



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OFFICE OF THE CLERK

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17 March, 2021

The Chairman,
Committee on Federal Road Safety Commission
House of Representatives
National Assembly
Three Arms Zone
Abuja.

*** RECURRING BLOCKADE OF HIGHWAYS BY ARTICULATED TRUCKS IN NIGERIA
(HR. 43/03/2021)**

The House of Representatives on Tuesday, 16 March, 2021 deliberated on the above subject and 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.*

2. The purpose of this letter is to convey the Resolutions of the House to you for further necessary action.
3. A copy of the *Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 16 March, 2021* is attached to this letter for your guidance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chinedu Francis Akubueze".

Chinedu Francis Akubueze
Clerk, House of Representatives

Cc:

The Chairman
Committee on *Legislative Compliance*
House of Representatives
Three Arms Zones
National Assembly
Abuja.

Above for your information and necessary action, please.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chinedu Francis Akubueze', written in a cursive style.

Chinedu Francis Akubueze
Clerk, House of Representatives



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.

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).

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 (IIR. 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