



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 15 November, 2023

1. The House met at 11.34 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 14 November, 2023.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Oaths of Allegiance and Membership**
A Member-elect, Onwuegbu Befford Anayo (*Aninri/Awgu/Oji River Federal Constituency*), took and subscribed the Oaths of Allegiance and Membership as prescribed by law.

5. **Announcement**
Membership of the Governing Council of the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS):

Mr Speaker announced the membership of the Council as follows:

(1)	Hon. Mark Udo Esset	—	South-South
(2)	Hon. Nnolim John Nnaji	—	South East
(3)	Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi	—	South West
(4)	Hon. Aminu Sani Jaji	—	North West
(5)	Hon. Mansur Manu Soro	—	North East
(6)	Hon. Sarki Dahiru Abubakar	—	North Central.

6. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**
 - (i) *Need for Intervention to Address the Failure to Implement Presidential Palliatives:*
Hon. Olawuyi Raheem Tunji (*Ekiti/Irepodun/Isin/Oke-Ero Federal Constituency and Three 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 for Intervention to Address the Failure to Implement Presidential Palliatives:

The House:

Notes that section 14 (b) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) provided that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of any government;

Also notes that the removal of petrol subsidy in May 2023 has adversely affected majority of micro, small and medium enterprises in Nigeria forcing businesses shut down, destroying means of livelihood and plunging millions into poverty;

Aware that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR) in his resolve to address the situation, unveiled via his address to the nation, on 31 July, 2023, a ₦550 billion worth of government interventions cutting across three major sector of the economy viz-viz: Agriculture (₦200 billion), MSME sector (₦250 billion) and transportation sector (₦100 billion);

Also aware that the Presidential pronouncement put the period of the implementation of the ₦550 billion palliatives between August 2023 to March 2024;

Concerned that nearly five months after the removal of petrol subsidy, the implementation of this intervention especially the MSME component that directly affect 1 million nano businesses is yet to take - up;

Cognizant of the contribution by the SME to the economy representing 48% of the total GDP and engaging over 84% of the total work force;

Worried that unless the House intervened, the present economic situation occasioned by the removal of petrol subsidy and the floating of the Naira will further worsen the challenges being faced by the SMEs in Nigeria;

Resolves to:

- (i) mandate the Leadership of the House to meet President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR) with the view to address the delay in the implementation of the intervention;
- (ii) also mandate the Committee on SME to engage the relevant MDAs, to identify the impediments to the implementation and to report within two (2) weeks (*Hon. Olawuyi Raheem Tunji — Ekiti/Irepodun/Oke-Ero Federal Constituency and Four Others*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that section 14 (b) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) provided that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of any government;

Also noted that the removal of petrol subsidy in May 2023 has adversely affected majority of micro, small and medium enterprises in Nigeria forcing businesses shut down, destroying means of livelihood and plunging millions into poverty;

Aware that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR) in his resolve to address the situation, unveiled via his address to the nation, on 31 July, 2023, a ₦550 billion worth of government interventions cutting across three major sector of the economy viz-viz: Agriculture (₦200 billion), MSME sector (₦250 billion) and transportation sector (₦100 billion);

Also aware that the Presidential pronouncement put the period of the implementation of the ₦550 billion palliatives between August 2023 to March 2024;

Concerned that nearly five months after the removal of petrol subsidy, the implementation of this intervention especially the MSME component that directly affect 1 million nano businesses is yet to take - up;

Cognizant of the contribution by the SME to the economy representing 48% of the total GDP and engaging over 84% of the total work force;

Worried that unless the House intervened, the present economic situation occasioned by the removal of petrol subsidy and the floating of the Naira will further worsen the challenges being faced by the SMEs in Nigeria;

Resolved to:

- (i) mandate the Leadership of the House to meet President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR) with the view to address the delay in the implementation of the intervention;
- (ii) also mandate the Committee on SME to engage the relevant MDAs, to identify the impediments to the implementation and to report within two (2) weeks (HR. 366/11/2023).
- (ii) *Alleged Non-Remittance of \$34.2Bn to the Federation Account Being Dividends in Lieu of the Nigerian Government from the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas from 2004 to 2021:* Hon. Sani Bala Umar (Kunchi/Tsanyawa 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.

