



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 2 March, 2021

1. The House met at 11.32 a.m. Mr Deputy Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 24 February, 2021.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Petitions**

- (i) A petition from Joseph Maji on his dismissal from the service of the Nigerian Army, was presented and laid by Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali (*Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) A petition from Obinna Okeke, on alleged excessive regulations and taxation by the Department of Outdoor Advertisement and Signage of the Federal Capital Territory Administration, was presented and laid by Hon. Ifeanyi Chudy Momah (*Ihiala Federal Constituency*);
- (iii) A petition from Adjarho Felix, on his dismissal from the service of the Nigerian Customs Service, was presented and laid by Hon. Ben Igbakpa (*Ethiophe East/Ethiophe West Federal Constituency*);
- (iv) A petition from Osagie Obayuwana and Co. (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Alims Plastics and Packaging Industry Limited, and Idris Momodu, on alleged unfair business practice by First Bank of Nigeria Plc, was presented and laid by Hon. Magaji Da'u Aliyu (*Birnin-Kudu/Buji Federal Constituency*);

- (v) The following Petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Chinedu Ogah (*Ikwo/Ezza South Federal Constituency*):
- (a) O. C. O. Emmanuel Chambers (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Gerald Frank Nigeria Limited, on alleged diversion of Eight million, Three Hundred Thousand Naira (₦8,300,000.00) for Constituency project by the Federal Medical Centre, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State;
 - (b) O. C. O. Emmanuel Chambers (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Gerald Frank Nigeria Limited, on alleged diversion of Nine million Naira (₦9,000,000) for Constituency project by the Federal College of Education, Eha, Amufu, Enugu State; and
- (vi) A petition from Kehinde Fadahunsi, on alleged non-payment of salary by the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, was presented and laid by Hon. Olanrewaju Ibrahim Kunle (*Moba/Ilejemeje/Ido-Osi Federal Constituency*)

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

(i) *Need to Rescue Pastor Bulus Yikura of Pemi in Chibok Local Government Area of Borno State from Boko Haram Captivity:*

Hon. Ahmadu Usman Jaha (*Chibok/Dambo/Gwoza Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
- (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance — Agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Need to Rescue Pastor Bulus Yikura of Pemi in Chibok Local Government Area of Borno State from Boko Haram Captivity:

The House:

Notes that on 24 December, 2020, Boko Haram insurgents attacked Pemi village in Chibok Local Government Area of Borno State during which they burnt the village down, killed eight (8) people, abducted two (2) others, destroyed properties and carted away food and other items;

Also notes that one of the people that were abducted was Pastor Bulus Yikura and on Wednesday, 24 February, 2021, the insurgents released a video clip showing Pastor Yikura clamouring for help and they gave him one week to facilitate his release;

Aware that the one week ultimatum will expire on Thursday, 4 March, 2021, and thus, the concern about the fate of Pastor Yikura if his release is not secured before the expiration of the ultimatum;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to do everything possible to secure the release of Pastor Bulus Yikura before the expiration of the ultimatum for Thursday, 4 March, 2021;

- (ii) call on the Federal Government to come to the aid of the families of those killed during the attack and other victims whose houses were burnt and properties destroyed to alleviate their sufferings; and
- (iii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency to provide relief materials for the victims of the attack (*Hon. Ahmadu Usman Jaha — Chibok/Dambo/Gwoza Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on 24 December, 2020, Boko Haram insurgents attacked Pemi village in Chibok Local Government Area of Borno State during which they burnt the village down, killed eight (8) people, abducted two (2) others, destroyed properties and carted away food and other items;

Also noted that one of the people that were abducted was Pastor Bulus Yikura and on Wednesday, 24 February, 2021, the insurgents released a video clip showing Pastor Yikura clamouring for help and they gave him one week to facilitate his release;

