



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 25 November, 2020

1. The House met at 11.40 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, 24 November, 2020.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcement**

- (a) **Visitors in the Gallery:**

Mr Speaker recognised the presence of the following:

- (i) Councillors from Etinan/Nsit Ibom/Nsit Ubium Federal Constituency; and
 - (ii) Members of Noble Peace Club (Worldwide).

- (b) **Bereavement:**

Mr Speaker read a communication from the Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business, announcing the demise of Mr Mansion Dandy Chris, a staff of the Committee on Tuesday, 17 November, 2020 after a brief illness.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

5. **Petitions**

- (i) Petitions from the following were presented and laid by Hon. Haruna Isa Dederi (*Karaye/Roga Federal Constituency*):

- (a) The Nigeria Union of Pensioners (NUP), Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) branch, on the non-remittance of their contributory pension deductions, National Housing Fund (NHF) deductions, and non-compliance with extant laws by the Nigerian Social Insurance Trust Fund;

- (b) Obi Felix Obiora, on the alleged threat to life and kidnapping by Inspector Onyechere, Sylvester Ubag and 2 others;
- (c) Reuben Iloka and 6 others, on the alleged brutality by Inspector Chike Nwabunwa and 3 others of the Force CID, Abuja; and
- (iv) A petition from M. O. Olagunju & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on the alleged wrongful retirement of Adeleke Teslim Oyediran by the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), was presented and laid by Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi (*Afijio/Atiba/Oyo East/Oyo West Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

(i) Incessant Malpractices Associated with Diplomatic Postings and Deliberate Draining of Resources in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

Hon. Ndudi Godwin Elumelu (*Aniocha/Oshimili 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.

Incessant Malpractices Associated with Diplomatic Postings and Deliberate Draining of Resources in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

The House:

Notes that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the statutory body saddled with the responsibilities, amongst others, of implementing decisions and handling the external promotion of Nigeria's domestic vision and ideas as well as increasing awareness about Nigeria's foreign economic potentials;

Also notes that these responsibilities are carried out through Nigerian diplomats posted to the various foreign missions and international organizations to represent and protect the interest of Nigeria;

Aware that there are serious allegations of massive fleecing to the tune of millions of dollars by some erring officials of the Ministry through deliberate defiance of recall orders;

Also aware that it's been alleged that these officials one year after their recall to headquarters are still receiving full entitlements such as Accommodation Allowance, House Maintenance, Transport Allowance, Medical and Utility Bills even though they have been officially posted back to Nigeria;

Concerned that these alleged corrupt practices are said to have been aided by staff of the Human Resources Department of the Ministry who collects sums of money from these erring officials, and intentionally frustrates efforts of posted colleagues to replace those posted back to headquarters by refusing to perfect the needed documentation that enable them resume duty at the various foreign missions;

Distressed that on 17 November, 2020, nine (9) students of the University were kidnapped along Kaduna-Abuja Road while the bandits sent a ransom demand of ₦270 million for their release;

Also distressed that only on Monday, 23 November, 2020, at about 12.50 a.m., armed bandits invaded the house of another staff, Professor Bakari Girei and abducted him, his wife and daughter and, only after an exchange of fire with the Police Intelligence Response Team did the bandits release the wife and daughter while they escaped with the Professor;

Aware and anxious that Professor Girei remains in captivity with the bandits as of this moment while the invasions are continuing unabated;

Notes that the bandits have been substantially aided in their wicked, despicable and nefarious activities by the absence of a wall or fence around the Samaru Campus of the University unlike what is obtainable at the campus of the University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri and the Gwagwalada campuses of the University of Abuja;

Also notes that the bandits have also been substantially aided by the fact that the University shares borders with Southern Katsina, particularly Sabuwa Local Government; where the activities of the bandits have escalated in geometric proportions as well as the Kuyello area of Birnin Gwari, another hotspot for such criminalities and that the forests in these border locations have become havens for these criminal activities;

Concerned that these border locations have made it easier for the bandits to penetrate the porous borders of the campus while making staff and students easy prey;

Worried that the sad consequence of this state of affairs is that the University now stands the serious risk of being unable to promise the serene and conducive atmosphere that is a sine qua non for its purpose as an institution of higher learning;

Cognizant that the University is a community that houses over sixty thousand (60,000) staff and students with origins spread across the thirty-six (36) States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory;