Alleged Non-Remittance of \$34.2Bn to the Federation Account Being Dividends in Lieu of the Nigerian Government from the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas from 2004 to 2021:

The House:

Curious that a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Femi Falana has alleged non-remittance of monies by the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited and urged the Minister of Finance to direct the Company to remit the sum of \$34.2n to Federation Account;

Notes that the said \$34.2bn was received on behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria from the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas Limited from 2004 to 2021 but has been alleged to be diverted by the NNPC;

Concerned that NLNG dividends and other related payments have remained an issue since 2020 as payments are being warehoused in bank accounts designated by the NNPC and not the federation account;

Also concerned that claims by the NNPC that NLNG accounts are on Treasury Single Accounts domiciled with the Central Bank of Nigeria and cannot be diverted have been alleged to be false as NLNG had in 2019 and 2020 clearly stated in documents released, that out of the \$37.6bn it paid over the years, the NNPC received 49% on behalf of the government;

Further concerned that whereas, the TSA was introduced in 2012 with full implementation by 2015, the illegal withdrawals of NLNG dividends and oil revenue dates back to 2004;

Worried that in order to confront the country's financial crisis, it is imperative to cover all leakages from revenues accruing to the country, including dividends from NLNG;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Gas Resources, Petroleum Resources (Upstream), and Public Accounts to investigate the allegations of non-remittance of monies by the NNPC from NLNG dividends, towards monitoring and ensuring the remittance of the \$34.2bn and other related funds to the Federation Account and report progress to the House in two (2) weeks (*Hon. Sani Bala Umar — Kunchi/Tsanyawa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Curious that a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Femi Falana has alleged non-remittance of monies by the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited and urged the Minister of Finance to direct the Company to remit the sum of \$34.2n to Federation Account;

Noted that the said \$34.2bn was received on behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria from the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas Limited from 2004 to 2021 but has been alleged to be diverted by the NNPC;

Concerned that NLNG dividends and other related payments have remained an issue since 2020 as payments are being warehoused in bank accounts designated by the NNPC and not the federation account;

Also concerned that claims by the NNPC that NLNG accounts are on Treasury Single Accounts domiciled with the Central Bank of Nigeria and cannot be diverted have been alleged to be false as NLNG had in 2019 and 2020 clearly stated in documents released, that out of the \$37.6bn it paid over the years, the NNPC received 49% on behalf of the government;

Further concerned that whereas, the TSA was introduced in 2012 with full implementation by 2015, the illegal withdrawals of NLNG dividends and oil revenue dates back to 2004;

Worried that in order to confront the country's financial crisis, it is imperative to cover all leakages from revenues accruing to the country, including dividends from NLNG;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Gas Resources, Petroleum Resources (Upstream), and Public Accounts to investigate the allegations of non-remittance of monies by the NNPC from NLNG dividends, towards monitoring and ensuring the remittance of the \$34.2bn and other related funds to the Federation Account and report progress to the House in two (2) weeks (HR. 367/11/2023).

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (4) to enable it take more than two matters of urgent public importance" (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Agreed to.

(iii) ***Persistent Banditry Activities in Batsari, Safana and Danmusa Local Government Areas of Katsina State:***

Hon. Aliyu Iliyasu Abubakar (Batsari/Safana/Danmusa 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.

