



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 10 October, 2017

1. The House met at 11.21 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 5 October, 2017. *

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. **Message**
Mr Speaker read a message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as follows:



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

4th October, 2017

Rt Hon. Yakubu Dogara
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

Dear Hon. Y. Dogara,

REQUEST FOR THE APPROVAL OF EXTERNAL LOANS FOR:

- I. **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXTERNAL BORROWING
APPROVED IN THE 2017 APPROPRIATION ACT:**

AND,

II. EXTERNAL BORROWING TO REFINANCE MATURING DOMESTIC DEBTS THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF USD3.00 BILLION EUROBOND IN THE INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKET OR THROUGH A LOAN SYNDICATION

The House of Representatives may wish to refer to the 2017 Appropriation Act, which has a Deficit of ₦2.356 trillion and provision for New Borrowings of ₦2.321 trillion, respectively. The Act also provide for Domestic Borrowing of ₦1.254 trillion and External Borrowing of ₦1.067 trillion (about USD3.5 billion).

Issuance of USD2.5 billion for financing the 2017 Appropriation Act

The House of Representatives may wish to note that in order to implement the External Borrowing approved by the National Assembly in the 2017 Appropriation Act, the FGN issued a USD300 million Diaspora Bond in the International Capital Market (ICM) in June 2017. The balance of the 2017 External Borrowing, in the sum of USD3.2 billion is planned to be partially sourced from issuances in the ICM of USD2.5 billion through Eurobonds or a combination of Eurobonds and Diaspora Bonds, while USD700 million is proposed to be raised from multilateral sources. It should be noted that the intention is to issue the Eurobonds first, with the objective of raising all the funds through Eurobonds, and that Diaspora Bonds will only be issued where the full amount cannot be raised through Eurobonds.

The House of Representatives may wish to note that the proceeds from the proposed issuance of Eurobonds (and Diaspora Bond) in the ICM would be used to finance the deficit in the 2017 Appropriation Act and provide funding for the capital projects in the Budget. The Projects include the Mambilla Hydropower Project, Construction of a Second Runway at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, counterpart funding for Rail Projects and the Construction of the Bodo-Benny Road, with a Bridge across the Opobo Channel.

USD3 billion for Re-financing of Domestic Debts

In addition to the implementation of the External Borrowing approved in the 2017 Appropriation Act, in order to reduce debt service levels and lengthen the tenor profile of the Debt Stock, the FGN seeks to substitute maturing Domestic Debt with less expensive long term External Debt. The FGN plans to source USD3.0 billion through the issuance of Eurobonds in the ICM and/or loan syndication by Banks, as approved by the Federal Executive Council at its meeting of August 9, 2017.

It is important to note that the proposed sourcing of USD3.0 billion from external sources to re-finance maturing Domestic Debt will not lead to an increase in the public debt portfolio because the debt already exists, albeit in the form of high interest short term Domestic Debt. Rather, the substitution of Domestic Debt with relatively cheaper and long-term external debt will lead to a significant decrease in Debt Service Cost. This proposed re-financing of Domestic Debt through External Debt will also achieve more stability in the Debt Stock while also creating more borrowing space in the domestic market for the private sector. The House of Representatives will recall that in the 2017 Appropriation Act, Debt Service at ₦1.663 trillion represents 32.73% of the FGN's Total Expenditure, which makes it important to take urgent steps to reduce debt service costs. Failure to rebalance the FGN's debt portfolio through substitution of Domestic Debt with less expensive long term External Debt, will continue to expose the country to the risk of high debt service-to-revenue ratio, thereby limiting the ability of the Government to execute capital projects and other priority expenditure.

The House of Representatives may wish to note that, in fine with the provisions of Sections 21 (1) and 27 (1) of the Debt Management Office (Establishment, etc.) Act, Cap 0.12 Laws of the Federation, the approval of the National Assembly is required for external borrowings as proposed in Paragraphs 2 - 5.

Summary and Terms

The summary of the requests in Paragraphs 2 to 5 are as follows:

- (i) *USD2.5 billion issuance in the International Capital Market, through Eurobonds or a combination of Eurobonds and Diaspora Bonds, for the financing of the deficit in the 2017 Appropriation Act and capital expenditure projects in the Act as stated in Paragraph 3; and,*
- (ii) *USD3.0 billion external borrowing for the re-financing of maturing domestic debt obligations through the issuance of Eurobonds or through a Loan Syndication.*

With respect to the Terms and Conditions of the proposed External Borrowings, the House of Representatives may wish to note that being market based transactions, the terms and conditions of the borrowings can only be determined at the point of issuance of finalisation based on prevailing market conditions in the ICM. It is important to state that the previous issuances of Eurobonds by Nigeria were at the following coupons -USD500 million (2011/10-year): 6.75%; USD500 million (2013/5-year): 5.125%; USD500 million (2013/10- year): 6.375%; and USD1,500 million (2017/15-year): 7.875%, while the USD300 million Diaspora Bond (5-year) issued in June 2017 was at a coupon of 5.625%. These coupons were based on the prevailing market conditions at the respective times. It should be noted that current market conditions are considered more favourable than at the time of Nigeria's last issuances of the Eurobond in March 2017 and the Diaspora Bond in June 2017, with secondary market yields lower than the coupons. The Federal Ministry of Finance, the Debt Management Office and the Federal Government's appointed Transaction Parties for the proposed External Borrowings will work assiduously within the context of the market to secure the best terms and conditions for the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Meanwhile, an overview of indicative terms and conditions is attached for your information as Appendix I.

Accordingly, the House of Representatives is requested to kindly approve the following external borrowings:

- (i) *Issuance of USD2.5 billion in the ICM, through Eurobonds or a combination of Eurobonds and Diaspora Bonds, for the financing of the FGN 2017 Appropriation Act and Capital Expenditure Projects in the Act; and,*
- (ii) *Issuance of Eurobond in the ICM and/or Loan Syndication by banks in the sum of USD3.0 billion for re-financing of maturing domestic debt obligations of the FGN.*

While looking forward to the timely approval of the National Assembly to enable Nigeria take advantage of these opportunities for funding, please accept, Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my highest esteem.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Muhammadu Buhari

Request referred to the Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management.

