



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 9 June, 2020

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1. The House met at 11.22 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 *Second Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 4 June, 2020.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.
 4. **Announcement**
Bereavement:
Mr Speaker read a communication from:
 - (i) Hon. Mustapha Bala Dawaki (*Dawakin-Kudu/Warawa Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of a former Member, Hon. Mohammed Bako Sarai (*Dawakin-Kudu/Warawa Federal Constituency, 1999 - 2007*) who died on Thursday, 4 June, 2020;
 - (ii) Hon. Karu Simon Elisha (*Kaltungo/Shongom Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of his mother, Mrs Ladu Elisha Karu, on Saturday, 6 June, 2020.
A minute in silence was observed in honour of the deceased.
 5. **Petitions**
 - (i) A petition from Akipelai community in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, on alleged provocative and inequitable actions/inactions by the Nigeria Agip Oil Company Limited in the crude oil exploration activities at its wrongly named Nimbi South 'A' oil field, was presented and laid by Hon. Fred Azibapu Obua (*Ogbia Federal Constituency*); and
 - (ii) A petition from L. A. Opawoye Law Firm, on behalf of Bala Ibrahim, on the alleged unlawful conduct, dereliction of duty and high handedness by officers of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) about his complaint against the alleged fraudulent act by Michandani A. K, was presented and laid by Hon. Abdulahi Sa'ad Abubakar (*Ningi/Warji Federal Constituency*).
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Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

(i) *Need to Investigate a Save Our Soul (SOS) Call That A Chinese Company in Ugua Community of Edo State Has Continued to Detain its Nigerian Workers Since the Lockdown, in Flagrant Abuse of the Federal Government's COVID-19 Regulations:*

Hon. Ndudi Elumelu (*Aniocha North/Aniocha South/Oshimili North/Oshimili South 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 Investigate a Save Our Soul (SOS) Call That A Chinese Company in Ugua Community of Edo State Has Continued to Detain its Nigerian Workers Since the Lockdown, in Flagrant Abuse of the Federal Government's COVID-19 Regulations:

The House:

Notes with concern that Yongxing, a Chinese steel company located at Ugua community of Edo State locked down its Nigerian workers within the company's facility, thereby depriving them access to their families since 24 March, 2020;

Aware that the workers, numbering over a thousand, are holed up there in 10 persons to a room bunker, thereby making them live in a hazardous environment which has affected the health of most of the workers who were being made to work in slavish conditions, 24hrs round the clock, day in and out for the last three months;

Informed that the workers were blackmailed not to divulge their new work conditions to anybody, failing which they would lose their jobs;

Also informed that though the management of the company claimed that the workers were held back for health and safety measures but they were made to work within the precincts in gruelling conditions and compelled to swear to an oath of secrecy;

Concerned that not only does the above situation amount to an infringement of the fundamental right to liberty of the workers, but also to constitute as well as a flagrant abuse of COVID-19 Regulations, the Labour Act, and the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2004;

Cognizant of the fact that COVID-19 Regulations, stipulate that all businesses and offices should be closed, except for those engaged in essential services and given the fact that Steel Companies are not among the exempted essential services providers, the actions of the company therefore amount to serious disrespect for Nigerians' laws as well as a grave breach of their social responsibility to Nigeria;

Recalls that not too long ago, in the thick of the global pandemic, the Chinese authorities dehumanized Nigerians in China by throwing them on the streets without shelter and protection of any kind;

Alarmed that as much as this is yet another sad reminder of how Chinese ride rough shod over our laws and treat Nigerians with so much disdain in their own country and sadly too in our own shores, the trend is becoming very worrying and totally unacceptable;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Inspector-General of Police to immediately send a crack team to Yongxing Steel Company in Ugu community, with a view to setting free the detained workers pending further investigations;
- (ii) call the attention of the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19, and the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to note the incidence and ensure post release management of the workers;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Employment, Labour and Productivity, Human Rights, Steel, and Police Affairs to ensure proper investigations (*Hon. Ndudi Godwin Elumelu — Aniocha North/Aniocha South/Oshimili North/Oshimili South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with concern that Yongxing, a Chinese steel company located at Ugu community of Edo State locked down its Nigerian workers within the company's facility, thereby depriving them access to their families since 24 March, 2020;

