



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 16 March, 2021

1. The House met at 11.5 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 Wednesday, 10 March, 2021.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Petition**
A petition from Sola Akinsiku and 1 other, on behalf of Outdoor Advertising Association of Nigeria (OAAN), on alleged excessive regulations and taxation by the Department of Outdoor Advertisement and Signage (DOAS), Federal Capital Territory Administration, was presented and laid by Hon. Aniekan John Umanah (*Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency*).

Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**
 - (i) **Impasse Regarding ₦42 Billion Debt Between Telecommunication Operators, Banks and Other Financial Institutions:**
Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai (*Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani 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.

Impasse Regarding N42 Billion Debt Between Telecommunication Operators, Banks and Other Financial Institutions:

The House:

Notes that in a bid to realize one of its statutory mandate of promoting monetary stability and sound financial system in Nigeria, the Central Bank of Nigeria designed a Cashless Policy that will provide innovations, easy mobile payment, cost reduction and convenient financial services for millions of Nigerians living in both urban and rural areas;

Also notes that one of the innovations introduced is the Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) services which is used by Global System for Mobile Communication Technology to communicate with their service providers' computers via text messages to check account balance or mobile airtime, generate bank statement or do fund transfer and data balance enquiries or to receive one-time passwords or pin codes;

Further notes that the USSD service, which is controlled by Mobile Network Operators, is a critical piece of infrastructure used to provide mobile financial services to banks and other financial institutions in cell phones at very low cost, without requiring access to the user's SIM card;

Aware that the USSD infrastructure service houses all the telecommunications service providers in Nigeria, such as MTN, Glo, Airtel and 9Mobile and many other internet service provider;

Observes that the USSD makes it possible for millions of Nigerians who do not have smartphones or data/internet connections to access banking and other financial services on a daily basis, especially during COVID-19 movement restrictions;

Informed that between January to June 2020, the value of USSD transfer payments in Nigeria amounted to over N390 billion (about One Billion US Dollars);

Also informed that since October 2019, there has been a dispute between Nigerian Telecommunications Operators and Nigerian Banks over who should pay for USSD service sessions, as the banks want the Telecommunications Operators to charge customers directly, but the latter insist that the services are being offered to the banks and as such, the banks should pay the Telecommunications Operators;

Also aware that between July and August 2020, the Operators had an agreement with the Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy and the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) that the banks should pay the Telecommunications Operators for the use of USSD at an agreed individual price mechanism;

Concerned that the dispute has lingered for a long time to the extent that parties have been finger-pointing each other and all efforts to resolve the dispute have proved abortive as the debt kept increasing to its present N42 billion level;

Further informed that Telecommunications Operators have issued a notice threatening to suspend the USSD service from the banks with effect from Monday, 15 March, 2021;

Also concerned that if the USSD services are withdrawn, telecommunications users will fall back and continue with their old traditional modes and channels, such as Mobile bank apps, internet banking, ATM and PoS that make banking services uninteresting and inconveniencing, and with high cost of financial transactions, which will further put the health of citizens in danger as a result of crowding together;

Further concerned that the USSD services, made it the easiest route for non-telecommunication providers to deploy services to the poor people in Nigeria;

Acknowledges that the convenience the USSD brought into Nigeria's financial business transactions made its adoption and acceptability to grow at a very tremendous rate;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Telecommunications Operators to halt the planned suspension of USSD services to the Nigerian and other Financial Institutions;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Telecommunications to liaise with Telecommunications Operators, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and Nigerian Banks and other Financial Institutions with a view to resolving the impasse and report back within six (6) weeks (*Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai — Ndokwa/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that in a bid to realize one of its statutory mandate of promoting monetary stability and sound financial system in Nigeria, the Central Bank of Nigeria designed a Cashless Policy that will provide innovations, easy mobile payment, cost reduction and convenient financial services for millions of Nigerians living in both urban and rural areas;

Also noted that one of the innovations introduced is the Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) services which is used by Global System for Mobile Communication Technology to communicate with their service providers' computers via text messages to check account balance or mobile airtime, generate bank statement or do fund transfer and data balance enquiries or to receive one-time passwords or pin codes;

Further noted that the USSD service, which is controlled by Mobile Network Operators, is a critical piece of infrastructure used to provide mobile financial services to banks and other financial institutions in cell phones at very low cost, without requiring access to the user's SIM card;