4. Announcement

Visitors in the Gallery:

Mr Speaker recognised the presence of the following visitors in the Gallery:

- (i) **Students of the Department of Political Science, Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State;**
- (ii) **Staff and Students of Gratolite Preparatory School Abuja, Dutse, Abuja.**

5. Petition

A petition from Hyginus Izunwanue and one other, on behalf of Umuogwa Community Council of Chiefs and Elders, Ohaji/Egbewa Local Government Area, Imo State, on the oil spillage in their community and refusal of Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) to pay compensation, was presented and laid by Hon. Linus Okorie (*Ivo/Ohoazara/Onicha Federal Constituency*).

Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

(i) *Resurgence of Kidnaping in Falgore Forest Reserve in Doguwa Local Government Area, Kano State:*

Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba (*Doguwa/Tudun Wada 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.

Resurgence of Kidnaping in Falgore Forest Reserve in Doguwa Local Government Area, Kano State:

The House:

Notes with serious concern the resurgence of kidnaping in Falgore Forest, Doguwa Local Government Area, Kano State;

Recalls that the case of kidnaping was previously addressed through a joint military/police task force and a surveillance unit set up by the Chief of Army Staff last year with a resounding success recorded in attacking the menace;

Aware that the Joint Military/Police road blocks mounted on the inter-state road through the 51 kilometre forest have now been dismantled;

Also aware that the Kano State Police Command has dispatched a special anti-kidnaping team to the area with a view to rescuing the victims;

Concerned that the removal of the road blocks and surveillance unit has given the criminals the opportunity to operate without fear of arrest or confrontation, thereby unleashing terror on the innocent residents and road users;

Also concerned that the road in question links Kaduna, Plateau, Benue, Bauchi and other States in the North Central and South East, therefore allowing it to the mercy of the bandits will adversely affect economic and social activities in the area;

Worried that on Friday, 5 October, 2017, nine (9) students and three (3) Local Government Officials traveling to Kano from Doguwa Local Government Area were kidnaped and all efforts including payment of demanded ransom could not secure the release of majority of them;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to immediately deploy the surveillance unit of the patrol team of the State Police Command and restore the Joint Military/Police road blocks on the road traversing the forest;
- (ii) also urge the military high command to keep to their pledge of setting up a training ground within the forest area; and
- (iii) further urge the Kano State Police Command to double effort to ensure speedy release of the remaining victims (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — Doguwa/Tudun Wada Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.**Agreed to.**The House:*

Noted with serious concern the resurgence of kidnaping in Falgore Forest, Doguwa Local Government Area, Kano State;

Recalled that the case of kidnaping was previously addressed through a joint military/police task force and a surveillance unit set up by the Chief of Army Staff last year with a resounding success recorded in attacking the menace;

Aware that the Joint Military/Police road blocks mounted on the inter-state road through the 51 kilometre forest have now been dismantled;

Also aware that the Kano State Police Command has dispatched a special anti-kidnaping team to the area with a view to rescuing the victims;

Concerned that the removal of the road blocks and surveillance unit has given the criminals the opportunity to operate without fear of arrest or confrontation, thereby unleashing terror on the innocent residents and road users;

Also concerned that the road in question links Kaduna, Plateau, Benue, Bauchi and other States in the North Central and South East, therefore allowing it to the mercy of the bandits will adversely affect economic and social activities in the area;

Worried that on Friday, 5 October, 2017, nine (9) students and three (3) Local Government Officials traveling to Kano from Doguwa Local Government Area were kidnaped and all efforts including payment of demanded ransom could not secure the release of majority of them;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to immediately deploy the surveillance unit of the patrol team of the State Police Command and restore the Joint Military/Police road blocks on the road traversing the forest;
- (ii) also urge the military high command to keep to their pledge of setting up a training ground within the forest area; and
- (iii) further urge the Kano State Police Command to double effort to ensure speedy release of the remaining victims (*HR. 92/2017*).

(ii) ***Suspected Outbreak of Monkey Pox in Bayelsa State — Need for Federal Government Intervention and International Community Support:***

Hon. Diri Douye (*Yenagoa/Kolokuma/Opokuma 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.

Suspected Outbreak of Monkey Pox in Bayelsa State — Urgent Need for Federal Government Intervention and Support by the International Community:

The House:

Aware that Monkey Pox, so named because the first associated outbreak was in monkeys, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), is a relatively rare disease transmitted primarily from animals to humans with limited person to person transmission and, had the last reported case in Nigeria in the 1970s;

Also aware that on September 22, 2017, the Bayelsa State Ministry of Health was notified of a case of suspected Monkey Pox and since then the citizens of Bayelsa State are terrified for their lives. The case was identified in an 11-year old male patient who was admitted into the Niger Delta University Teaching Hospital (NDUTH), Okolobiri, Bayelsa State;

Further aware that, according to the Bayelsa State Commissioner of Health, Professor Ebitimitula Etebu, the State currently has 14 suspected cases at different stages of recovery following treatment at the makeshift isolation ward at the Niger Delta University Teaching Hospital, Okolobiri. Amongst this is a female Medical Doctor who was attending to the index case. The index patient and the medical doctor have been treated and fully recovered;

Notes that 55 Close Contacts have been identified and are being monitored as at 7 October, 2017 and whereas there is however no definite remedy for the disease, intensive supportive care helps patients to recover fully, while active surveillance and early detection of cases help to halt spread of the disease;

Also notes that doctors recommend improving personal hygiene, avoiding contact with dead animals and fluids from their bodies. The virus can be passed through the air, so this could pose a great danger, therefore, also washing of hands before leaving home and on return is advised;

Informed that the prodromal phase — early indicators of an imminent outbreak, is characterised by symptoms of fever, headache, backache, rash (more severe than in the case of standard chicken pox). The rash can look very ugly and frightening and can appear all over the body;

Concerned by the admission of the Minister of Health, Professor Isaac Adewole that Monkey Pox could not be confirmed in Nigeria but at the World Health Organisation (WHO) referral laboratory in Dakar, Senegal (as reported in the Friday, 6 October, 2017 edition of the Vanguard Newspapers and other news outlets);

Also concerned that the disease has spread to other States in the region, notably Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, in spite of the concerted efforts of the Bayelsa State Government to combat the scourge, since the first reported case in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State;

