

House of Representative Special Session 8/1/2012

Removal of Fuel Subsidy by the Executive Arm of Government: **The House:** Notes that the Executive Arm of Government on 1st January, 2012 announced the removal of fuel subsidy resulting in the hiking of the pump price of the Petroleum Motor Spirit (PMS) from from N65.00 per litre to over N 140.00 per litre;

Further notes that while deregulations as a Policy may not be altogether objectionable, the alternative to proper procedure and good timing of such policy is not only equally important but indeed imperative especially in a democratic dispensation;

Worried that adequate distinction is not made between the Federal Government's contribution to the subsidy and the contribution of States and Local Governments;

Observes that as a result of this distinction, the savings from the subsidy removal by the Executive is less than N500 Billion whereas the loss that would be occasioned by the impending strike action would be over N500 Billion;

Alarmed that at a time when Nigerians are mourning the loss of loved ones resulting from acts of terrorism and grappling with serious challenges resulting in the' extreme measures of the declaration of State of Emergency in parts of the country, the Executive have chosento introduce a policy as highly volatile as the removal of fuel subsidy;

Insists that the country must first exist harmoniously before it can derive benefits of any public policy however critically beneficial and well intentioned such policy might be;

Further insists that a democratically elected government cannot and must not under any guise abandon dialogue;

Amazed by the various revelations on the administration of fuel subsidy funds by overshooting expenditure in obvious violation of the Appropriation Act;

Resolves to:

(i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to suspend its decision on the removal of fuel subsidy in appreciation of the mood of the nation and allow more room for consultations;

(ii) further urge the Organized Labour and other Stakeholders to reconsider the intended strike action and submit to further dialogue on the matter;

(iii) appeal to Nigerians to exercise restraint in expressing their displeasure over the removal of fuel subsidy in order to allow more room for dialogue and consultation to resolve the situation;

(iv) set-up an Ad-hoc Committee to interface with the Representatives of the Executive and the Organized Labour with a view to finding a common ground on the matter and to report back to the House within one week;

(v) further set-up an Ad-hoc Committee to verify and determine the actual subsidy requirements and monitor the subsidy regime;

(vi) be guided by the report of the Ad-hoc Committee on actual subsidy requirements, the House shall invoke the law-making and appropriation powers of the National Assembly where appropriate, to make

provisions that would serve the interest of the Nigerian people in the 2012 Budget;

(vii) review existing laws and statutes on the subject with a view to involving critical stakeholders in decisions of this nature.

Motion Sponsored by:

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