Aware that the workers, numbering over a thousand, are holed up there in 10 persons to a room bunker, thereby making them live in a hazardous environment which has affected the health of most of the workers who were being made to work in slavish conditions, 24hrs round the clock, day in and out for the last three months;

Informed that the workers were blackmailed not to divulge their new work conditions to anybody, failing which they would lose their jobs;

Also informed that though the management of the company claimed that the workers were held back for health and safety measures but they were made to work within the precincts in grueling conditions and compelled to swear to an oath of secrecy;

Concerned that not only does the above situation amount to an infringement of the fundamental right to liberty of the workers, but also to constitute as well as a flagrant abuse of COVID-19 Regulations, the Labour Act, and the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2004;

Cognizant of the fact that COVID-19 Regulations, stipulate that all businesses and offices should be closed, except for those engaged in essential services and given the fact that Steel Companies are not among the exempted essential services providers, the actions of the company therefore amount to serious disrespect for Nigerians' laws as well as a grave breach of their social responsibility to Nigeria;

Recalled that not too long ago, in the thick of the global pandemic, the Chinese authorities dehumanized Nigerians in China by throwing them on the streets without shelter and protection of any kind;

Alarmed that as much as this is yet another sad reminder of how Chinese ride rough shod over our laws and treat Nigerians with so much disdain in their own country and sadly too in our own shores, the trend is becoming very worrying and totally unacceptable;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Inspector-General of Police to immediately send a crack team to Yongxing Steel Company in Ugu community, with a view to setting free the detained workers pending further investigations;
- (ii) call the attention of the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19, and the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to note the incidence and ensure post release management of the workers;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Employment, Labour and Productivity, Human Rights, Steel, and Police Affairs to ensure proper investigations (**HR. 176/06/2020**).

Ordered: Invite the Inspector-General of Police to brief the House on the matter.

(ii) Need to Investigate the Armed Robbery Attack on First Bank, the Killing of 8 Police Officers, and Others in Isanlu, Yagba East Local Government Area of Kogi State:

Hon. Leke Abejide Joseph (*Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro 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 Investigate the Armed Robbery Attack on First Bank, the Killing of 8 Police Officers, and Others in Isanlu, Yagba East Local Government Area of Kogi State:

The House:

Notes with dismay the deadly armed robbery attack on First Bank, and Police Station in Isanlu, headquarter of Yagba East Local Government Area of Kogi State on 4 June, 2020, in which 8 Police Officers were killed and several others wounded;

Also notes that the robbers, numbering about 25, simultaneously attacked the First Bank branch and the Isanlu Police Station, where 8 Police Officers, including 3 women officers and the DPO were brutally gunned killed, while the robbers emptied the armoury;

Informed that the armed robbers, in the process of robbing the bank, killed the security guard, blew off the fortified door of the bank with explosives, operated for about three (3) hours un-challenged and carted away yet to be disclosed sums of money;

Disturbed that the armed robbers managed to escape without being caught, further throwing residents of Isanlu and its environs into a state of panic over the pervading insecurity and helplessness of the security personnel to protect themselves and the citizens;

Dismayed that such pattern of bank robberies and killing of security agents is now common in the axis and towns stretching along roads linking Kabba, Aiyetoro Gbede, Iyamoye, Odo Ere, and Egbe;

Concerned that if such attacks should continue, it may lead to closure of financial institutions and this may cripple commercial activities in the town and its environs and at the moment, there is no functional commercial bank in the whole of Yagba East, and Mopamuro Local Government Areas;