Also informed that the Bayelsa State Government and the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control are coordinating the response in the State with support from WHO and AFENET through intensified public awareness and enlightenment campaign, advocacy visits to Traditional Rulers and other stakeholders, establishment of isolation wards at the Niger Delta University Teaching Hospital, sending ten (10) suspected cases to Dakar laboratory investigation and confirmation, reactivation of the States Rapid Response Team and Emergency operations Centre; active surveillance, monitoring and rapid case detection measures;

Resolves to:

- (i) invite the Minister of Health to explain how a country as vast and resourced as Nigeria will depend on a laboratory in Dakar, Senegal to analyse samples at such a critical time of national health, explain what measures and strategies the country has in place to be more proactive in active surveillance and rapid case detection of cases for the prevention and containment of Monkey Pox as well as other Viruses in future so as to avert a possible epidemic;
- (ii) commend the quick intervention and collaborative efforts of Bayelsa State health authorities who, without delay, advised the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) of the outbreak of the disease and the deployment of Rapid Response Team by the NCDC to support the Bayelsa State Government for a quick action to combat the disease;
- (iii) also commend Governor Dickson for paying for the treatment and welfare of patients of the disease and for providing up to date proactive healthcare system in Bayelsa State;
- (iv) call on the Federal Government to provide financial as well as logistical support to the Bayelsa State Government to reach out to threatened communities in the riverine areas; and
- (vi) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to investigate the matter and report back within two (2) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Douye Diri — Yenagoa/Kolokuma Opokuma Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that Monkey Pox, so named because the first associated outbreak was in monkeys, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), is a relatively rare disease transmitted primarily from animals to humans with limited person to person transmission and, had the last reported case in Nigeria in the 1970s;

Also aware that on September 22, 2017, the Bayelsa State Ministry of Health was notified of a case of suspected Monkey Pox and since then the citizens of Bayelsa State are terrified for their lives. The case was identified in an 11-year old male patient who was admitted into the Niger Delta University Teaching Hospital (NDUTH), Okolobiri, Bayelsa State;

Further aware that, according to the Bayelsa State Commissioner of Health, Professor Ebitimitula Etebu, the State currently has 14 suspected cases at different stages of recovery following treatment at the makeshift isolation ward at the Niger Delta University Teaching Hospital, Okolobiri. Amongst this is a female Medical Doctor who was attending to the index case. The index patient and the medical doctor have been treated and fully recovered;

Noted that 55 Close Contacts have been identified and are being monitored as at 7 October, 2017 and whereas there is however no definite remedy for the disease, intensive supportive care helps patients to recover fully, while active surveillance and early detection of cases help to halt spread of the disease;

Also noted that doctors recommend improving personal hygiene, avoiding contact with dead animals and fluids from their bodies. The virus can be passed through the air, so this could pose a great danger, therefore, also washing of hands before leaving home and on return is advised;

Informed that the prodromal phase — early indicators of an imminent outbreak, is characterised by symptoms of fever, headache, backache, rash (more severe than in the case of standard chicken pox). The rash can look very ugly and frightening and can appear all over the body;

Concerned by the admission of the Minister of Health, Professor Isaac Adewole that Monkey Pox could not be confirmed in Nigeria but at the World Health Organisation (WHO) referral laboratory in Dakar, Senegal (as reported in the Friday, 6 October, 2017 edition of the Vanguard Newspapers and other news outlets);

Also concerned that the disease has spread to other States in the region, notably Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, in spite of the concerted efforts of the Bayelsa State Government to combat the scourge, since the first reported case in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State;

Also informed that the Bayelsa State Government and the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control are coordinating the response in the State with support from WHO and AFENET through intensified public awareness and enlightenment campaign, advocacy visits to Traditional Rulers and other stakeholders, establishment of isolation wards at the Niger Delta University Teaching Hospital, sending ten (10) suspected cases to Dakar laboratory investigation and confirmation, reactivation of the States Rapid Response Team and Emergency operations Centre; active surveillance, monitoring and rapid case detection measures;

Resolved to:

- (i) invite the Minister of Health to explain how a country as vast and resourced as Nigeria will depend on a laboratory in Dakar, Senegal to analyse samples at such a critical time of national health, explain what measures and strategies the country has in place to be more proactive in active surveillance and rapid case detection of cases for the prevention and containment of Monkey Pox as well as other Viruses in future so as to avert a possible epidemic;
- (ii) commend the quick intervention and collaborative efforts of Bayelsa State health authorities who, without delay, advised the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) of the outbreak of the disease and the deployment of Rapid Response Team by the NCDC to support the Bayelsa State Government for a quick action to combat the disease;

- (iii) also commend Governor Dickson for paying for the treatment and welfare of patients of the disease and for providing up to date proactive healthcare system in Bayelsa State;
- (iv) call on the Federal Government to provide financial as well as logistical support to the Bayelsa State Government to reach out to threatened communities in the riverine areas; and
- (vi) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to investigate the matter and report back within two (2) weeks for further legislative action (HR. 93/2017).

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (4) to enable the House take more than 2 Matter of urgent public importance" (Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

- (iii) ***Need to Mandate China Geo-Engineering Corporation Nigeria Limited (CGC) to Meet Their Contractual Obligation over Kabba — Ilorin Road Phase I and the Dualization of Lokoja Okene Road:***

Hon. Karimi Sunday Steve (Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro 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 Mandate China Geo-engineering Corporation Nigeria Limited (CGC) to Meet Their Contractual Obligations Over Kabba-Ilorin Road Phase I and the Dualization of Lokoja Okene Road:

The House:

Notes that in the past two years, the Federal Government of Nigeria approved and awarded the dualisation and reconstruction of Lokoja-Okene Road to CGC Nigeria Limited. The essence of the Contract is to enhance the movement of goods and services and increase National Economic Output. But up till now, the Company has only embarked on only skeletal works on the road. Despite the fact that this road links the entire Southern part to the North and indeed the FCT, it is currently unmotorable;

Also notes specifically that at Kilometre 5, from Kabba Junction, there is a deep-gully erosion that has cut the road into two, thereby causing untold hardship to motorists and other users of the road. In the next few days, if urgent attention is not paid to this ugly situation, the road may become permanently unusable;