Aware that the one week ultimatum will expire on Thursday, 4 March, 2021, and thus, the concern about the fate of Pastor Yikura if his release is not secured before the expiration of the ultimatum;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to do everything possible to secure the release of Pastor Bulus Yikura before the expiration of the ultimatum fo Thursday, 4 March, 2021;
 - (ii) call on the Federal Government to come to the aid of the families of those killed during the attack and other victims whose houses were burnt and properties destroyed to alleviate their sufferings; and
 - (iii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency to provide relief materials for the victims of the attack (**HIR. 23/03/2021**).
- (ii) ***Need to Provide Relief Materials to Victims of Banditry Attacks at Amarawa Village in Illela/Gwadabawa Federal Constituency, Sokoto State:***
 Hon. Abdullahi Balarabe Salame (*Illela/Gwadabawa Federal Constituency and 3 others*) 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 Provide Relief Materials to Victims of Banditry Attacks at Amarawa Village in Illela Local Government Area, Sokoto State:

The House:

Notes that the rate of kidnapping and banditry attacks in Illela Local Government Area and surrounding communities within the Federal Constituency has been alarming, especially given the monumental consequences of such menace;

Worried that on Sunday, 28 February, 2021, bandits attacked Amarawa village which resulted in the killing of thirteen (13) people while six (6) people who were injured are presently receiving treatment at Usman Danfodio University Teaching Hospital (UDUTH), Sokoto;

Disturbed that the kidnappings and banditry in the area in recent times have led many victims to flee from their homes without means of livelihood and thus in terrible condition of living without basic necessities of life;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the affected victims in the Village to ease their difficult condition of living (*Hon. Abdullahi Balarabe Salame — Illela/Gwadabawa Federal Constituency and Three Others*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the rate of kidnapping and banditry attacks in Illela Local Government Area and surrounding communities within the Federal Constituency has been alarming, especially given the monumental consequences of such menace;

Worried that on Sunday, 28 February, 2021, bandits attacked Amarawa village which resulted in the killing of thirteen (13) people while six (6) people who were injured are presently receiving treatment at Usman Danfodio University Teaching Hospital (UDUTH), Sokoto;

Disturbed that the kidnappings and banditry in the area in recent times have led many victims to flee from their homes without means of livelihood and thus in terrible condition of living without basic necessities of life;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the affected victims in the Village to ease their difficult condition of living (**HR. 24/03/2021**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

6. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Chartered Institute of Forensics and Certified Fraud Examiners of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1220).
- (2) University Teaching Hospitals (Reconstitution of Boards, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1221).
- (3) National Appreciation for Security Agencies Bill, 2021 (HB. 1222).
- (4) National Honours Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1223).
- (5) Banks (Motor Vehicle Loans) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1224).
- (6) Army Colour (Prohibition of Use) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1225).
- (7) Veterinary Surgeons Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1227).
- (8) Niger Delta Development Commission (Establishment, etc.) (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1215).
- (9) Federal Capital Territory Outdoor Signage and Advertisement Agency Bill, 2021 (HB. 1232).
- (10) Community Sheriffs (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1233).

7. Presentation of Report

Committee on Army:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Army on the purported Voluntary Resignation of over Three Hundred and Sixty-Five Soldiers" (**HR. 15/07/2020**)" (*Hon. Abdulrazak Sa'ad Namdas — Mayo Belwa/Ganye/Jada/Toungo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

8. Consolidation of Bills:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Advertising Practitioners (Registration, etc.) Act, Cap. A7, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and enact the Advertising Practitioners (Registration, Licensing, etc.) Bill for the establishment of a Council for Advertising Practitioners as the Apex Regulatory Authority for the Nigerian Advertising Profession and Practice; and for Related Matters (HB. 137); and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Advertising Practitioners (Registration, etc.) Act, Cap. A7, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to ensure smooth operation of the Council; and for Related Matters (HB. 518) be now consolidated" (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

9. A Bill for an Act to Amend Section 3 (2) (a) of the National Agency for Population Programmes and Development Act, Cap. N2, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 by adding 'and the Notice shall take effect upon being received by the minister' immediately after the word 'Minister'; and for Related Matters (HB. 725) — *Second Reading*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend Section 3 (2) (a) of the National Agency for Population Programmes and Development Act, Cap. N2, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 by adding 'and the Notice shall take effect upon being received by the minister' immediately after the word 'Minister'; and for Related Matters (HB. 725) be read a Second Time" (Hon. Olufemi B. Adebajo — Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Population.