Also concerned that should efficient backup response be lacking at every occurrence of these pattern of attacks, the citizens' confidence would be eroded, while the fundamental rights to security and lives of citizens as guaranteed in the Constitution would be breached upon;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Inspector-General of Police to investigate the armed robbery attack at the First Bank branch and the killing of Police officers and others, and to apprehend and prosecute the suspects;
- (ii) also urge the Inspector-General of Police to ensure formidable security apparatus, including efficient backup response to armed robbery attacks in Isanlu and its environs;
- (iii) urge the Executive Arm of Government to set up of a joint security taskforce comprising the Army, Police, Air Force and the Nigerian Security and Civil Decence Corps (NSCDC) to be stationed at a border town of Kogi/Kwara Isanlu-Essa along Egbe -Patigi road which serves as an escape route for those who robbed in Yagba Federal Constituency; and
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to ensure compliance, and report back within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Leke Abejide — Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with dismay the deadly armed robbery attack on First Bank, and Police Station in Isanlu, headquarter of Yagba East Local Government Area of Kogi State on 4 June, 2020, in which 8 Police Officers were killed and several others wounded;

Also noted that the robbers, numbering about 25, simultaneously attacked the First Bank branch and the Isanlu Police Station, where 8 Police Officers, including 3 women officers and the DPO were brutally gunned killed, while the robbers emptied the armoury;

Informed that the armed robbers, in the process of robbing the bank, killed the security guard, blew off the fortified door of the bank with explosives, operated for about three (3) hours un-challenged and carted away yet to be disclosed sums of money;

Disturbed that the armed robbers managed to escape without being caught, further throwing residents of Isanlu and its environs into a state of panic over the pervading insecurity and helplessness of the security personnel to protect themselves and the citizens;

Dismayed that such pattern of bank robberies and killing of security agents is now common in the axis and towns stretching along roads linking Kabba, Aiyetoro Gbede, Iyamoye, Odo Ere, and Egbe;

Concerned that if such attacks should continue, it may lead to closure of financial institutions and this may cripple commercial activities in the town and its environs and at the moment, there is no functional commercial bank in the whole of Yagba East, and Mopamuro Local Government Areas;

Also concerned that should efficient backup response be lacking at every occurrence of these pattern of attacks, the citizens' confidence would be eroded, while the fundamental rights to security and lives of citizens as guaranteed in the Constitution would be breached upon;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Inspector-General of Police to investigate the armed robbery attack at the First Bank branch and the killing of Police officers and others, and to apprehend and prosecute the suspects;
- (ii) also urge the Inspector-General of Police to ensure formidable security apparatus, including efficient backup response to armed robbery attacks in Isanlu and its environs;
- (iii) urge the Executive Arm of Government to set up of a joint security taskforce comprising the Army, Police, Air Force and the Nigerian Security and Civil Decence Corps (NSCDC) to be stationed at a border town of Kogi/Kwara Isanlu-Essa along Egbe -Patigi road which serves as an escape route for those who robbed in Yagba Federal Constituency; and
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to ensure compliance, and report back within four (4) weeks (**HR. 177/06/2020**).

A minute in silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

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. Ahmed Usman Jaha — Chibok/Dambo/Gwoza Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

- (iii) ***Need to Commend DCP Abba Kyari and His Team for Combating High Profile Crimes and Outstanding Performance in the Course of Duties as Officers of the Nigeria Police Force:***

Hon. Ahmed Usman Jaha (*Chibok/Dambo/Gwoza 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 Commend DCP Abba Kyari and His Team for Combating High Profile Crimes and Outstanding Performance in the Course of Duties as Officers of the Nigeria Police Force:

The House

Notes that twenty years ago, a brave young man by name, Abba Kyari was among the few successful Nigerians who enlisted into the Nigeria Police Force as an Officer Cadet;

Also notes that the young officer has served in several States of the Federation, including Adamawa in the North East, and Lagos in the South West;

Informed that the gallant officer and his team has recorded several successes in combatting organized crime in Nigeria which included:

- (i) arrest of the notorious kidnappers Evans in Lagos State and Henry Chibueze (aka VAMPIRE) in Owerri, Imo State,
- (ii) arrest of the killer of the former Chief of Defence Staff, Air Marshal Alex Badeh,
- (iii) arrest of several Boko-Haram Commanders, including bomb makers and those responsible for the kidnap of the Chibok girls,
- (iv) arrest of the deadly Offa Bank robbers that invaded Offa town in Kwara State and robbed five different commercial banks and murdered over 31 innocent Nigerians, including a pregnant woman, making it the deadliest Bank robbery in the country,
- (v) arrest of the syndicate of kidnappers, armed bandits and their sponsors in Zamfara State after the gang kidnapped twin sisters before their wedding,
- (vi) arrest of Osama and a gang of deadly armed robbers and murderers who escaped from lawful custody in Kogi State,
- (vii) successfully neutralized and arrested over 70 different gang members who specialized in armed robbery, kidnapping, gruesome ritual killings, pipeline vandalizations, terrorism, illegal armed dealings, cattle rustling, banditry;

Also informed that the gallant officer is a recipient of awards and commendations for his patriotism, gallantry and leadership, among which are:

- (i) IGP Medal for courage in 2012, 2013, and 2014,
- (ii) Lagos State Governor's award for gallantry, leadership and service excellence in 2011, 2012 and 2013,
- (iii) Africa's best detective of the year award 2018,
- (iv) Best Police of the decade award,
- (v) 2018 Hero of the year award by Silverbird Group,
- (vi) Presidential Medal for courage from President Muhammadu Buhari in 2016 and several other awards and medals;

Aware that Nigeria has, in the recent time, recorded very high and unprecedented levels of crimes and that the number of officers who have similar characteristics as DCP Abba Kyari is limited, hence the need for the commendation of the gallant officer;

Resolves to:

Commend DCP Abba Kyari for his courage, determination, patriotism, exemplary crime fighting and prevention records as well as outstanding performance as a senior police officer (*Hon. Ahmed Usman Jaha — Chibok/Oambo/Gwoza Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (ii) as follows:
 “Urge the Federal Government to honour DCP Abba Kyari with National Award” (*Hon. Ali Lawan Shettima — Bursari/Geidam/Yunusari Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In the Prayer, immediately after the name “DCP Abba Kyari”, insert the words “and his team” (*Hon. Mohammed Shehu — Koko-Besse/Maiyama Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

The House

Noted that twenty years ago, a brave young man by name, Abba Kyari was among the few successful Nigerians who enlisted into the Nigeria Police Force as an Officer Cadet;

Also noted that the young officer has served in several States of the Federation, including Adamawa in the North East, and Lagos in the South West;

Informed that the gallant officer and his team has recorded several successes in combatting organized crime in Nigeria which included:

- (i) arrest of the notorious kidnappers Evans in Lagos State and Henry Chibueze (aka VAMPIRE) in Owerri, Imo State,
- (ii) arrest of the killer of the former Chief of Defence Staff, Air Marshal Alex Badeh,
- (iii) arrest of several Boko-Haram Commanders, including bomb makers and those responsible for the kidnap of the Chibok girls,
- (iv) arrest of the deadly Offa Bank robbers that invaded Offa town in Kwara State and robbed five different commercial banks and murdered over 31 innocent Nigerians, including a pregnant woman, making it the deadliest Bank robbery in the country,
- (v) arrest of the syndicate of kidnappers, armed bandits and their sponsors in Zamfara State after the gang kidnapped twin sisters before their wedding,
- (vi) arrest of Osama and a gang of deadly armed robbers and murderers who escaped from lawful custody in Kogi State,

- (vii) successfully neutralized and arrested over 70 different gang members who specialized in armed robbery, kidnapping, gruesome ritual killings, pipeline vandalizations, terrorism, illegal armed dealings, cattle rustling, banditry;

Also informed that the gallant officer is a recipient of awards and commendations for his patriotism, gallantry and leadership, among which are:

- (i) IGP Medal for courage in 2012, 2013, and 2014,
- (ii) Lagos State Governor's award for gallantry, leadership and service excellence in 2011, 2012 and 2013,
- (iii) Africa's best detective of the year award 2018,
- (iv) Best Police of the decade award,
- (v) 2018 Hero of the year award by Silverbird Group,
- (vi) Presidential Medal for courage from President Muhammadu Buhari in 2016 and several other awards and medals;

Aware that Nigeria has, in the recent time, recorded very high and unprecedented levels of crimes and that the number of officers who have similar characteristics as DCP Abba Kyari is limited, hence the need for the commendation of the gallant officer;

Resolved to:

- (i) commend DCP Abba Kyari, and his team for their courage, determination, patriotism, exemplary crime fighting and prevention records as well as outstanding performance as a senior police officer;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to honour DCP Abba Kyari with National Award (**HR. 178/06/2020**).

Ordered: *Inspector-General of Police to permit DSP Abba Kyari and his Team to appear before the House for commendation.*

7. **Personal Explanation (Order Six, Rule 2)**

- (i) Hon. Henry Archibong Okon (*Itu/Ibiono Ibom Federal Constituency*), recalled that on Thursday, 4 June, 2020, while contributing to the debate on the motion on **“Need to Condemn the Rising Cases of Sexual Violence, Police Brutality, and Other Social Vices Against Women; Justice for Uwa Omozuwa, Tina Ezekwe, and Others”**, he used wrong and offensive words in describing the dressing of females in Nigeria. He apologized to the House and reiterated his support for severe punishment for such crimes in Nigeria; and
- (ii) Hon. Ahmad Usman Jaha (*Chibok/Dambo/Gwoza Federal Constituency*), also recalled that on Thursday, 4 June, 2020, during his contribution to the debate on the motion on **“Need to Condemn the Rising Cases of Sexual Violence, Police Brutality, and Other Social Vices Against Women; Justice for Uwa Omozuwa, Tina Ezekwe, and Others”**, he referred to women who were victims of rape as the cause of such acts because of their mode of dressing in public. He regretted making the comment and apologized to the House and the entire women folks in Nigeria for using such words.

Ruling: *Mr Speaker commended the Members for the courage and integrity displayed by apologizing to the House.*

8. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Foreign Exchange Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 845).
- (2) Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act (Repeal) Bill, 2020 (HB. 846).
- (3) Free Education (Prohibition of Fees and Other Charges) Bill, 2020 (HB. 847).
- (4) Nigerian Council for Psychologists Act (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 848).
- (5) Micro-Credit Intervention Tax Fund Bill, 2020 (HB. 849).
- (6) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) (Right to Education) Bill, 2020 (HB. 850).
- (7) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) (Geo-Political Zones) Bill, 2020 (HB. 851).

9. A Bill for an Act to Alter Section 121(3) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) to Reflect the Authority of Persons mandated to effect Payments and Receive Funding for the House of Assembly and Judiciary of States from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation; and for Related Matters (HB. 839) — *Second Reading*

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

10. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Price Control Act, Cap. P28, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for stiffer penalties and make better Provisions for Implementation of the Price Control Regime in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 797) — *Second Reading*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Price Control Act, Cap. P28, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for stiffer penalties and make better Provisions for Implementation of the Price Control Regime in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 797) be read a Second Time" (Hon. Taiwo Olukemi Oluga — Ayeaade/Irewole/Isokan Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Question that the Bill be now read a Second Time — Agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Commerce.

11. Call to Investigate the Abandonment of the Rehabilitation of Otuocha-Ibali -Nzam- Innoma-IheakaIbali Section of the Otuocha-Ibali-Odulu-Alegwu Road in Anambra State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the contract for rehabilitation of Otuocha- Ibaji-Nzam-Innoma- Iheakalbaji section of theOtuocha- Ibaji-Odulu-AjegwuRoad was awarded to Messrs Niger Construction Limited on 16 December, 2009 at the cost of Seven Billion, One Hundred and Seventy-Three Million, Nine Hundred and Nine Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty-Five Naira, Forty Kobo (₦7,173,909,755.40) only;