Aware that the first phase of Kabba-Egbe-Omu-Aran-Ilorin Road was awarded to the same Company early in 2014, but skeletal work on the road is only visible between Kabba and Aiyetoro; the Company has left the site in December 2014, on the excuse that the Federal Government directed it to concentrate on the Ilorin-Mokwa-Jebba-Mando Road;

Worried that the state of the Lokoja-Okene Highway is as bad as the Kabba-Egbe-Omu Aran-Ilorin Road exposing commuters of the road to serious risk, as kidnappers, armed robbers, hoodlums and other social miscreants have consistently taken advantage of the condition of the road to make mayhem on innocent Nigerians who use the road, commuters who divert into the bush to find pathways or alternative routes are not safer either. A journey, which normally, would take about an hour, now takes an estimate of five (5) hours due to the terrible state of the road. It should be noted that funds are provided in the 2017 budget for these projects;

Concerned that the CGC Nigeria Limited appears unable to handle all their diverse projects across the country at the same time; some of the Contracts should be revoked and re-awarded to other reputable construction companies immediately as the welfare, safety and security of Nigerians should not continue to be in danger due to lack of capacity of a construction company to deliver on its contract obligations;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Works to summon the management of CGC Nigeria Limited and the officials of the Federal Ministry of Works to investigate the reasons for this abysmal performance of the contract awarded in Lokoja-Okene Road as well as the Kabba-Egbe-Omu-Aran-Ilorin Highway and report back within two (2) weeks (*Hon. Karimi S. Sunday — Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that in the past two years, the Federal Government of Nigeria approved and awarded the dualisation and reconstruction of Lokoja-Okene Road to CGC Nigeria Limited. The essence of the Contract is to enhance the movement of goods and services and increase National Economic Output. But up till now, the Company has only embarked on only skeletal works on the road. Despite the fact that this road links the entire Southern part to the North and indeed the FCT, it is currently unmotorable;

Also noted specifically that at Kilometre 5, from Kabba Junction, there is a deep-gully erosion that has cut the road into two, thereby causing untold hardship to motorists and other users of the road. In the next few days, if urgent attention is not paid to this ugly situation, the road may become permanently unusable;

Aware that the first phase of Kabba-Egbe-Omu-Aran-Ilorin Road was awarded to the same Company early in 2014, but skeletal work on the road is only visible between Kabba and Aiyetoro; the Company has left the site in December 2014, on the excuse that the Federal Government directed it to concentrate on the Ilorin-Mokwa-Jebba-Mando Road;

Worried that the state of the Lokoja-Okene Highway is as bad as the Kabba-Egbe-Omu Aran-Ilorin Road exposing commuters of the road to serious risk, as kidnappers, armed robbers, hoodlums and other social miscreants have consistently taken advantage of the condition of the road to make mayhem on innocent Nigerians who use the road, commuters who divert into the bush to find pathways or alternative routes are not safer either. A journey, which normally, would take about an hour, now takes an estimate of five (5) hours due to the terrible state of the road. It should be noted that funds are provided in the 2017 budget for these projects;

Concerned that the CGC Nigeria Limited appears unable to handle all their diverse projects across the country at the same time; some of the Contracts should be revoked and re-awarded to other reputable construction companies immediately as the welfare, safety and security of Nigerians should not continue to be in danger due to lack of capacity of a construction company to deliver on its contract obligations;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Works to summon the management of CGC Nigeria Limited and the officials of the Federal Ministry of Works to investigate the reasons for this abysmal performance of the contract awarded in Lokoja-Okene Road as well as the Kabba-Egbe-Omu-Aran-Ilorin Highway and report back within two (2) weeks (HR. 94/2017).

Motion referred to the Committee on Works, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

7. Presentation of Reports

(i) *Committee on Human Rights:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Human Rights on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Protection of Human Rights Online, to Protect Internet Users in Nigeria from Infringement of their Fundamental Freedoms and to Guarantee Application of Human Rights for Users of Digital Platforms and/or Digital Media and for Related Matters (HB. 490)" (Hon. Edward Gyang Pwajok — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) *Committee on Science and Technology:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Science and Technology on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Energy Commission of Nigeria Act, Cap. E10, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to provide for the Establishment of Renewable and Alternative Energy Development and Utilization Fund, Grant Priority to the Promotion and Development of Renewable and Other Alternative Energy and for Related Matters (HB. 72 and HB. 466)" (Hon. Beni Lar — Langtang North/Langtang South Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

8. Consolidation of Bills:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Central Bank of Nigeria Act, Cap. C4, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Enhance Transparency, Entrenchment of Parliamentary Accountability and Enhancement of the Bank's Efficiency in the Discharge of its Statutory Duties and for Related Matters (HB. 1094), Bill for an Act to Amend the Central Bank of Nigeria Act, No. 7 of 2007 to provide for Appointment of a Person other than the Governor as the Chairman of the Board, Divest the Board of the Powers of Determining and Fixing its own Salaries and Allowances and the Powers of Considering and Approving the Annual Budget of the Bank, and for Other Related Matters (HB. 407), and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Central Bank of Nigeria (Establishment) Act, Cap. C4, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to subject to the Approval of the National Assembly the Directive of the Central Bank to Commercial Banks on the maximum amount to be withdrawn from an Account and for Other Related Matters (HB. 711) be now consolidated" (Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Veterinary Surgeons Act, Cap. V3, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Re-enact the Veterinary Surgeons Act, 2017 and for Related Matters (HB. 836) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Veterinary Surgeons Act, Cap. V3, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Re-enact the Veterinary Surgeons Act, 2017 and for Related Matters (HB. 836) be now read a Second Time” (*Hon. Linus Okorie — Ivo/Ohaozara/Onicha Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions.

