



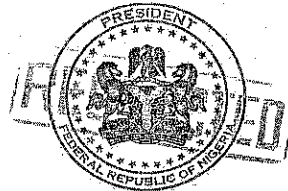
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

Wednesday, 10 February, 2021

1. The House met at 12.42 p.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, 9 February, 2021.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Oaths of Allegiance and Membership**
A Member-elect, Shehu Saleh Rijau (*Magama/Rijau Federal Constituency*) took and subscribed the Oaths of Allegiance and Membership as prescribed by law.
5. **Message from Mr President**
Mr Speaker read a message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

27th January, 2021

*Rt Hon. Femi Gbajabamila
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Dear Rt Hon. F. Gbajabiamila,

**APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF AND SERVICE CHIEFS
FOR THE ARMED FORCES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

In compliance with the provisions of Section 18 (1) of the Armed Forces Act, Cap. A20, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, I hereby forward for confirmation by the House of Representatives, the appointment of the under-listed officers as Chief of Defence Staff and Service Chiefs of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

S/No.	Name	Position
1.	Maj. Gen. Lucky Eluonye Onyenuchea Irabor	Chief of Defence Staff
2.	Maj. Gen. Ibrahim Attahiru	Chief of Army Staff
3.	Rear Admiral Awwal Zubairu Gambo	Chief of Naval Staff
4.	Air Vice Marshal Isiaka O. Amao	Chief of Air Staff

I hope that the Honourable House will consider and confirm the nominees in the usual expeditious manner.

Please accept, Right Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Muhammadu Buhari

6. Address by Mr Speaker

Mr Speaker read the following address:

Protocols:

1. *Good morning honourable colleagues. I welcome you all to the House of Representatives, and I thank all of you for being here this morning to do the people's business.*
2. *We have reconvened this year in the shadow of a great loss, the untimely death of our colleague, Hon. Ossy Chinedu Prestige who until his demise was the member representing Aba Federal Constituency. I pray that his soul finds eternal rest and that his family receives the comfort and grace of God through this trying time. As we mourn the passing of our dear colleague, let us pledge ourselves once more to continue in this 9th Assembly to serve the people of Nigeria to the glory of God and in the memory of all our fallen brethren.*
3. *In a few months, we will mark the halfway point of our tenure in the 9th House of Representatives. We still have a lot of work to do. We have obligations to the people who elected us to serve them. And the fraught circumstances of the previous year will not suffice to spare us the harsh judgment of history if we fail to meet the commitments we have made to God and country.*
4. *The promises we have made and the fierce urgency of this moment compel us to do more, do better, and do so with haste that reflects our understanding of the challenges and promise of this moment in history and our determination to succeed against all odds. We are called to take legislative action to unleash the spirit of invention and our people's untiring industry. We have to do this for this generation to thrive here at home as they have done everywhere else in the world where they have access to the resources and infrastructure they need to succeed.*

5. *Honourable colleagues, we begin this new year with a renewed commitment to legislative action that drives the course of progress and brings us closer to achieving the highest aspirations we hold for our nation. We begin with renewed determination to achieve better oversight of government spending priorities through a collaborative effort with the Executive Arm of Government and with civil society. And we remain dedicated to the lofty, yet clear ambitions we articulated in our Legislative Agenda when we resumed in the 9th Assembly.*
6. *Despite the unfortunate and unforeseeable difficulties we faced last year, we managed to put points on the board. We passed meaningful and potentially transformative legislation including the Nigerian Police Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, the Electric Power Sector Reform Act (Amendment) Bill, Physically Challenged (Empowerment) Bill, Deep Offshore and Inland Basin Production Sharing Contracts Act (Amendment) Bill, and the Companies and Allied Matters Act.*
7. *We also considered and passed the National Health Insurance Scheme Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, National Transport Commission Bill, and the Public Procurement Act, No. 14 of 2007 (Amendment) Bill. Some of those Bills have been passed in the Senate and signed into law by President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR. We will work with the Senate to achieve expeditious concurrence and passage into law on other outstanding priority Bills.*
8. *In the 2021 legislative year, we will focus the attention of the House of Representatives on Bills and motions that improve ease of doing business and unlock economic potential by stripping away restrictive regulation and ending predatory regulatory practices that deprive our young people the opportunity to conquer new frontiers. In this age of technology and innovation, of daring and enterprise, we cannot risk implementing policies that handicap our ability as a nation to participate in new markets and profit from emerging industries.*
9. *Honourable colleagues, the true test of government is in our ability to protect the most vulnerable amongst us. We cannot separate the goal of economic prosperity from the ambition to ensure that all our people live in a just society free from abuse of power and protected by a justice system built on fairness and the rule of law. Therefore, we will shortly begin considering Bills to amend the Administration of Criminal Justice Act. We will follow up with a long-overdue review of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act and other legislation that seek to deliver a justice system that works for all.*
10. *"The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government". With these words, the constitution obligates all of us who swear to serve in government to do everything to protect the lives and property of all citizens and promote their well-being above all else. This obligation is central to the governing contract between the government and the citizenry. Every time a citizen going about his business is killed or kidnapped, loses his property or livelihood, we have failed in our obligation. From the abundance of these failures has emerged a culture of self-help in matters of internal security that portends grave danger for our nation's continued existence.*
11. *If ever there was a time for us to put aside all other considerations, especially the petty concerns of partisanship and politics, it is now. If ever there was a time to set aside our differences of tribe and religion to focus on a concerted effort to defeat the challenges of insurgency and banditry, communal violence, and the violent struggle over land, that time is now. The forces that threaten our lives and property, our sovereignty and nationhood, do not make any exceptions based on the God we pray to or the language of our native tongue. From every region and State, citizens of every tribe and religion have suffered and will continue to suffer the pain of death and the grief of loss until we put an end once and for all to the terrors of banditry, insurgency and malignant crime in all forms.*
12. *Here in the National Assembly, we do not command any armies or control the police. Command and control of our nation's security infrastructure is an exclusively executive responsibility. Yet it is to us that our constituents look to when the forces of darkness descend to disrupt their lives, often irreparably. We have to reconcile the obligations we owe to our people with the constitution.*

limitations under which we operate. But we will not shrink from our role as advocates for the forgotten voices, and we will continue to exercise the appropriation and oversight authority vested in us to hold to account those who bear direct responsibility for the protection of all our nation's people:

13. Last year we initiated legislative action in the House of Representatives, to build a more effective framework for policing accountability. That process is ongoing, with the Police Service Commission Reform Bill currently making its way through the legislative process. We will ensure that a Bill shortly emerges from the House of Representatives, without compromising any of the objectives that necessitated our intervention in the first instance.

14. At this time, I will crave the House's indulgence to raise a matter of urgent importance. It has become more difficult with each appropriation cycle for the government to meet its obligations. The exploding recurrent cost of governance demands that we be more circumspect in the priorities we pursue, particularly regarding **Establishment Bills** in the National Assembly. At a time of reduced revenue, with pre-existing and worsening infrastructure deficits requiring significant investments, we cannot afford to keep establishing more institutions that impose a permanent liability on government income. I am not unmindful of the realities that often necessitate such legislation, yet we cannot ignore the facts that lie before us. Let us work together to reform and strengthen the institutions already in existence, and remove those no longer fit for purpose. I believe most sincerely that this is the pathway to a legacy that we can all be proud of.

15. My honourable colleagues, I look forward to a successful year of measurable achievement, in the joint task of nation-building. And I thank you all most sincerely for your presence here this morning. Welcome back to the House of Representatives for a new legislative year. God bless you all, and God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

7. Announcement

(a) Bereavement:

Mr Speaker read the following communications from:

- (i) Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado (*Dogwuwa/Tudun Wada Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of a former Member, Hon. Danlami Hamza (*Fagge Federal Constituency, 1999 – 2003*);
- (ii) Hon. Muraina Saubana Ajibola (*Ibarapa Central/Ibarapa North Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of a former Member, Hon. Mathew Folorunso Adeegbe (*Ibarapa Central/Ibarapa North Federal Constituency, 1956 – 1960*) on Tuesday, 5 January, 2021;
- (iii) Hon. Olarewaju Ibrahim Kunle (*Ido Osi/Moba/Ilejemeje Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of a former Member, Hon. Robinson Ajiboye (*Ido Osi/Moba/Ilejemeje Federal Constituency, 2011 – 2015*) on Friday, 22 January, 2021;
- (iv) Hon. Nwuzi Ephraim (*Etche/Omuma Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of a former Member, Hon. Jerome Eke (*Etche/Omuma Federal Constituency, 2015 – 2019*), and his wife, Mrs Joan Jerome Eke on Tuesday, 5, and Friday, 15 January, 2021 respectively.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(b) *Discharge of Committees of Referrals:*

Mr Speaker read a communication from Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business, Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata, informing the House that Standing and *Ad-hoc* Committee(s) that have not submitted their reports on Bills referred to them are now given additional fourteen (14) days, failing which the Committee(s) will be discharged of such referrals.