Also cognizant that no other tertiary institution in Nigeria is as representative of the diverse peoples and cultures of the nation as the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria;

Mindful, therefore, that this emergency has become a national emergency that touches every Nigerian and that the overriding need to protect this heritage cannot be overstated;

Conscious that the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) in its Section 14 (2) (b) proclaims "*the security and welfare of the people*" to "*be the primary purpose of government*";

Also conscious that security is one of the paramount policies of the current administration for which it has left no stone unturned towards neutralising this scourge of terrorism;

Alarmed that if this trend of attacking university campuses is not halted, only chaos and anarchy will reign in our ivory towers where serenity is an inevitable precondition to academic prosperity;

Determined that this matter must be resolved as a matter of urgency, especially now that universities, whose activities have been severely disrupted by industrial actions and the COVID-19 pandemic, are poised to fully resume academic studies and to avoid further protracted disruption of academic activities;

light on the need for proper funding of essential agencies for the prevention and data collection of violence against women;

Also notes that this year's theme for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is tagged "*Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!*" and like previous years, this year's International Day will mark the launch of 16 days of activism to be concluded on 10 December, 2020, which coincides with the International Human Rights Day;

Recalls that women played crucial role in the initiation and achievements of additional commitments and the mobilisation of Member States on the issue of ending violence against women;

Aware that the Official Commemoration of this year's International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women will be a virtual multi-stakeholder event due to the current of COVID-19 pandemic, in line with the Social Gathering Engagement Strategy and Gender-Based Violence.

Also aware that it is also a Day to Honour women organizations as first responders and to acknowledge their leadership roles in ending violence; and to activate United Nation's wide mobilization under the umbrella of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign for the promotion of zero tolerance across all spheres of society including Nigeria;

Worried that the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is one of the most widespread, persistent and devastating human rights violations in the world today, largely unreported due to impunity, silence, stigma and shame surrounding it;

Also worried that violence against women manifests itself in physical, sexual and psychological forms, including violence from intimate partner (battering, psychological abuse, marital rape, femicide; sexual violence and harassment (rape, forced sexual acts, unwanted sexual advances, child sexual abuse, forced marriage, street harassment, stalking, cyber-harassment) human trafficking (slavery, sexual exploitation); female genital mutilation; and child marriage;

Believes that in commemoration of this year international Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, there is an urgent need to call on the Government and other relevant stakeholders, to develop action plan for Gender responsive investment to expand basic public education, infrastructure, health care and security in rural areas;

Resolves to:

Urge the Federal, States and Local Government Councils to galvanize action plans to support the elimination of violence against women (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

(HR. 66/11/2020).

9. **Consideration of Report***Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management on the Promissory Notes Programme and Bond Issuance as refund to Rivers, Bayelsa, Cross River, Osun and Ondo States Government for projects executed on behalf of the Federal Government and approve the recommendations therein" (*Hon. Ahmed Safana Dayyabu — Batsari/Safana/Damusa Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of Supply to consider the Report — Agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY)

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

Recommendation:

Approve the Promissory Notes Programme and Bond Issuance to settle outstanding claims and liabilities of five (5) State Governments in the sum of One Hundred and Forty-Eight Billion, One Hundred Forty-One Million, Nine Hundred and Sixty-Nine Thousand, One Hundred and Sixty-One Naira, Twenty-Four Kobo only (₦148, 141, 969, 161. 24) based on the claims by each State as follows:

<i>S/No.</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Amount</i>
1.	Bayelsa State	38,404,564,783.40
2.	Cross River State	18,394,732,608.85
3.	Ondo State	7,822,147,577.08
4.	Osun State	4,567,456,673.63
5.	Rivers State	78,953,067,518.29
	Grand Total	148,141,969,161.24

(Hon. Ahmed Safana Dayyabu — Batsari/Safana/Damusa Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report proceeding.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of Supply considered the Report of the Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management on the Promissory Notes Programme and Bond Issuance as refund to Rivers, Bayelsa, Cross River, Osun and Ondo States Government for projects executed on behalf of the Federal Government and approved the only Recommendation in the Report.

Question that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of Supply — Agreed to.

10. **Orders of the Day**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do set down items 2 - 11, on the Order Paper to another legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (3)" (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.