Also notes that the Sum of Two Billion, Eight Hundred and Ninety Million, Four Hundred and Twelve Thousand, Ninety-One Naira, Seventy-Five Kobo (₦2,890,412,091.75) had been paid to the contractor to enable him execute the project shortly after the award of the contract, leaving a balance of Four Billion, Two Hundred and Eighty-Three Million, Four Hundred and Ninety-Seven Thousand, Six Hundred and Sixty-Three Naira, Sixty-Five Kobo (₦4,283,497,663.65) only;

Informed that in the 2014 Appropriations Act, the sum of Four Hundred Million Naira (₦400,000,000.00) was budgeted for continuation of work and Eight Hundred Million Naira (₦800,000,000.00) was budgeted in the 2017 Appropriations Act for the project but regrettably, the completion level of the rehabilitation work is at an abysmal 46.55%;

Concerned that the road rehabilitation project that was awarded eleven years ago was last funded in 2017, thus leading to its abandonment by the Contractor to the chagrin of the people of the communities where the road traverses;

Also informed of the importance of the road which, when completed, will reduce the time of traveling from Abuja to Otuocha in Anambra State by at least two hours, thereby cutting out the costs and inconveniences, of commuters having to go through the length of Kogi and Enugu States rather than through Ajaokuta to Otuocha;

Further informed that the road will be invaluable in the evacuation of farm produce from communities along it whose inhabitants are predominantly farmers and enhance socio-economic activities in the area;

Resolves to:

- (i) mandate the Committee on Works to investigate issues relating to the project to determine the reasons for the abandonment of the contract;
- (ii) also mandate the Committee on Works to interface with the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing on ways to ensure the provision of funds in the 2021 budget proposal for the completion of the Project (*Hon. Obidigwe Chinedu Benjamin — Anambra East/Anambra West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 179/06/2020).

*Motion referred to the **Committee on Works**, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).*

12. Need to Open up Rural Roads to Connect Communities that are Frequently Attacked by Boko Haram Insurgents in Local Government Areas Contiguous to the Sambisa Forest

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that several Communities consisting of towns, villages, and hamlets including Tashan Allade, Kirmi, Garbwala, Debiro, Tarfa, Mandiragraw, Harang, Ngulde, Ngohi, Mbula Kudughe, Chanchandana, Lehu, Askira, Bigibigi, and Garkida situated in the very fertile region of Hawul, Askira/Uba, Biu, and Gombi Local Government Areas of Borno State do not have interconnected rural roads linking each other;

Also notes that the Rural Roads connecting these Communities that are needed to be opened up are the Tashan Allade Kirmi - Garbwala - Debiro - Tarfa - Mandiragraw road; the Kirmi - Harang - Ngulde - Ngohi - Mbula Kudughe - Chanchandana - Lehu to Askira and the Ngohi - Bigibigi to Garkida Roads;

Further notes that all these Communities were at one time or the other severally attacked by Boko Haram insurgents, but because of the resilience of the people, they are still living in such communities;

Cognizant that the road infrastructure which are dearly needed to link and open up the Communities to access the huge agricultural produce coming from the region yearly is not in place, thus cutting the communities;

Worried that due to the proximity of these communities to the infamous Sambisa Forest, the lack of these basic infrastructure means that whenever Boko Haram attacks, even Security Forces find it difficult to easily navigate the area in pursuit of the insurgents;

Aware that it is the responsibility of Government to provide such basic infrastructure in Communities such as those unfortunate towns, villages, and hamlets that are close to the Sambisa forest;

Also aware that the North-East Development Commission was established to tackle such challenges in the North East Geopolitical Zone of the country;

Cognizant that provision of good rural roads with culverts and military type bridges will go a long way in mitigating the security challenges in the area and further boost agricultural output from those areas;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the North-East Development Commission, in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Ministry of Defence through the Army Engineering Corps to, as a matter of urgency commence the construction of rural roads connecting all the Communities;
- (ii) mandate Committees on Legislative Compliance, Agricultural Production and Services, Rural Development, Defence, and Army to ensure Compliance (*Hon. Haruna Mshelia — Askira-Uba/Hawul Federal Constituency*).

