVID-19;
- (iv) further urge the Federal Government to provide special intervention fund for all the Federal Tertiary Hospitals in Nigeria to enable them tackle emerging challenges and eventualities of the pandemic;
- (v) mandate the Committees on Health Institutions and Healthcare Services to investigate the procurement and distribution of PPE and other related expenditures in connection with COVID-19 control and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action;

- (vi) also mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services and Health Institutions to monitor and ensure compliance.

5. Urgent Need to Investigate the Occurrence of Dead Fishes in Brackish Water, Ensure Public Sensitization and Clean-Up of the Environment

Hon. Awaji-Inombek D. Abiante
Hon. Dumnamene Dekor
Hon. Francis Uduyok

Hon. Johnson Oghuma
Hon. Julius Pondi
Hon. Fred Agbedi,

The House:

Notes the incidences of large quantities of dead fishes floating or washed off on the shores of Bonny-Andoni Rivers and several other communities in the Niger Delta region including Ondo State and Akwa-Ibom State, since March 2020;

Also notes that the most common fish species being washed off is croaker, popularly known as ‘Broke Marriage’ or ‘Onah’ in local dialects and are believed to be carried by tidal waves from the high sea to the shores and rivers in the communities;

Concerned that there has not been any explanation for the strange occurrence except for the strong suspicion of alteration in the natural environment possibly leading to change in temperature, chemical composition, pH, dissolved oxygen etc, due to chemical pollution, environmental disturbance or bacterial infection;

Also concerned that in the last few days, there was another incidence of a massive dead blue whale of several tons washed up around the same Bonny-Andoni shores to the consternation of the people;

Further concerned that residents of the affected areas have already been cutting up the dead fishes for domestic consumption while fishermen and traders dried and sold part to unsuspecting customers in Bonny, Andoni communities, Kaa, and Port Harcourt markets and several other areas which may even include Abuja the Federal Capital Territory, despite several warnings on the inherent risks in consuming the fishes;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Environment, Healthcare Services and Agricultural Production and Services to investigate the occurrence of dead fishes in Brackish Water in Bonny-Andoni Rivers and several other communities in the Niger Delta Region and parts of Ondo and Akwa Ibom States and report back to the within six (6) weeks for further legislative actions.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

- 6.** A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Quarantine Act, Cap. Q2, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Control of Infectious Diseases Bill, make provisions Relating to Quarantine and make Regulations for Preventing the Introduction into and Spread in Nigeria of Dangerous Infectious Diseases; and for Related Matters (HB. 836) (*Hon. Femi Gbajabamila and 2 Others*) – (*Committee of the Whole:28/4/2020*).