Aware that the USSD infrastructure service houses all the telecommunications service providers in Nigeria, such as MTN, Glo, Airtel and 9Mobile and many other internet service provider;

Observed that the USSD makes it possible for millions of Nigerians who do not have smartphones or data/internet connections to access banking and other financial services on a daily basis; especially during COVID-19 movement restrictions;

Informed that between January to June 2020, the value of USSD transfer payments in Nigeria amounted to over ₦390 billion (about One Billion US Dollars);

Also informed that since October 2019, there has been a dispute between Nigerian Telecommunications Operators and Nigerian Banks over who should pay for USSD service sessions, as the banks want the Telecommunications Operators to charge customers directly, but the latter insist that the services are being offered to the banks and as such, the banks should pay the Telecommunications Operators;

Also aware that between July and August 2020, the Operators had an agreement with the Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy and the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) that the banks should pay the Telecommunications Operators for the use of USSD at an agreed individual price mechanism;

Concerned that the dispute has lingered for a long time to the extent that parties have been finger-pointing each other and all efforts to resolve the dispute have proved abortive as the debt kept increasing to its present ₦42 billion level;

Further informed that Telecommunications Operators have issued a notice threatening to suspend the USSD service from the banks with effect from Monday, 15 March, 2021;

Also concerned that if the USSD services are withdrawn, telecommunications users will fall back and continue with their old traditional modes and channels, such as Mobile bank apps, internet banking, ATM and PoS that make banking services uninteresting and inconveniencing, and with high cost of financial transactions, which will further put the health of citizens in danger as a result of crowding together;

Further concerned that the USSD services, made it the easiest route for non-telecommunication providers to deploy services to the poor people in Nigeria;

Acknowledged that the convenience the USSD brought into Nigeria's financial business transactions made its adoption and acceptability to grow at a very tremendous rate;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Telecommunications Operators to halt the planned suspension of USSD services to the Nigerian and other Financial Institutions;
 - (ii) mandate the Committee on Telecommunications to liaise with Telecommunications Operators, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and Nigerian Banks and other Financial Institutions with a view to resolving the impasse and report back within six (6) weeks (HR. 41/03/2021).
- (ii) ***Recurring Blockade of Highways by Articulated Trucks in Nigeria:***
Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku (*Dukku/Nafada 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.

Recurring Blockade of Highways by Articulated Trucks in Nigeria:

The House:

Notes that on Monday, 15 March, 2021, Articulated Trucks blocked the ever-busy Abuja-Kaduna highway at Jere town thereby preventing travellers from using the road;

Also notes that the blockade happened as a result of a misunderstanding between a truck driver and some military men on patrol around the area at about 11.00 p.m. causing the military men to shoot at the tyre of the truck;

Aware that blocking major highways by Articulated Trucks at the slightest provocation or disagreement has become a recurring incident over the years despite the adverse consequences on the travellers;

Disturbed that the problem of road traffic blockade in this country has become a major threat to road transportation sector, as the most used means of transportation in Nigeria;

Also disturbed that such blockade may result in accidents, health hazards and loss of lives or properties;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Federal Road Safety Commission to investigate all cases of road blockade by articulated trucks in Nigeria, make appropriate recommendations and report back within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku —Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on Monday, 15 March, 2021, Articulated Trucks blocked the ever-busy Abuja-Kaduna highway at Jere town thereby preventing travellers from using the road;

Also noted that the blockade happened as a result of a misunderstanding between a truck driver and some military men on patrol around the area at about 11.00 p.m. causing the military men to shoot at the tyre of the truck;

Aware that blocking major highways by Articulated Trucks at the slightest provocation or disagreement has become a recurring incident over the years despite the adverse consequences on the travellers;

Disturbed that the problem of road traffic blockade in this country has become a major threat to road transportation sector, as the most used means of transportation in Nigeria;

Also disturbed that such blockade may result in accidents, health hazards and loss of lives or properties;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Federal Road Safety Commission to investigate all cases of road blockade by Articulated Trucks in Nigeria, make appropriate recommendations and report back within four (4) weeks (**HR. 43/03/2021**).

6. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Nigerian Maritime Security Trust Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1243).
- (2) Public Private Partnership Bill, 2021 (HB. 1244).

- (3) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1245).
- (4) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1246).
- (5) Federal Medical Centre, Kwoi, Kaduna State (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1248).
- (6) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1247).
- (7) Federal University of Agriculture, Samaru Kataf, Kaduna State (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1249).
- (8) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1250).
- (9) Bitumen Development Commission of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1254).

7. Presentation of Reports:

(i) **Committees on Basic Education and Services, and Healthcare Services:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committees on Basic Education and Services, and Healthcare Services on the Need to Introduce Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) as a Subject in Primary and Secondary Schools Curriculum and Provide them with Basic First Aid and Skills (HR. 67/02/2020)" (Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East West Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) **Committee on Public Procurement:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Procurement on Need to Investigate the Procurement Deception, Staff Victimization and the Ongoing Management problem in the Project Development Institute (PRODA) Enugu under the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology (HR.01/0/2021)" (Hon. Nasiru Ali Ahmed — Nasarawa Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iii) **Committee on House Services:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on House Services on the Need to Investigate the Irregularities in the Payment of Salaries and Allowances of Legislative Aides in the 9th Assembly (HR. 116/3/2020)" (Hon. Tasir Olawale Raji — Epe Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

8. Consolidation of Bills

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Fiscal Responsibility Act, Cap. F40, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make it mandatory for States to Democratically Elect Local Government Councils before such States can access Funds from the Capital Market and make Provisions for Punishment of Offences in the Bill; and for Related Matters (HB. 63); a Bill for an Act to Amend the Fiscal Responsibility Act, Cap. F40; Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to ensure Transparency, Due Process and Accountability in the Administration of Public Funds; and

for Related Matters (HB. 331), a Bill for an Act to Amend the Fiscal Responsibility Act, Cap. F40, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Related Matters (HB.442), a Bill for an Act to Amend the Fiscal Responsibility Act, Cap. F40, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Empower the Commission to stem the huge Cost Associated with Budget delay in Nigeria through efficient Budget Cycle Management and Automation of Budget formulation process at the Federal Level; and for Related Matters (HB.506), and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Fiscal Responsibility Act, Cap. F40, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make Mandatory Public Consultations during preparations of the Medium Term Expenditure framework, Conduct of Annual Budget Defence and Hearings to ensure Participatory and Inclusive Budget Process in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 773) be now consolidated" (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigeria Police Academy as a Degree Awarding Institution to Provide Academic and Professional Training; and for Related Matters (HB. 90, HB. 195, HB. 684 and HB. 1209) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigeria Police Academy as a Degree Awarding Institution to Provide Academic and Professional Training; and for Related Matters (HB. 90, HB. 195, HB. 684 and HB. 1209) be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader and 3 others*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee of the Whole.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Lunacy Act, Cap. L524, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Establish a Mental Health Department to Promote and Protect the Rights of Persons with Intellectual, Psycho-social or Cognitive Disabilities, and to Provide for Enhancement and Regulation of Mental Health Services in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 1208) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Lunacy Act, Cap. L524, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Establish a Mental Health Department to Promote and Protect the Rights of Persons with Intellectual, Psycho-social or Cognitive Disabilities, and to Provide for Enhancement and Regulation of Mental Health Services in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 1208) be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee of the Whole.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to Grant the two Chambers of the National Assembly and States Houses of Assembly Powers to summon the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Governors of States to answer questions on issues of National Security or any Matter whatsoever, over which the National Assembly and States Houses of Assembly have powers to make laws; and for Related Matters (HB. 1216) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal

Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to Grant the two Chambers of the National Assembly and States Houses of Assembly Powers to summon the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Governors of States to answer questions on issues of National Security or any Matter whatsoever, over which the National Assembly and States Houses of Assembly have powers to make laws; and for Related Matters (HB. 1216) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Sergius Ogun Oseasochie — Esan North East/South East Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Special Ad-hoc Committee on Constitution Review.

12. Need for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to Restore the Suppressed Ndokwa/Ukwuani Federal Constituency of Delta State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Nigeria had its last delineation exercise into Senatorial Districts and Federal Constituencies in 1996;

Also notes that Section 73 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that the Independent National Electoral Commission shall review the division of States and the Federation into Senatorial Districts and Federal Constituencies at intervals of not less than ten years, and may alter the Districts or Constituencies under the provisions of this Section to such extent as it may consider desirable in the light of the review;

Further notes that the main purpose of periodic review of the States and the Federal Constituencies is to alter, restore and make restitution of suppressed Constituencies to bring the Government closer the people through fair and equitable legislative representation;