10. **A Bill for an Act to improve the Efficacy of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), Provide Detailed Measures and Principles for Speedy Development of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises and Comprehensively Define the Responsibilities of each Stakeholder for their Maximum Contribution to National Economic Development, Employment Generation and Poverty Eradication in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.1059) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to improve the Efficacy of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), Provide Detailed Measures and Principles for Speedy Development of Small and Medium Scale Enterprises and Comprehensively Define the Responsibilities of each Stakeholder for their Maximum Contribution to National Economic Development, Employment Generation and Poverty Eradication in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.1059) be now read a Second Time” (*Hon. Muhammed Sani Abdu — Alkaleri/Kirfi Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Industry.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control Act, Cap. N1, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for the Inclusion of Raw and Semi Processed Foods, to Create a Directorate of National Tobacco Control and to Provide for the Payment of all Monies Received by the Agency into the Federation Account in accordance with Section 162 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 and for Other Related Matters (HB. 495, HB. 883 and HB. 940) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control Act, Cap. N1, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for the Inclusion of Raw and Semi Processed Foods, to Create a Directorate of National Tobacco Control and to Provide for the Payment of all Monies Received by the Agency into the Federation Account in accordance with Section 162 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 and for Other Related Matters (HB. 495, HB. 883 and HB. 940) be now read a Second Time” (*Hon. Dickson Tarkighir Dominic — Makurdi/Guma Federal Constituency and 2 Others*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Healthcare Services.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of Federal College of Education, Lissam, Taraba State for the Purposes of Providing Qualitative Education in Sciences, Arts, Social Sciences and Other Technical Knowledge and for Related Matters (HB. 1042) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of Federal College of Education, Lissam, Taraba State for the Purposes of Providing Qualitative Education in Sciences, Arts, Social Sciences and Other Technical Knowledge and for Related Matters (HB. 1042) be now read a Second Time” (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Dunga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services.

13. **Need to Assist Communities in Kwara State affected by Flooding of the River Niger from Kebbi State through to Bayelsa State**

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes the recent flooding of the plains of River Niger from Kebbi to Bayelsa States due to incessant rain fall since the month of August 2017;

Also notes that virtually all farm lands in Kwara State within the catchment area, including the Kwara State Tada-Shonga Agricultural Project which is being financed with a ₦2 billion loan facility from the Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) Anchor Borrowers Scheme, have been destroyed, along with fishing boats and farming equipment like tractors, portable generators, irrigation pumps, etc.;

Concerned that most of the farm lands that were destroyed were already due for harvesting;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to urgently assist the communities ravaged by the flood to ameliorate the hardships caused by loss of their crops and means of livelihood;
- (ii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief and building materials to the affected communities;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to assist the affected communities with tractors, implements and other agro inputs to position them towards the next planting season;
- (iv) equally urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to include the sum of ₦1.5 billion in the 2018 Appropriations proposal for completion of the Tada-Shonga Irrigation Project which has been on-going for quite some time now; and

- (v) mandate the Committees on Water Resources, Appropriations, and Agricultural Production and Services to ensure implementation (*Hon. Aliyu Bahago Ahman Pategi — Edu/Moro/Pategi Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 95/2017).

Motion referred to the Committees on Water Resources, Appropriations, and Agricultural Production and Services, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

14. **Call to Control the Manufacturing and Use of Single-Use Plastic Bags (Polythene) and Replace Same with Biodegradable or Fabric Materials**
Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes that the uncontrolled use of plastic materials and the arbitrary disposal of plastic waste, particularly shopping bags, present imminent danger to the people and the environment;

Also notes that those non-degradable materials that litter the country stay for decades without decaying and they eventually become a crucial cause of obstructed drainage and water channels that have precipitated flooding in some flood prone areas, thereby endangering the ecosystem and contaminating agricultural soil;

Informed that an estimated fifty (50) billion plastic bags are used annually and they account for a staggering twenty (20) per cent of municipal solid waste in the country;

Aware that over time, the plastic bags find their way into the marine environment and are ingested by marine animals, thereby choking them;

Also aware that plastic bags gravely disrupt the ecological balance, leeching in our water and emitting dioxins into food when left in a humid environment or heated;

Concerned about the public health risks posed by their disposal because most are burnt, thus releasing harmful toxic gases such as methane and carbon dioxide into the air, increasing the level of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs);

Also concerned that several African countries like Kenya, Rwanda, Cameroon, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Mauritania and Malawi have adopted measures to reduce the production and use of plastic bags, particularly single use shopping bags through an outright ban or imposition of tax as a means to crackdown on carbon emission;

Cognizant of the proliferation of single use plastic bags and the significant public costs in disposal, litter control and negative environmental impact, it is imperative that the country adopts international best practices on its effective control;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Environment and Habitat, and Climate Change to interface with the Federal Ministry of Environment to regulate the manufacture, arbitrary use and disposal of single - use plastic bags and effectively direct waste recycling, and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Sergius Oseasochie Ogun — Ekiti North Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the uncontrolled use of plastic materials and the arbitrary disposal of plastic waste, particularly shopping bags, present imminent danger to the people and the environment;

Also noted that those non-degradable materials that litter the country stay for decades without decaying and they eventually become a crucial cause of obstructed drainage and water channels that have precipitated flooding in some flood prone areas, thereby endangering the ecosystem and contaminating agricultural soil;

Informed that an estimated fifty (50) billion plastic bags are used annually and they account for a staggering twenty (20) per cent of municipal solid waste in the country;

Aware that over time, the plastic bags find their way into the marine environment and are ingested by marine animals, thereby choking them;

Also aware that plastic bags gravely disrupt the ecological balance, leeching in our water and emitting dioxins into food when left in a humid environment or heated;

Concerned about the public health risks posed by their disposal because most are burnt, thus releasing harmful toxic gases such as methane and carbon dioxide into the air, increasing the level of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs);

Also concerned that several African countries like Kenya, Rwanda, Cameroon, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Mauritania and Malawi have adopted measures to reduce the production and use of plastic bags, particularly single use shopping bags through an outright ban or imposition of tax as a means to crackdown on carbon emission;

Cognizant of the proliferation of single use plastic bags and the significant public costs in disposal, litter control and negative environmental impact, it is imperative that the country adopts international best practices on its effective control;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Environment and Habitat, and Climate Change to interface with the Federal Ministry of Environment to regulate the manufacture, arbitrary use and disposal of single - use plastic bags and effectively direct waste recycling, and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (HR. 96/2017).