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words in Prayer (ii), and *insert* as follows:

“Mandate the Committee on North-East Development Commission to ensure Compliance” (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

Question that the Amendment be made — Agreed to.

(HR. 180/06/2020).

Motion referred to the Committee on North-East Development Commission, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

13. Need to stop the Entry of Herdsmen from other African Countries into Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that in recent years, herdsmen have been on rampage, destroying farm lands, burning villages and killing innocent Nigerians indiscriminately in many states across the federation:

Also notes that the Nigerian security agents have consistently stated that those herdsmen are not Nigerians but migrants from other African countries;

Concerned that those herdsmen who are militant in nature have consistently instilled fear in the lives local farmers and villagers living in the affected areas by the use of coercion, intimidation, brute force and extreme violence, in most cases, leaving a large number of persons dead;

Also concerned that the violent conflicts between the nomadic herders from neighbouring countries and local farmers escalating by the day to more states of the Federation, and if left unchecked will further threaten the security and stability of the nation;

Further concerned that the clashes are becoming potentially as dangerous as the Boko Haram insurgency in the North East; yet to date, response to the crises at both the Federal and State levels has been very poor and ineffectively;

Believes that it has become necessary to lend a voice to Governor Abdullahi Ganduje of Kano State that a stop be put to the movement of herdsmen from other African countries to Nigeria, so as to curb the rate of crime and conflicts associated with their movements across Nigeria;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to put a halt to the entry of herdsmen from other African countries into Nigeria;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, Army and Interior to interface with the Inspector- General of Police, Chief of Army Staff and Comptroller General of the Nigerian Immigration Service respectively on the best ways of policing and securing the Nigeria borders (*Hon. Ndudi Godwin Elumelu — Aniocha North/Aniocha South/Oshimili North/Oshimili South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (iii), as follows:
“amend the ECOWAS protocol on the free movement of persons and goods, with a view to hinder unimpeded access of herdsmen to Nigerians” (*Hon. Tahir Mohammed Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayer (i), immediately after the word “halt to the” *insert* the word “illegal entry”(Hon. Nassir Ahmed — Nassarawa Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) In Prayer (ii), immediately after the word “borders”, *insert* the words “to avoid illegal entry of herdsmen” (*Hon. Nassir Ahmed — Nassarawa Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that in recent years, herdsmen have been on rampage, destroying farm lands, burning villages and killing innocent Nigerians indiscriminately in many states across the federation:

Also noted that the Nigerian security agents have consistently stated that those herdsmen are not Nigerians but migrants from other African countries;

Concerned that those herdsmen who are militant in nature have consistently instilled fear in the lives local farmers and villagers living in the affected areas by the use of coercion, intimidation, brute force and extreme violence, in most cases, leaving a large number of persons dead;

Also concerned that the violent conflicts between the nomadic herders from neighbouring countries and local farmers escalating by the day to more states of the Federation, and if left unchecked will further threaten the security and stability of the nation;

Further concerned that the clashes are becoming potentially as dangerous as the Boko Haram insurgency in the North East; yet to date, response to the crises at both the Federal and State levels has been very poor and ineffectively;

Believed that it has become necessary to lend a voice to Governor Abdullahi Ganduje of Kano State that a stop be put to the movement of herdsmen from other African countries to Nigeria, so as to curb the rate of crime and conflicts associated with their movements across Nigeria.

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to put a halt to the illegal entry of herdsmen from other African countries into Nigeria;
- (ii) amend the ECOWAS protocol on the free movement of persons and goods, with a view to hinder unimpeded access of herdsmen to Nigerians; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, Army and Interior to interface with the Inspector- General of Police, Chief of Army Staff and Comptroller General of the Nigerian Immigration Service respectively on the best ways of policing and securing the Nigeria borders to avoid illegal entry of herdsmen (**HR. 181/06/2020**).