(c) *Ad-hoc* Committee on the Screening of Chief of Defence Staff and Service Chiefs for the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

(1)	Hon. Babajimi Adegoke Benson	—	<i>Chairman</i>
(2)	Hon. Mohammed Shehu Koko	—	<i>Member</i>
(3)	Hon. Namdas Abdulrazak Sa'ad	—	<i>Member</i>
(4)	Hon. Yusuf Adamu Gagdi	—	<i>Member</i>
(5)	Hon. Abubakar Makki Yalleman	—	<i>Member</i>
(6)	Hon. Abass Adekunle Adigun	—	<i>Member</i>
(7)	Hon. Tajudeen Adefisoye Adeyemi	—	<i>Member</i>
(8)	Hon. Ajao Adejumo	—	<i>Member</i>
(9)	Hon. Agbo Francis Ottah	—	<i>Member</i>
(10)	Hon. Dike Chisom Promise	—	<i>Member</i>
(11)	Hon. Egberongbe Mufutau Adewale	—	<i>Member</i>
(12)	Hon. Jaafar Ribadu	—	<i>Member</i>
(13)	Hon. Ahmed Satomi	—	<i>Member</i>
(14)	Hon. Nasiru Abduwa Gabasawa	—	<i>Member</i>
(15)	Hon. Oke George Martins	—	<i>Member</i>
(16)	Hon. Adebajo Olufemi Bamidele	—	<i>Member</i>
(17)	Hon. Olawuyi Abdulraheem Olatunji	—	<i>Member</i>
(18)	Hon. Olarewaju Ibrahim Kunle	—	<i>Member</i>
(19)	Hon. Aminu Ashiru Mani	—	<i>Member</i>
(20)	Hon. Jaha Ahmadu Usman	—	<i>Member</i>
(21)	Hon. Abdulsalam Gambo Mubarak	—	<i>Member</i>
(22)	Hon. Onwuaso Chinedu Samuel	—	<i>Member</i>

8. *Executive Session*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do resolve into a Closed Session" (Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader)

Closed Session — 1.04 p.m.

Open Session — 1.28 p.m.

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

(i) *Need to Investigate the Procurement Deception, Staff Victimization and the Ongoing Management Problem in Projects Development Institute (PRODA), Enugu, Under the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology:*

Hon. Henry Nwawuba (*Mbaitoli/Ikeduru 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 Procurement Deception, Staff Victimization and the Ongoing Management Problem in Projects Development Institute (PRODA), Enugu, under the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology:

The House:

Notes that the Projects Development Institute (PRODA), Enugu, is a research and development agency under the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology with the mission 'to facilitate the development and deployment of science and technology apparatus to enhance the pace of socioeconomic development of the country, through appropriate technological inputs';

Also notes that the Institute has over the years maintained a good record of Project and programme delivery, especially with regard to its core mandates, working harmoniously with the supervising Ministry, the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology;

Aware that the Federal Government through the Honourable Minister, Science and Technology in a letter dated 17 November, 2020, Ref No. FMST/PARA/110/S.1/111/T suspended the Director-General/CEO, Comr Onjeh Daniel, who doubles as the Secretary of the Board and the Chairman, PRODA Governing Board;

Also aware that some serious management problems have emerged consequent upon the suspension which has further degenerated to deception and fraud in the 2020 Procurement Process, indiscriminate suspension and unprofessional victimization of officers;

Further aware that in flagrant abuse of the Procurement Act, 2007, the new PRODA Management, within two (2) months, went into contract cancellation and re-award of same without the approval of the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) in contradiction of an already concluded 2020 procurement process where various contractors had executed their contracts, and are yet to be paid due to the same unresolved management processes;

Worried that the contractors who are citizens of this nation, and who may have borrowed money to execute the jobs could be subject to financial pressures and untold hardship if PRODA continues to withhold their payments;

Also worried that if an urgent action is not taken to resolve the issues in PRODA, Enugu, it may degenerate into a breakdown of law and order;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Projects Development Institute (PRODA), Enugu, to stop all further procurement activities on the 2020 budget and pay contractors/suppliers and consultants who have executed contracts allocated to them without further delay; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Public Procurement to investigate these serious allegations by inviting the Minister of Science and Technology, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, the Director-General, BPP and PRODA Management to appear before it and report back within seven (7) days (*Hon. Henry Nwawuba — Mbaitoli/Ikeduru Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Projects Development Institute (PRODA), Enugu, is a research and development agency under the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology with the mission 'to facilitate the development and deployment of science and technology apparatus to enhance the pace of socioeconomic development of the country, through appropriate technological inputs';

Also noted that the Institute has over the years maintained a good record of Project and programme delivery, especially with regard to its core mandates, working harmoniously with the supervising Ministry, the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology;

Aware that the Federal Government through the Honourable Minister, Science and Technology in a letter dated 17 November, 2020, Ref No. FMST/PARA/110/S.1/111/T suspended the Director-General/CEO, Comr Onjeh Daniel, who doubles as the Secretary of the Board and the Chairman, PRODA Governing Board;