15. Consideration of Reports

(i) Committee on Police Affairs:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Police Affairs on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Vigilante Group of Nigeria (VGN) charged with Responsibilities, among Others, to Provide Community Policing, Maintenance of Law and Order and Community Service for Nigerians and for Related Matters (HB.718) and approve the recommendations therein" (Hon. Haliru Dauda Jike — Darazo/Ganjuwa 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)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE VIGILANTE GROUP OF NIGERIA (VGN)
CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITIES TO, AMONG OTHERS, PROVIDE COMMUNITY
POLICING, MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
FOR NIGERIANS AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB.718)

PART I — ESTABLISHMENT AND GOVERNING BOARD OF THE GROUP

Committee Recommendation:**Clause 1: Establishment of the Vigilante Group of Nigeria.**

- (1) There shall be established for the Federation a body to be known as Vigilante Group of Nigeria.
- (2) It shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common Seal, with power to hold and dispose of property (landed or otherwise) and can sue and be sued in its corporate name.
- (3) There is also established in each State and in each Local Government of the Federation Vigilante Group of Nigeria (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 1 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:**Clause 2: Establishment of Vigilante Group of Nigeria Governing Board.**

- (1) There is hereby established a board to be known as the Vigilante Group of Nigeria Board (in this Bill referred to as "the Board") which shall be responsible or the administration of the Vigilante Group of Nigeria Act.
- (2) Membership of the Board shall comprise of:
 - (a) the Minister in charge of Police Affairs who shall be the Chairman;
 - (b) one other person not below the rank of an Assistant Director to represent the Ministry in charge of Police Affairs;
 - (c) the Commandant General of the Vigilante Group of Nigeria;
 - (d) the legal adviser to the Ministry charged with the responsibility for matters relating to interior;
 - (e) two other persons to represent public interest who shall be full-time members, to be appointed by the President;
 - (f) one other person to serve as the Secretary to the Board.
- (3) A member of the Board other than an *ex-officio* member shall hold office for a period of four years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for another period of four years and no more.
- (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (3) of the section, a member of the Board other than an *ex-officio* member may:

- (a) at any time resign his appointment by giving notice in writing of his resignation addressed to the Minister;
- (b) shall vacate his office if the Minister is satisfied that:
 - (i) the member has absented himself from two consecutive meetings of the Board without permission of the chairman; or
 - (ii) the member by reason of mental or physical infirmity or any other cause is incapable of discharging the duties of his office.

Schedule.

- (5) The supplementary provisions set out in the Schedule to this Bill, shall, in addition to the provisions contained in the Immigration and Prisons Services Board Act have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Board under this Bill and the other matters contained therein (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Amendment Proposed:

In subclause (2) (d), leave out the word "Interior" and insert the words "Police Affairs" instead thereof, and wherever it occurs (*Hon. Abbas Tujudeen — Zaria Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question that Clause 2 as amended, stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 3: Powers of Board.

- (1) The Board shall be responsible for:

- (a) providing the general policies and guidelines relating to major expansion programmes of the Group;
- (b) the overall management and general administration of the Group;
- (c) recruiting volunteers and regular members of the Group;
- (d) organising basic development and refresher courses for members of the Group; and
- (e) fixing with the approval of the Minister, the terms and conditions of service of members and employees of the Group, including their remuneration.

- (2) The Board shall have power to do such other things which in the opinion of the Board are necessary to ensure the efficient performance of the functions of the Group (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 3 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART II — FUNCTIONS OF THE GROUP, ETC.

Committee Recommendation:**Clause 4: Functions.**

In addition to such other functions as may be conferred upon it by this Bill or any other law, the Vigilante Group shall:

- (a) assist the Nigeria Police and other security agencies in prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension of offenders, the protection of lives and property and the preservation of law and order;
- (b) protect and preserve public utilities;
- (c) maintain law and order in all social gatherings;
- (d) establish links with other Services in intelligence gathering and dissemination;
- (f) responding to distress alarms of residents of the community;
- (g) carry out other lawful duties as may from time to time be assigned to it by the Government (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 4 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:**Clause 5: Community Service**

The functions of the Vigilante Group in community shall include mobilizing labour for and supervising community development activities in:

- (a) clearing of drainages and sewages.
- (b) putting in place measures to minimize or prevent flooding in communities.
- (c) putting in place measures to prevent erosion.
- (d) putting in place measures to counter drought and desertification.
- (e) prevention of bush-burning, fire incidences and arson.
- (f) putting in place measures to prevent drowning in rivers, wells and beaches.
- (g) assist in clearing and maintaining remote (feeder) roads linking various communities and markets;
- (h) clearing of oil spillage in oil producing communities.
- (i) instilling and engendering security culture in various communities like street gate within wards, voluntary patrol and protection of crops.
- (j) provision of security on market days which includes surveillance, protection of commodities and vehicles.
- (k) securing places of worship within the communities.

- (l) check-mating pick-pocket, swindlers, illicit drug dealers and substandard and expired products.
- (m) raising public awareness against abduction, kidnapping, cultism and violence against women and children.
- (n) advocating for and instilling national values and ethics of discipline, integrity, dignity of labour, social justice, religious tolerances, self-reliance and patriotism in the members of the communities.
- (o) encouraging environmental sanitation and prevention of water pollution
(Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency).

Question that Clause 5 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 6: Roles in conflicts and disasters.

The Vigilante Group shall be involved in preventing and managing conflicts and disasters as follows:

- (1) Preventing conflicts and disasters through:
 - (a) public enlightenment on the possible causes of conflicts, especially on issues of witchcraft, ethnic crisis, land disputes, religious crisis, ritual killings, cultism, farmer-herdsman crisis, religious extremism, youth gangsterism, etc;
 - (b) putting in place a system to prevent rumor-mongering, misinformation, misguidance or anything likely to ignite violence or conflict in whatever form throughout Nigerian communities;
 - (c) in collaboration with relevant agencies, establish Early Warning Signs and Vulnerability Indices for conflicts and disasters in all Nigerian Communities and disseminating same to all stakeholders;
 - (d) designing and implementing robust societal reorientation and attitudinal change programmes throughout the nation towards a culture of preventing violent conflicts and disasters.
- (2) During conflict times and in conflict areas, to assist the military and other law enforcement agencies in the following ways:
 - (a) identifying culprits and locating their hideouts and also identifying strategies used by perpetrators of the conflicts and the victims or vulnerable people to the conflict for proper actions;
 - (b) assisting victims to escape through identified routes, providing possible protection, first aid, psychological support and any available material support. In so doing, the Vigilante Group shall collaborate with relevant government agencies;
 - (c) providing support to the military and other paramilitary agencies in identifying terrains, providing scouts from Vigilante Group to accompany the military or paramilitary to the hideouts of the perpetrators of conflicts;