14. Need to Investigate the Nigeria Police Force Pension Limited for Failure to Meet its Pension and Gratuity Obligations

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Nigeria Police Pension Reforms which started with the incorporation and operation of the NPF Pension Limited in October 2013, was initiated to address deficiencies of the current Contributory Pension Scheme, peculiar to the Police Force;

Aware that the peculiarities, which include reconciliation of personnel data crucial to obtaining pension contributions from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and effectively managing critical welfare issues such as Group Life Assurance and Health Insurance Scheme, were highlighted to be of strategic security importance and should be managed by the NPF Pension Limited;

Informed that after incorporation of the NPF Pension Limited, PENCOM in April 2014 directed existing Pension Fund Administrators to move ₦305 billion Police Pension Assets to the NPF Pension Limited;

Cognizant that employers pension contributions of ₦15.8 billion, ₦16.6 billion, ₦16.6 billion and ₦19.7 billion were paid by the Federal Government from 2015 to 2019 respectively to the NPF Pension Limited as government contributions;

Concerned that despite the PENCOM regulatory supervision, there are various pending fraud cases instituted by Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) against officials of NPF Pension Limited;

Worried that many police retirees have started protesting to the police hierarchy about the reduction of their entitlements while others have since joined the wagon of pensioners who don't receive their monthly pensions and gratuities in full and as at when due;

Also worried that the retired officers who are being short-changed after their services to the nation may resort to taking advantage of the loopholes in the security architecture of the country, which they are aware of, to perpetrate mischief for pecuniary gains to feed their families;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, and Pension to investigate the immediate and remote causes of the NPF Pension Limited inability to meet its monthly pension obligation and the timely payment of gratuities to retiring police officers, and report back with findings and recommendations for a model to prevent future misappropriations (*Hon. Ali Adeyemi Taofeek — Mushin I Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

(i) In the Prayer, immediately after the word “Pension”, *insert* the words “Insurance, and Actual Matters” (*Hon. Ahmed Usman Jaha — Chibok/Dambo/Damboa/Gwoza Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

(ii) In the Prayer, immediately after the words “report back”, *insert* the words “within four weeks” (*Hon. Edun Olanrewaju Oladapo — Abeokuta South Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Nigeria Police Pension Reforms which started with the incorporation and operation of the NPF Pension Limited in October 2013, was initiated to address deficiencies of the current Contributory Pension Scheme, peculiar to the Police Force;

Aware that the peculiarities, which include reconciliation of personnel data crucial to obtaining pension contributions from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and effectively managing critical welfare issues such as Group Life Assurance and Health Insurance Scheme, were highlighted to be of strategic security importance and should be managed by the NPF Pension Limited;

Informed that after incorporation of the NPF Pension Limited, PENCOS in April 2014 directed existing Pension Fund Administrators to move ₦305 billion Police Pension Assets to the NPF Pension Limited;

Cognizant that employers pension contributions of ₦15.8 billion, ₦16.6 billion, ₦16.6 billion and ₦19.7 billion were paid by the Federal Government from 2015 to 2019 respectively to the NPF Pension Limited as government contributions;

Concerned that despite the PENCOS regulatory supervision, there are various pending fraud cases instituted by Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) against officials of NPF Pension Limited;

Worried that many police retirees have started protesting to the police hierarchy about the reduction of their entitlements while others have since joined the wagon of pensioners who don't receive their monthly pensions and gratuities in full and as at when due;

Also worried that the retired officers who are being short-changed after their services to the nation may resort to taking advantage of the loopholes in the security architecture of the country, which they are aware of, to perpetrate mischief for pecuniary gains to feed their families;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, and Pension to investigate the immediate and remote causes of the NPF Pension Limited inability to meet its monthly pension obligation and the timely payment of gratuities to retiring police officers, and report back within four (4) weeks, with findings and recommendations for a model to prevent future misappropriations (**HR. 182/06/2002**).

15. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 10 June, 2020 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.16 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabamila
Speaker