Persistent Banditry Activities in Batsari, Safana and Danmusa Local Government Areas of Katsina State:

The House:

Notes that the communities of Batsari, Safana and Danmusa have been grappling with a series of relentless assaults and brutal acts of violence resulting in widespread devastation to crop, livestock and property, coupled with atrocious killings;

Also notes that the acts of banditry have resulted in the tragic loss of prominent community figures, including the District Head and a Village Head, both falling victim to these deadly activities;

Further notes that just last week, Danmusa town, the headquarters of Danmusa Local Government witnessed a harrowing incident as a multitude of bandits besieged the town, indiscriminately opened fire on the streets which claimed the lives of 10 individuals, including a former Local Government Chairman, a serving Assistant Superintendent of Police, as well as students, women, and children. Numerous others are now in the process of recuperating from gunshot wounds in various hospitals;

Concerned by the alarming frequency of these activities, it is troubling to observe a pattern where the actions of the bandits seem to have turned into a grim business, a disturbing hobby, and an unsettling routine. This involves their disturbingly regular practice of killing and kidnapping individuals within the Constituency on a daily basis;

Also concerned that despite the establishment of a Community Watch Corp by the Government of Katsina State to counteract banditry attacks, the measures in place appear insufficient in addressing the persistent nature and the resultant effects of these assaults;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased and offer a solemn prayer for the repose of their souls;
- (ii) commend the Government of Katsina State for its efforts in tackling security challenges in the State;
- (iii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials and medical aid to the affected communities in Batsari, Safana and Danmusa Local Government Areas;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, Army, and National Security and Intelligence to liaise with the relevant security Institutions to take necessary measures to stop banditry activities in Batsari, Safana and Danmusa Local Government Areas (*Hon. Aliyu Iliyasu Abubakar — Batsari/Safana/Danmusa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the communities of Batsari, Safana and Danmusa have been grappling with a series of relentless assaults and brutal acts of violence resulting in widespread devastation to crop, livestock and property, coupled with atrocious killings;

Also noted that the acts of banditry have resulted in the tragic loss of prominent community figures, including the District Head and a Village Head, both falling victim to these deadly activities;

Further noted that just last week, Danmusa town, the headquarters of Danmusa Local Government witnessed a harrowing incident as a multitude of bandits besieged the town, indiscriminately opened fire on the streets which claimed the lives of 10 individuals, including a former Local Government Chairman, a serving Assistant Superintendent of Police, as well as students, women, and children. Numerous others are now in the process of recuperating from gunshot wounds in various hospitals;

Concerned by the alarming frequency of these activities, it is troubling to observe a pattern where the actions of the bandits seem to have turned into a grim business, a disturbing hobby, and an unsettling routine. This involves their disturbingly regular practice of killing and kidnapping individuals within the Constituency on a daily basis;

Also concerned that despite the establishment of a Community Watch Corp by the Government of Katsina State to counteract banditry attacks, the measures in place appear insufficient in addressing the persistent nature and the resultant effects of these assaults;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased and offer a solemn prayer for the repose of their souls;

- (ii) commend the Government of Katsina State for its efforts in tackling security challenges in the State;
- (iii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials and medical aid to the affected communities in Batsari, Safana and Danmusa Local Government Areas;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, Army, and National Security and Intelligence to liaise with the relevant security Institutions to take necessary measures to stop banditry activities in Batsari, Safana and Danmusa Local Government Areas (HR. 368/11/2023).

7. Matter Requiring the Urgent Attention of the House

On-Going Strike by the Organized Labour:

The Deputy Speaker, Rt Hon. Benjamin Kalu, invited the attention of the House to the on-going strike by the Organized Labour, leading to a near shut down of the Country. He referred to the various provisions of the Legislative Agenda of the 10th House of Representatives, stressing that Members were called to serve in most challenging circumstances. He maintained that the resolve for Members to attend the Day's sitting despite the strike was one of those sacrifices aimed at selfless service. He urged the House to suspend further sitting and mandate the Leadership to liaise with its Senate counterpart to engage the Organized Labour in a dialogue with a view to finding a lasting solution to the on-going strike.

Debate.

Mr Speaker urged the Organized Labour to suspend the On-going Strike to allow the Leadership of the House of Representatives and its counterpart in the Senate dialogue with the Organized Labour for a lasting solution to the on-going strike.

8. Order of the Day

Motion made and Question proposed: "That the House do set down Presentation of Bills and Items 1 - 21 on the Order Paper to the next legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (3)" (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Agreed to.

9. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 16 November, 2023 at 9.00 a.m. (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.20 p.m.

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker

