



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ORDER PAPER

Tuesday 9 February, 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)
 9. Petitions (if any)
 10. Matters of Urgent Public Importance
 11. Personal Explanation
-

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

1. **Committee on Healthcare Services:**
Hon. Tanko Sununu:
“That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Healthcare Services on a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency Act, Cap. N69, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Related Matters (HB.39)” (*Referred: 6/11/2019*).
2. **Committee on Healthcare Services:**
Hon. Tanko Sununu:
“That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Healthcare Services on a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Blood Service Commission to Coordinate, Regulate and ensure the Provision of Quality Blood and Blood Products; and for Related Matters (HB.181)” (*Referred: 12/5/2021*).

3. **Committee on Healthcare Services:**

Hon. Tanko Sununu:

“That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Healthcare Services on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Quarantine Act, 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)” (*Referred: 12/5/2021*)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BILLS

1. **Consolidation of Bills:**

(a) A Bill for an Act to Amend the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Enforcement Act; and for Related Matters (HB. 542) (*Hon. Ibrahim A. Isiaka*);

(b) A Bill for an Act to Amend the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act to make Provisions for enhanced Efficiency in the Operations of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons; and for Related Matters (HB.1054) (*Hon. Ifeanyi Chudy Momah and 4 Others*);

(c) A Bill for an Act to Amend the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act No. 4, 2015 to Review the mode of Appointment of the Director General of the Agency, Strengthen the Composition of its Governing Board and Review the Offences and Penal Provisions; and for Related Matters (HB.1154) (*Hon. Onofiok Luke and 7 Others*).

2. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Institute of Animal Science Act, Cap. N160, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Related Matters (HB. 915) (*Hon. Gideon Gwani*) – *Second Reading*.

3. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Criminal Code Act, Cap. C39, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Related Matters (HB. 1028) (*Hon. Joseph Asuku Bello*) – *Second Reading*.

4. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Press Council Act, Cap. N128, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide that only a person with First Degree, Higher National Diploma in Journalism, Media, Art or Communication or Post Graduate Certificate shall practice as a Journalist and increase the Punishment and fine for fake Journalists; and for Related Matters (HB. 1151) (*Hon. Francis Ottah Agbo*) – *Second Reading*.

MOTIONS

5. **Need to Lift the Embargo placed on Employment by Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies and the Private Sector to Ameliorate the Effects of COVID–19 Pandemic in the Country:**

Hon. Sani Bala:

The House:

Notes that the President, during the Budget presentation in October 2019, announced an embargo on recruitment in Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs);

Also notes that the President recently maintained the Federal Government stand on the existing embargo placed on recruitment in reaction to the devastating effects of the CoronaVirus Pandemic and fall in Global Oil prices on Nigerians;

Aware that by virtue of its role as the major employer of labour in the country, the action of the

Federal Government not to sack or reduce salaries of its workers at the time has been applauded and has no doubt helped to reduce the worsening effects of the pandemic;

Also aware that in the attempt to address the adverse effects of the pandemic, the federal government instituted stimulus packages of ₦65 Billion to assist a coalition of private sector operators, ₦50 billion survival funds for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and ₦15 billion guaranteed uptake scheme to save 500,000 jobs, among other interventions;

Concerned that in view of the projection made by the Minister of Labour in 2018 that Nigeria would record an unemployment rate of 33.5% by 2020, the pandemic had only worsened the situation, with the Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo alleging that 39.4 million job losses were anticipated by December 2020;

Also concerned that as a fallout from the pandemic, the Nigeria Bureau of Statistics reported that the unemployment rate was put at about 27.1 percent in the second quarter of 2020, the highest on record since 2018 when unemployment rate was put at 23.1 percent in the third quarter of that year;

Disturbed that in addition to the 2 million Nigerians previously projected by the World Bank to become impoverished, a further 5 million Nigerians have been said to be facing poverty as a result of COVID-19 Pandemic;

Also disturbed that given the rate of youth corps members who continue to pass out on completion of the mandatory service year at various intervals, the unemployment statistics in Nigeria shows that the most agile working-class population in the country remain unemployed;

Worried about the dire consequences of youth unemployment in the society under critical periods like this, including poverty as well as rising criminal activities and other social vices which are currently prevalent in various parts of the country as the effects of the pandemic continue to bite harder;

Cognizant of the fact that Nigeria, like many other countries, ought to have begun a Post COVID-19 era by implementing measures geared towards revamping the economy and improving other socio-economic sectors;

Also cognizant of the correlation between unemployment and poverty as well as the proposition that the latter can be reduced by creation of productive employment or creating income opportunities for the poor;

Desirous to consider lifting the embargo on recruitment by the federal government, as a means of addressing further decline of Nigerians into extreme poverty.