10. A Bill for an Act to Establish the Sustainable Development Fund Charged with Responsibility for Imposing, Operating and Maintaining the Fund for the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 133) — *Second Reading*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Sustainable Development Fund Charged with Responsibility for Imposing, Operating and Maintaining the Fund for the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 133) be read a Second Time" (Hon. Abdulrazak Sa'ad Namdas — Mayo Belwa/Ganye/Jada/Toungo Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Sustainable Development Goals.

11. Call for Reconstruction of a Collapsed Bridge in Tungan-Madaki Community, Jiwa Ward of Abuja Municipal Area Council

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the collapse of the Tungan-Madaki Bridge linking Jiwa community with other communities in Abuja Municipal Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory;

Also notes that the collapse of the bridge has resulted in cutting off of Tungan Madaki from other communities in the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), bringing social and economic activities to a halt with pupils and students unable to attend school;

Aware that Tungan Madaki is a large settlement that is in proximity with Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, and many Civil Servants, Airport Staff and Nigerians doing their legitimate businesses are residing in the Community;

Concerned that the bridge, which was constructed more than 50 years ago as the only road to and from Tungan Madaki Community, has degraded so much that it has become a death trap especially during rainy season;

Worried that agricultural produce often go to waste in the course of transporting them to the market due to the collapse of the bridge, as indigenes of Tungan Madaki are the highest producers and suppliers of tuber crops in the Federal Capital Territory;

Also worried that women and children in the surrounding villages of Tungan-Wakili, Tungan-Ashere, Tungan-Nasara, Tungan-Jiwa, Tungan-Kwasau and others cannot access basic health care, attend schools and the market for fear of being victims of flooding in the rainy season;

Disturbed that despite the persistent cries of residents of communities around the area for remedial actions on the bridge, nothing has been done by successive Federal Capital Territory Administrations to ameliorate the situation, causing the people to undergo untold hardship;

Also disturbed that the continued abandonment of the Tungan-Madaki bridge, which serves as a link to Area Councils of the FCT, is inhibiting commuting and transportation of agricultural produce from the predominantly farming communities to the city center;

Cognizant that if urgent action is not taken, especially in view of the current economic realities, the people of the affected communities will continue to suffer economic hardship and threat to their lives and properties due to the perennial flooding ravaging the area;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Ecological Fund Office to urgently deploy its technical team to access and repair the Tungan-Madaki bridge; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Federal Capital Territory, and FCT Area Councils and Ancillary Matters to liaise with the Federal Capital Territory Administration with a view to taking expedited action to reconstruct the bridge (*Hon. Micah Yohanna Jiba — Abuja Municipal/Bwari Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 25/03/20210).

Motion referred to the Committees on Federal Capital Territory, and FCT Area Councils and Ancillary Matters, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

12. **Need to Compel the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) to Suspend Charges on the Offshore Safety Permit (OSP)**

Order read, deferred by leave of the House.

13. **Need to Ascertain the Level of Food Security in Nigeria**

Order read, deferred by leave of the House.

14. **Need to Address the Challenges of Open Defecation in Nigeria**

Order read, deferred by leave of the House.

15. **Establishment of a Direct Debit System for Payment of Utility Bills by Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs)**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) is a major factor in the economic growth of every country and should at least represent 50% of the Gross National Income of an economy of a country to be stable;

Also notes that Section 80 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that MDAs should pay their Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) into the Consolidated Revenue of the Federation;

Further notes that Nigeria relies on about 90% of Externally Generated Revenue (EGR), through Crude Oil, as the source of the nation's gross national income;

Aware that the Federal Government also relies on payment of Utility Bills, like Water and Electricity Bills as a major boost to its Internally Generated Revenue (IGR);

Recalls that in order to ensure that Utility Bills are paid, the Federal Government introduced laudable measures where individuals and the Private/ Public sectors pay promptly by privatizing some sectors of the economy, like the electricity sector;

Worried that the MDAs are often accused of not paying Utility Bills to the bodies responsible for the collection, thereby making it impossible to remit the funds to the government and this has adverse effects on Internally Generated Revenue;

Conscious of the urgent need to establish and devise workable means of ensuring that MDAs pay their utility bills to the Government through direct debit mechanism of debiting the accounts of all MDA's at the end of each month, in conjunction with the office of the Accountant General of the Federation;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Appropriations, Finance, and Public Accounts to interface with the heads of the Ministries, Department and Agencies to initiate a workable Strategic Plan to enhance the efficient payment of monthly Utility Bills of all Ministries, Departments and Agencies and report back within eight (8) weeks (*Hon. Uju Kingsley Chima — Ohaji/Egbema/Oguta/Oru West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) is a major factor in the economic growth of every country and should at least represent 50% of the Gross National Income of an economy of a country to be stable;

Also noted that Section 80 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that MDAs should pay their Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) into the Consolidated Revenue of the Federation;

Further noted that Nigeria relies on about 90% of Externally Generated Revenue (EGR), through Crude Oil, as the source of the nation's gross national income;

Aware that the Federal Government also relies on payment of Utility Bills, like Water and Electricity Bills as a major boost to its Internally Generated Revenue (IGR);

Recalled that in order to ensure that Utility Bills are paid, the Federal Government introduced laudable measures where individuals and the Private/ Public sectors pay promptly by privatizing some sectors of the economy, like the electricity sector;

Worried that the MDAs are often accused of not paying Utility Bills to the bodies responsible for the collection, thereby making it impossible to remit the funds to the government and this has adverse effects on Internally Generated Revenue;

Conscious of the urgent need to establish and devise workable means of ensuring that MDAs pay their utility bills to the Government through direct debit mechanism of debiting the accounts of all MDA's at the end of each month, in conjunction with the office of the Accountant General of the Federation;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Appropriations, Finance, and Public Accounts to interface with the heads of the Ministries, Department and Agencies to initiate a workable Strategic Plan to enhance the efficient payment of monthly Utility Bills of all Ministries, Departments and Agencies and report back within eight (8) weeks (HR. 26/03/2021).

16. Consideration of Reports

(i) *Committee of the Whole:*

A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Federal University of Education, Aguleri; and for Related Matters (HB. 1138)

Order read, deferred by leave of the House.

(ii) *Committee on Army:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Army on the purported Voluntary Resignation of over Three Hundred and Sixty-Five Soldiers and approve the recommendations therein" (Hon. Abdulrazak Sa'ad Nandas — Mayo Belwa/Ganye/Jada/Toungo Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Recommendation (i):

"That the Nigerian Army should improve on the welfare of its personnel, especially those in battle fields or other combat operations to further make the Soldiers more committed to their jobs and to the nation at large" (Hon. Abdulrazak Sa'ad Nandas — Mayo Belwa/Ganye/Jada/Toungo Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (ii):

“That there should be effective monitoring or follow up in the delivery of the welfare packages in all the Army formations to ensure that they reach out to all the beneficiaries (the soldiers) in a fair and equitable manner” (*Hon. Abdulrazak Sa'ad Nandas — Mayo Belwa/Ganye/Jada/Toungo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (iii):

“That the Army should continuously embark on orientation of soldiers, both old and new, about the reality of their jobs and the need to be committed to their country. This will reduce the number of soldiers leaving the Army due to loss of interest” (*Hon. Abdulrazak Sa'ad Nandas — Mayo Belwa/Ganye/Jada/Toungo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report proceedings.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Army on the purported Voluntary Resignation of over Three Hundred and Sixty-Five Soldiers and approved the Recommendations (i) - (iii) of the Report.

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

17. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 3 March, 2021 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 12:41 p.m.

Ahmed Idris
Deputy Speaker