Informed that on the promulgation of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, rather than maintain the two existing Federal Constituencies in Ndokwa Ethnic Nationality, the then Military Government, by fiat, reverted the two Federal Constituencies in Ndokwa Ethnic Nationality and foisted on the Ndokwa people one Federal Constituency and reduced the House of Assembly Constituencies from four to three without adequate consultation;

Observes that the delineation carried out by the Military Government before the 4th Republic was good in some cases but were mere distortions that resulted in having some disproportionate Senatorial Districts and Federal Constituencies in present-day Nigeria;

Worried that the continued suppression and unjust marginalization of Ndokwa Ethnic Nationality has brought political and economic retardation on the people;

Recalls that Ndokwa Ethnic Nationality has the largest gas deposit in West Africa and plays host to about 15 Oil Exploration Companies in Nigeria, including the first Indigenous Independent Power Plant (IPP) that transmits over 485 megawatts of electricity into the national grid that powers the Aso Villa;

Concerned that the people of Ndokwa Ethnic Nationality being the second largest ethnic group in Delta State, are poised into ensuring that the existing anomaly of gross marginalization, injustice and continued suppression of the Federal Constituencies is re-addressed and corrected by the Independent National Electoral Commission;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to restore and make restitution on the suppressed Ndokwa/Ukwuani Federal Constituency of Delta State;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Electoral Matters to ensure compliance and report back within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.**Agreed to.*

The House:

Noted that Nigeria had its last delineation exercise into Senatorial Districts and Federal Constituencies in 1996;

Also noted that Section 73 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that the Independent National Electoral Commission shall review the division of States and the Federation into Senatorial Districts and Federal Constituencies at intervals of not less than ten years, and may alter the Districts or Constituencies under the provisions of this Section to such extent as it may consider desirable in the light of the review:

Further noted that the main purpose of periodic review of the States and the Federal Constituencies is to alter, restore and make restitution of suppressed Constituencies to bring the Government closer the people through fair and equitable legislative representation;

Informed that on the promulgation of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, rather than maintain the two existing Federal Constituencies in Ndokwa Ethnic Nationality, the then Military Government, by fiat, reverted the two Federal Constituencies in Ndokwa Ethnic Nationality and foisted on the Ndokwa people one Federal Constituency and reduced the House of Assembly Constituencies from four to three without adequate consultation;

Observed that the delineation carried out by the Military Government before the 4th Republic was good in some cases but were mere distortions that resulted in having some disproportionate Senatorial Districts and Federal Constituencies in present-day Nigeria;

Worried that the continued suppression and unjust marginalization of Ndokwa Ethnic Nationality has brought political and economic retardation on the people;

Recalled that Ndokwa Ethnic Nationality has the largest gas deposit in West Africa and plays host to about 15 Oil Exploration Companies in Nigeria, including the first Indigenous Independent Power Plant (IPP) that transmits over 485 megawatts of electricity into the national grid that powers the Aso Villa;

Concerned that the people of Ndokwa Ethnic Nationality being the second largest ethnic group in Delta State, are poised into ensuring that the existing anomaly of gross marginalization, injustice and continued suppression of the Federal Constituencies is re-addressed and corrected by the Independent National Electoral Commission;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to restore and make restitution on the suppressed Ndokwa/Ukwuani Federal Constituency of Delta State;

- (ii) mandate the Committee on Electoral Matters to ensure compliance and report back within four (4) weeks (HR. 44/03/2021).

13. Need to Provide Medical and Humanitarian Assistance to Victims of Motor Accidents at KwanarDumawa in Minjibir/Ungogo Federal Constituency, Kano State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that on 3 March, 2021 a motor accident involving a trailer truck, 18 seater bus and Golf occurred at KwanarDumawa in Minjibir Local Government Area where the trailer truck lost control and rams into two vehicles (a bus and golf) killing more than 12 passengers and 24 sustaining various degree of injuries and fractures;

Also notes that the accident also affected traders carrying out their businesses on the road side leaving 11 dead and many injured, increasing the death toll to 23;

Concerned that over 40 victims mostly rural dwellers are currently hospitalized in Dambatta and Minjibir General Hospitals while those with serious medical complications are admitted at Murtala Specialist and Aminu Kano Teaching Hospitals, Kano;

Cognizant that over 90% of the accident victims are from KwanarDumawa, Kunya, Minjibir, Gobirawa and Jirgabawa all in Minjibir/Ungogo Federal Constituency;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide medical assistance to the hospitalized victims to facilitate their recovery; and
- (ii) provide any other form of humanitarian assistance to the families of the deceased victims to ameliorate their grief (*Hon. Sani Ma'aruf Nass — Minjibir/Ungogo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 45/03/2021).