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government to lift the embargo placed on employment by directing the Head of Service of the Federation to declare existing vacancies and direct the Federal Civil Service Commission to embark on recruitment exercise;
- (ii) also urge Members of the Organized Private Sector to fill existing vacancies in order to reduce the rate of unemployment in the country, given the interventions it may have enjoyed from the Federal Government and other development partners.

**6. Need to Equip and Upgrade the Lassa Fever and Other Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers Center in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital (ATBUTH) Bauchi:
Hon. Yunusa Ahmad Abubakar:**

The House:

Notes that in 2014, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital (ATBUTH) was made the frontier centre for managing Lassa Fever and other Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers covering the North-East with referrals from the North-West;

Informed that since the designation of ATBUTH as a centre to manage Lassa Fever Patients, special building/structure has not been erected to care for patients, no diagnostic machines/equipment procured and no adequate safety materials provided for medical personnel in the centre;

Aware that the contagious nature of Lassa fever and other viral hemorrhagic fevers make it imperative for extreme caution to be exercised in handling infected persons and to ensure the centre is in an isolated part of the hospital;

Concerned that despite support from a French NGO, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) also known as "Doctors Without Borders" who have built tents and camps within the hospital to help in isolating and treating cases of Lassa fever, there is no sufficient funding for equipping the centre from the Government;

Worried that due to inadequate facilities at the ATBUTH Center, about ten (10) Doctors were confirmed infected with Lassa fever within five days, two died while many are undergoing screening;

Also aware that with the recent outbreak of Lassa Fever, the lives of Doctors, other medical personnel and family members are at high risk due to inadequate safety kits and safe environment for handling patients at the ATBUTH Lassa Center;

Cognizant of the urgent need to equip and upgrade the ATBUTH Lassa Fever Center with purpose-built structures, adequate safety kits and appropriate facilities to manage the Center;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Federal Ministry of Health to immediately equip the ATBUTH Lassa Fever Center with purpose-built structures and adequate facilities to enable the safe management of the Center;
- (ii) invite the Chief Medical Director of the ATBUTH to interface with the Committees on Healthcare Services and Health Institutions to urgently facilitate equipping the Lassa Fever Center in the hospital;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, Health Institutions and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance.

7. Need to Address the Incessant Accidents and the Unnecessary Gridlock on the Lagos–Ibadan Expressway:

Hon. Jimoh Abdulraheem Olajide:

The House:

Notes that the 128-kilometre Lagos–Ibadan Expressway connect Ibadan, the capital of Oyo State and Lagos State, the commercial nerve centre of Nigeria and is a major route to the Northern, Southern and Eastern parts of Nigeria;

Also notes that the rate at which accidents occur on the Lagos–Ibadan Expressway recently is not only alarming, but calls for serious and urgent action;

Aware that apart from being the oldest inter–state route commissioned in August 1978, the Lagos–Ibadan Expressway is also the busiest road in the country with more than 250,000 Passenger Car Unit (PCUs) daily and one of the largest road networks in Africa;

Also aware that on Sunday 21 June, 2020, there was a multiple fire explosion along the Lagos–Ibadan Expressway as a result of the collision of three tankers laden with fuel at Kara bridge on the Expressway, the unavoidably situation made the motorists and passengers to be stranded for hours;

Again aware that another fatal accident occurred on Monday 22 June, 2020 which claimed the lives of two persons and eleven others sustained serious injuries, involving four vehicles at Isara Bridge;

Disturbed that the same Lagos–Ibadan Expressway recently recorded another fatal accident on Friday, 17 July, 2020 involving two fuel tankers which automatically slowed down vehicular movement and caused serious gridlock along the Expressway;

Cognizant that in June 2020, the outbound lane of the Kara Bridge was closed to traffic in order to enable the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing carry out an integrity test on the bridge after another accident involving some trucks was recorded;

Concerned that due to its dilapidated condition, the reconstruction of the Lagos–Ibadan expressway was flagged off in July 2013 by former President Goodluck Jonathan to help reduce the travel time of hundreds of thousands of commuters and international air passengers;

Acknowledges the high hopes and relief when President Muhammadu Buhari awarded a new contract for construction of the road to Julius Berger Plc and RCC in 2016 with a time frame of three years (2019) initially given for completion of the road;

Recalls that as at January, 2020, the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing indicated that almost 20 kilometres have been completed out of about 43 kilometres on section one which spans from Ojota in Lagos State to the Sagamu Interchange in Ogun State, representing 42 per cent completion. While 45 kilometres have been completed out of 84 kilometres on the section two of the project which spans from Sagamu Interchange to Ojo in Ibadan, Oyo state's capital, representing 45 per cent completion;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Federal Roads Safety Corps (FRSC) to organize a joint stakeholders meeting on this menace to highlight the causes of the frequent accidents on the Lagos–Ibadan expressway and the unnecessary gridlock on the road with a view to finding lasting solutions to it;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Works and the Federal Roads Safety Corps (FRSC) to invite the Minister of Works and Housing, the Corps Marshal of the FRSC to discuss on the current efforts they are making to address the issue of frequent accidents and the unnecessary gridlock on the Lagos–Ibadan Expressway.

8. Need to Upgrade Ogbunike Cave in Oyi Local Government Area of Anambra State to International Standards:

Hon. Vincent Ofumelu:

The House:

Notes that the Ogbunike Cave discovered by Ukwa over 4000 years ago, is a major tourist attraction in the South Eastern part of Nigeria, and records an annual patronage of over 2 million Tourists from within and outside the country to behold the wonders of nature;

Also notes that the main cave is made of a massive structure with a big open chamber linked by small tunnels and passages taking their name from Ogbunike, a town in Oyi Local Government of Anambra State;

Again notes that beyond serving as a Tourist Centre, it also serves as a place of refuge and worship especially for the indigenes of the community who believes it was created by a deity who lives in the cave;

Aware that in 2007 the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) included Ogbunike Cave to their tentative list to be considered as a World Heritage Site after it was submitted by the Nigerian Commission for Museums and Monuments;

Also aware that the Anambra State Government has contributed immensely to the preservation and upgrading of the site with lots work left to be done;

Worried that the Country suffers huge revenue loss as a result of neglect of majority of its tourist potentials like the Ogbunike Cave, that most Countries are trying to diversify their economy to cushion the effect of the COVID–19 Pandemic;

Believes that urgent intervention of the Federal Government through the appropriate agencies is required to preserve, maintain and upgrade all Tourist Sites in Nigeria to a World Heritage Site;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC), National Commission for Museums and Monuments to immediately carry out a feasibility study on the cave and mobilize materials and resources needed to upgrade the cave to International Standard;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Culture and Tourism and, Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance.

**9. Call on the Federal Government to Re–Visit the Ban on Employment in Federal Universities:
Hon. Oluga Taiwo.**

The House:

Notes that in the 2020 Appropriation Bill, the Federal Government proposed a national budget of N10.59 Trillion but due to the fall in crude oil prices and COVID–19 Global Pandemic, the Government was forced to trim down the Budget to about ₦9 Trillion, shift the benchmark Oil Price from \$57 US Dollar per barrel to \$28 Dollar per Barrel and ban recruitments into Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs);

Also notes that a recent oversight of Federal Universities in Nigeria revealed that the institutions have an avalanche of internal vacancies for both academic and non–academic positions, but because of the ban on recruitment, the positions cannot be filled, thus hampering smooth academic programmes in the Universities;

Cognizant that the amount Appropriated in the 2020 national Budget for Personnel Expenditure in the Universities can accommodate the internal vacancies, hence the Universities should be allowed to fill the vacancies, especially where the amounts appropriated for Capital Expenditure can offset the attendant personnel costs;

Resolves:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government to lift the ban on recruitment into Federal Universities in order to fill the existing vacancies so as not to hamper the smooth running of the Academic Institutions;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services to ascertain the number of internal vacancies in all Federal Government Universities with a view to monitoring their replacements in order to curb inefficiency and waste.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

S/N	Committee	Date	Time	Venue
1.	Rules and Business	Monday, 8 February, 2021	3.00 p.m.	Committee Room 06 (White House) Assembly Complex

2. Public Petitions (*Investigative Hearing*) Monday, 8 February, 2021 3.00 p.m. Committee Room 429
(New Building)
Assembly Complex