Also aware that some serious management problems have emerged consequent upon the suspension which has further degenerated to deception and fraud in the 2020 Procurement Process, indiscriminate suspension and unprofessional victimization of officers;

Further aware that in flagrant abuse of the Procurement Act, 2007, the new PRODA Management, within two (2) months, went into contract cancellation and re-award of same without the approval of the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) in contradiction of an already concluded 2020 procurement process where various contractors had executed their contracts, and are yet to be paid due to the same unresolved management processes;

Worried that the contractors who are citizens of this nation, and who may have borrowed money to execute the jobs could be subject to financial pressures and untold hardship if PRODA continues to withhold their payments;

Also worried that if an urgent action is not taken to resolve the issues in PRODA, Enugu, it may degenerate into a breakdown of law and order;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Projects Development Institute (PRODA), Enugu, to stop all further procurement activities on the 2020 budget and pay contractors/suppliers and consultants who have executed contracts allocated to them without further delay; and
 - (ii) mandate the Committee on Public Procurement to investigate these serious allegations by inviting the Minister of Science and Technology, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, the Director-General, BPP and PRODA Management to appear before it and report back within seven (7) days (HR. 01/02/2021).
- (ii) ***Need for the Constitution Review Committee to Obtain the 2014 National Conference Report and the All Progressives Congress Committee Report on True Federalism:***
Hon. Toby Okechukwu (Aninri/Awgu/Oji-River 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.

Also noted that prior to and post privatization of some public enterprises, the Federal Government still own shares in some of the enterprises and are therefore entitled to dividends;

Aware that some of the assets, cash and residual shares in privatized public enterprises are still unaccounted for, while some of the privatized companies like, NICON Insurance, Nigerian Re-Insurance and NICON Luxury Hotel have already been taken over by the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) over acquisition loans;

Concerned that the Federal Government may not be able to recover those monies, dividends and assets except if they are properly determined;

Also aware that the Federal Government needs money to finance the budget;

Resolved to:

Constitute an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate and determine those assets and report back within eight (8) weeks (HR. 02/02/2021).

10. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Administration of Criminal Justice Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1186).
- (2) Armed Forces Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1187).
- (3) Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1188).
- (4) Savings Bond and Certificates Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1191).
- (5) University Teaching Hospitals (Reconstitution of Board, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1192).
- (6) Chartered Institute of Administration Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1193).
- (7) Federal College of Education (Technical), Numa (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1196).
- (8) Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1197).
- (9) Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1198).
- (10) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1201).
- (11) Rice Import (Prohibition) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1202).
- (12) Religious Discrimination (Prohibition) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1203).
- (13) Fire Arms Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1204).
- (14) Federal College of Agriculture, Affa (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1205).
- (15) Federal College of Agriculture, Bukkuyum (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1206).
- (16) Federal Teaching Hospital, Ajaokuta (Establishment) Bill 2021 (HB. 1207).

II. Presentation of Reports**(i) Committee on Healthcare Services:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "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)" (*Hon. Babatunde Samuel Adejare — Agege Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) Committee on Healthcare Services:

Motion made and Question proposed, "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)" (*Hon. Babatunde Samuel Adejare — Agege Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iii) Committee on Healthcare Services:

Motion made and Question proposed, "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)" (*Hon. Babatunde Samuel Adejare — Agege Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iv) Committee on Public Petitions:**Report on the Petition by CPL Umeh and Two others:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by CPL Umeh and two others against the Nigeria Army and the Chief of Army Staff Requesting for the reinstatement of dismissed Soldiers from Operation Zaman Lafia Dole (188 Taskforce Battalion) Maiduguri" (*Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso — Orlu/Orsu/Oru East Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(v) Committee on Public Petitions:**Report on the Petition by Abdullahi Dahiru, Santino and Co. on behalf of its Client Bashir Albasu against the Institute of Journalism, Abuja:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Abdullahi Dahiru, Santino and Co. on behalf of its Client Bashir Albasu against the Institute of Journalism, Abuja over rent Indebtedness and breach of Tenancy Agreement" (*Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso — Orlu/Orsu/Oru East Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(vi) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

Report on the Petition by Olubunu (His Royal Highness Oba J.A Ikusemoro):

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Olubunu (His Royal Highness Oba J.A Ikusemoro) against the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) on the conspiracy in the death/killing of their son, Prince Kokumo Philip Ikusemoro on the line of duty at the NDLEA Sokoto Command: Call for inquest" (Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso — Orlu/Orsu/Oru East Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

12. **Orders of the Day**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do set down items 2 - 13, 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.

13. **Adjournment**

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 16 February, 2021 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.25 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila
Speaker