Motion referred to the Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

14. Need to Design Youth Data Bank in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the population distribution chart of Nigeria indicates that Youth made up of graduates, undergraduates, artisans, and other unemployed or unengaged are not accurately captured in a databank;

Also notes that the inadequacy of knowledge of the exact engagement status of the youth has hampered policy formulation and implementation in Nigeria;

Acknowledges the giant strides of the Federal Government through the various Social Investment Programmes like the N-power targeted at youth empowerment;

Convinced that robust and detailed Databank generated through the various Federal Constituencies and Senatorial Districts will effectively curb all systematic challenges, including corrupt practices associated with the old system of engagement without a documented statistics of the youth;

Cognizant that such Databank will specifically indicate the employment, skills, ability and disability status and other considerations in the engagement requirements of youth for effective policy formulation, implementation and other deliverables in Nigeria in confronting unemployment and absence of empowerment;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministries of Youth and Sports Development and, Labour and Employment to build effective synergy to generate a databank for youths to enhance their chances of obtaining empowerment and employment;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Youth Development to ensure implementation (*Hon. Uju Kingsley Chima — Ohaji/Egbema/Oguta/Oru West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the population distribution chart of Nigeria indicates that Youth made up of graduates, undergraduates, artisans, and other unemployed or unengaged are not accurately captured in a databank;

Also noted that the inadequacy of knowledge of the exact engagement status of the youth has hampered policy formulation and implementation in Nigeria;

Acknowledged the giant strides of the Federal Government through the various Social Investment Programmes like the N-power targeted at youth empowerment;

Convinced that robust and detailed Databank generated through the various Federal Constituencies and Senatorial Districts will effectively curb all systematic challenges, including corrupt practices associated with the old system of engagement without a documented statistics of the youth;

Cognizant that such Databank will specifically indicate the employment, skills, ability and disability status and other considerations in the engagement requirements of youth for effective policy formulation, implementation and other deliverables in Nigeria in confronting unemployment and absence of empowerment;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministries of Youth and Sports Development and, Labour and Employment to build effective synergy to generate a databank for youths to enhance their chances of obtaining empowerment and employment;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Youth Development to ensure implementation (**HR. 46/2021**).

15. **Call to Re-invigorate the National Orientation Agency (NOA) for Impactful Discharge of its Mandate**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the National Orientation Agency was established in 1993 and by virtue of its enabling Act, the Agency is established to re-orientate Nigerians and encourage them to take part actively and freely in discussions and decisions affecting their collective welfare;

Also notes that the functions of the National Orientation Agency as stipulated in Sections 3 of the NOA Act include enlightening the general public on Federal Government Policies and Programmes; mobilize favourable opinion of Federal Government Policies and Programmes; collect and collate feedback to the Public on Federal Government programmes and Policies; energize the conscience of all categories of Nigerians on their rights, privileges, responsibilities and obligations as citizens of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; re-orientate Nigerians on their general attitude to waste and affluent lifestyles; propagate on the need to eschew all vices in public life, such as corruption, dishonesty, ethnicity, parochial and religious bigotry;

Aware that Section 4 of the NOA Act also stipulates the novel objectives of the Agency as social re-engineering, organization with omnibus mandate and its core functions include re-orientate and attitudinal transformation, public enlightenment and mass mobilization etc.;

Also aware that since 1999, Nigeria has been bedevilled with several problems, ranging from communal clashes, religious and ethnic bigotry, terrorism, religious extremism, large scale corruption and in recent past became victims of xenophobic attacks in South Africa;

Further aware that these vices have affected Nigeria's image outside the country, which to a large extent led to ill-treatment of Nigerians abroad and the last Xenophobic attacks in South Africa would have been avoided if the National Orientation Agency had orientated Nigerians;

Concerned that the National Orientation Agency has failed to rise up to its Responsibility of disseminating information and re-orienting Nigerians during this COVID-19 Pandemic;

Cognizant that by virtue of the NOA Act, the Agency is required to have presence at the Federal, States and Local Government levels for optimal performance and this has a lot of financial implications;