- (d) perform any task that is incidental or ancillary in aiding the military and paramilitary as may be required by them on issues mentioned in this subsection.
- (3) The role of the Vigilante Group in post-conflict management includes:
 - (a) making preliminary assessment of safety and security of affected areas as prelude to any damage assessment or relocation of displaced persons;
 - (b) preservation of properties and public utilities and guarding same from further damage, destruction, theft or vandalism pending the return of the members of the community to their homes;
 - (c) helping in clearing debris, rebuilding homes and public utilities, reviving economic activities such as markets, shops and transport systems;
 - (d) help in reintegrating returnees back to their normal lives, providing psychosocial support to traumatized persons and providing reassurance to the community on safety and security;
 - (e) assist government and other agencies in facilitating peace and reconciliation in affected areas for lasting peaceful coexistence;
 - (f) mobilize youth and able-bodied members of post-conflict communities towards rebuilding communities and creating jobs (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 6 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART III — COMMAND STRUCTURE

Committee Recommendation:

- Clause 7:**
- (1) The Service shall be under the command of the Commandant General. While State and Local Government commands shall be under the State and Local Government Commandant.
 - (2) Members of the Service shall bear such ranks as may be assigned to them by the service in the following order:
 - (a) **National Headquarter Command:**
 - (i) Commandant General (National);
 - (ii) Deputy Commandant General (National);
 - (iii) Deputy Commandant General (Administration);
 - (iv) Deputy Commandant General (Finance);
 - (v) Deputy Commandant General (Operations);
 - (vi) Deputy Commandant General (Logistics);
 - (vii) Deputy Commandant General (Training);

- (viii) Deputy Commandant General (Intelligence);
- (ix) Deputy Commandant General (Provost);
- (x) Assistant Commandant General (South-East);
- (xi) Assistant Commandant General (South-South);
- (xii) Assistant Commandant General (South-West);
- (xiii) Assistant Commandant General (North-Central);
- (xiv) Assistant Commandant General (North-East);
- (xv) Assistant Commandant General (North-West);
- (xvi) Assistant Commandant General (Planning, Research and Statistics);
- (xvii) Assistant Commandant General (Group Education);
- (xviii) Assistant Commandant General (Legal Services);
- (xix) Assistant Commandant General (Communications and ICT);
- (xx) Assistant Commandant General (Special Task Force and Joint Operation);
- (xxi) Assistant Commandant General (Marine Safety);
- (xxii) Group Commandant (Counter-Terrorism);
- (xxiii) Group Commandant (Small arms and light weapons control);
- (xxiv) Group Commandant (Inter-governmental affairs);
- (xxv) Group Commandant (Disaster and Risk Management);
- (xxvi) Group Commandant (Human Resources);
- (xxvii) Deputy Group Commandant (Public Relations);
- (xxviii) Deputy Group Commandant (Peace and Conflict Management);
- (xxix) Deputy Group Commandant (Border Security);
- (xxx) Assistant Group Commandant (Marine Group);
- (xxxi) Assistant Group Commandant (Bush and Forest Surveillance);
- (xxxii) Assistant Group Commandant (Medical Services).

(b) State Command:

- (i) State Commandant;
- (ii) Deputy State Commandant;
- (iii) Assistant State Commandant (Administration);
- (iv) Assistant State Commandant (Finance);
- (v) Assistant State Commandant (Operations);
- (vi) Chief Group Superintendent (Markets and Motor-Parks Security);
- (vii) Chief Group Superintendent (Places of Worship Security);
- (viii) Chief Group Superintendent (Schools Security);
- (ix) Chief Group Superintendent (Protection of Public Utilities);
- (x) Group Superintendent (Drainages and Sewages);
- (xi) Group Superintendent (Erosion Control);
- (xii) Group Superintendent (Drought and Desertification Control);
- (xiii) Group Superintendent (Bush-burning, Fire Incidences and Arson);
- (xiv) Group Superintendent (Oil Spillage);
- (xv) Deputy Group Superintendent (Protocol);
- (xvi) Deputy Group Superintendent (Anti-Robbery);
- (xvii) Deputy Group Superintendent (Patrol and Guards);
- (xviii) Deputy Group Superintendent (Public Relations);
- (xix) Deputy Group Superintendent (Surveillance);
- (xx) Deputy Group Superintendent (Provost);
- (xxi) Deputy Group Superintendent (Gender);
- (xxii) Assistant Group Superintendent (Finance);
- (xxiii) Assistant Group Superintendent (Stores).

(c) Local Government Command:

- (i) Local Government Commandant;
- (ii) Deputy Local Government Commandant;
- (iii) Assistant Group Superintendent (Administration);

- (iv) Assistant Group Superintendent (Operations);
- (v) Assistant Group Superintendent (Finance);
- (vi) Chief Group Inspector (Surveillance);
- (vii) Chief Group Inspector (Patrol and Guard);
- (viii) Chief Group Inspector (Special Duties);
- (ix) Senior Group Inspector (Pollution and Environmental Sanitation);
- (x) Senior Group Inspector (Narcotics Control);
- (xi) Senior Group Inspector (Women);
- (xii) Group Inspector (Road Traffic);
- (xiii) Group Inspector (Crimes);
- (xiv) Group Sergeant (Provost);
- (xv) Group Sergeant (Exhibit) (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 7 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 8: Membership of the Group.

The Group shall consist of such number of volunteers and regular members as may, from time to time, be recruited by the Board to meet the requirements of the Group (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 8 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 9: (1) The service may consider and promote from time to time officers and members who are qualified to be elevated to the next rank.