Further aware that the Strategic Plan for the National Orientation Agency 2017-2021 reveals that the Statutory Allocations to the Agency in the past years is inadequate for optimal performance as it is presently bedevilled with poor statutory allocation, poorly motivated staff, inadequate vehicles and other public enlightenment equipment, hence the need to increase the budgetary allocation of the Agency in the 2022 budget estimates in order for the Agency to achieve its

- (i) Value Orientation,
- (ii) Public Education and Mass Mobilization Programmes, and
- (iii) Political and Civic Education Programmes;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Orientation Agency to wake up to its responsibilities and be more efficient in Value reorientation and public education of Nigerians and further synergize with the Federal Government on combating social vices such as Terrorism, Xenophobic Attacks, Anti-Corruption War, etc.;

- (ii) invite the Director-General of the National Orientation Agency to appear before the Committee on Information, National Orientation, Ethics and Value and table the activities, strengths and weaknesses of the Agency for further legislative intervention;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Information, National Orientation, Ethics and Values to ensure increase in the budgetary allocation of the National Orientation Agency in the 2022 Appropriation budget estimates for optimal performance (*Hon. Abiola Shina Peller — Iseyin/Itesiwaju/Kajola/Iwajowa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Prayer (ii), (Hon. Sada Soli — Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the National Orientation Agency was established in 1993 and by virtue of its enabling Act, the Agency is established to re-orientate Nigerians and encourage them to take part actively and freely in discussions and decisions affecting their collective welfare;

Also noted that the functions of the National Orientation Agency as stipulated in Sections 3 of the NOA Act include enlightening the general public on Federal Government Policies and Programmes; mobilize favourable opinion of Federal Government Policies and Programmes; collect and create feedback to the Public on Federal Government programmes and Policies; energize the conscience of all categories of Nigerians on their rights, privileges, responsibilities and obligations as citizens of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; re-orientate Nigerians on their general attitude to waste and affluent lifestyles; propagate on the need to eschew all vices in public life, such as corruption, dishonesty, ethnicity, parochial and religious bigotry;

Aware that Section 4 of the NOA Act also stipulates the novel objectives of the Agency as social re-engineering, organization with omnibus mandate and its core functions include re-orientate and attitudinal transformation, public enlightenment and mass mobilization etc.;

Also aware that since 1999, Nigeria has been bedevilled with several problems, ranging from communal clashes, religious and ethnic bigotry, terrorism, religious extremism, large scale corruption and in recent past became victims of xenophobic attacks in South Africa;

Further aware that these vices have affected Nigeria's image outside the country, which to a large extent led to ill-treatment of Nigerians abroad and the last Xenophobic attacks in South Africa would have been avoided if the National Orientation Agency had orientated Nigerians;

Concerned that the National Orientation Agency has failed to rise up to its Responsibility of disseminating information and re-orienting Nigerians during this COVID-19 Pandemic;

Cognizant that by virtue of the NOA Act, the Agency is required to have presence at the Federal, States and Local Government levels for optimal performance and this has a lot of financial implications;

Further aware that the Strategic Plan for the National Orientation Agency 2017-2021 reveals that the Statutory Allocations to the Agency in the past years is inadequate for optimal performance as it is presently bedevilled with poor statutory allocation, poorly motivated staff, inadequate vehicles and

other public enlightenment equipment, hence the need to increase the budgetary allocation of the Agency in the 2022 budget estimates in order for the Agency to achieve its

- (i) Value Orientation,
- (ii) Public Education and Mass Mobilization Programmes, and
- (iii) Political and Civic Education Programmes;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the National Orientation Agency to wake up to its responsibilities and be more efficient in Value reorientation and public education of Nigerians and further synergize with the Federal Government on combatting social vices such as Terrorism, Xenophobic Attacks, Anti-Corruption War, etc.; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Information, National Orientation, Ethics and Values to ensure increase in the budgetary allocation of the National Orientation Agency in the 2022 Appropriation budget estimates for optimal performance (HR. 47/03/2021).

16. *Motion made and Question proposed*, "That the House do set down items 9 to 11 on the Order Paper to another legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (3)" (Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

17. **Adjournment**

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 17 March, 2021 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.03 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila
Speaker

CORRIGENDUM

In the *Votes and Proceedings* of Wednesday, 10 March, 2021, items 9 -11, *leave out* all the words in the referrals and *insert* the words *Committee of the Whole*.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila
Speaker