(2) The Group:

- (a) shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal;
- (b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name; and
- (c) shall have its headquarters in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 9 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART IV — UNIFORMS, EQUIPMENTS AND RANKS

Committee Recommendation:**Clause 10: Uniforms.**

- (1) There shall be uniforms for the Vigilante Group, which shall be subject to change, as follows:
 - (a) Dark-maroon jacket, shirt, trousers and skirts;
 - (b) Dark-red beret;
 - (c) Black belt for general duties;
 - (d) White belt for provost officers;
 - (e) Black boots;
 - (f) White lanyard for officers and dark-maroon lanyard for members.
- (2) Subject to Subsection (1), the Commandant-General is hereby empowered to make Regulations for uniforms and their use (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 10 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:**Clause 11: Equipment.**

- (1) The Government shall provide for the Vigilante Group equipment as are necessary for its administrative and operational needs. Such equipment shall include the following:
 - (a) Operational and utility vehicles;
 - (b) Communication gadgets including walkie-talkies, masts, boosters, radio-messaging equipment, 'caller unit group' (CUG);
 - (c) Other operational and administrative equipment like rain coats, rain boots, access control system equipment, torch-lights, reflective jackets, blankets, whistles and other equipment deemed necessary;
 - (d) Detective equipment like hand-held metal detectors, walk-through detectors, baggage scanners, close circuit television (CCTV) cameras, bomb detectors and vehicular bomb detectors and other Explosive Ordnance Disposer (EOD);
- (2) The Commandant-General shall make Regulations on the use of equipment including safety measures in handling sensitive equipment (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 11 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART V — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Committee Recommendation:**Clause 13: Funds of the Group.**

- (1) The Group shall establish and maintain a fund into which monies shall be paid and credited:
 - (a) take off grants, annual subventions and budgetary allocations received from the Government of the Federation;
 - (b) such monies as may be appropriated to the Group from time to time by the National Assembly;
 - (c) such monies as may from time to time, lent, deposited with or granted to the Group by the Government of the Federation, States or local government
 - (d) grants, gifts or donations from international organizations and donor agencies;
 - (e) all other funds which may, from time to time, accrue to the Group.
- (2) The Group may receive donations from other organizations after due consultation with the necessary agencies.
- (3) The officers and members shall be paid full salaries on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed as it is in the Federal Civil Service Commission or any related agency.
- (4) The Group shall be paid from security vote and overhead costs, such allowances as are reasonably necessary for the upkeep of its National Secretariat and for meeting of its incidental expenses like, but not limited to the day to day running of the Group (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 13 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:**Clause 14: Pensions.**

- (1) The service in the Group shall be approved service for the purposes of the Pensions Act and, accordingly, regular members and employees of the Group shall be entitled to pensions, gratuity and other retirement benefits as are prescribed under the Pensions Act.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, nothing in this Bill shall prevent the appointment of a person to any office on terms which preclude the grant of a pension, gratuity or other retirement benefit in respect of that office.
- (3) For the purposes of the application of the provisions of the Pensions Act, any power exercisable by the Minister or other authority of the Federal Government, other than the power to make regulations under section 23 of the Act, is hereby vested in and shall be exercisable by the Group and not by any other person or authority (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 14 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 15: Expenditure of the Group.

The Commission may, from time to time, apply the proceeds of the Fund established in section 11 of this Bill —

- (a) to the cost of administration of the Group;
- (b) to the payment of salaries, fees, or other remuneration or allowances, gratuities payable to the officers and other employees of the Group, so that no payment of any kind under this paragraph (except such as may be expressly authorised) shall be made to any person who is in receipt of emoluments from the Federal or State Government;
- (c) for the maintenance of any property vested in the Group ; and
- (d) for and in connection with all or any of its functions under this Bill (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 15 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 16: Annual estimates and accounts.

- (1) The Group shall, not later than 31st October in each year, submit to the Minister an estimate of its expenditure and income (including payments to the Group Fund) during the next succeeding year.
- (2) The Group shall keep proper accounts in relation to those accounts and shall cause its accounts to be audited within six months after the end of each year by auditors appointed from the list and in accordance with the guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General of the Federation (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 16 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 17: Annual report.

The Group shall prepare and submit to the Federal Executive Council through the Minister, not later than six months after the end of each year, a report in such form as he may direct on the activities of the Group during the immediately preceding year, and shall include in such report a copy of the audited accounts of the Group for that year and the auditor's report on the accounts (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 17 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 18: Power to accept gift.

- (1) The Group may accept any gift of land, money or other property on such terms and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the person or organisation making the gift.
- (2) The Group shall not accept any gift if the conditions attached by the person or organisation offering the gift are inconsistent with the functions of the Group (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 18 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 19: Power to borrow.

- (1) The Group may, from time to time, borrow by overdraft or otherwise such sums as it may require for the performance of its functions under this Bill.
- (2) The Group shall not, without the approval of the Minister, borrow money which exceeds, at any time, the amount set by the Minister.
- (3) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, where the sum to be borrowed is in foreign currency, the Group shall not borrow the sum without the prior approval of the Minister (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 19 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 20: Investment. Act Cap. T22, LFN, 2004.

The Group may, subject to the provisions of this Bill and the conditions of any trust created in respect of any property, invest all or any of its funds in any security prescribed by the Trustee Investments Act or in such other securities as may, from time to time, be approved by the Minister (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 20 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 21: Exemptions from tax.

- (1) The Group shall be exempted from the payment of any income tax on any income accruing from investments made by the Board for the Group
- (2) The provisions of any enactment relating to the taxation of companies or trust funds shall not apply to the Group or the Board (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 21 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART VI — DISCIPLINE

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 22: Discipline of Group members.

A Group member who —

- (a) performs his duties in contravention of the objects of the Group;
- (b) takes part in any subversive activity, including mutiny and disturbance of public peace;
- (c) abets, incites, conceals or condones the commission of any offence;
- (d) takes part in an illegal assembly of persons with intention to breach public peace, destroy property or assault any person or group of persons;
- (e) having knowledge that an offence or an illegal act is about to be committed, fails to inform his superior officer;

- (f) takes part in a strike; and
- (g) offers violent assault on his superior officer;

commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of not less than one year (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 22 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART VII — LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 23: Limitation of suits against Group.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the provisions of the Public officers Protection Act shall apply in relation to any suit instituted against any officer or employee of the Group.
- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other enactment, no suit against any member of the Board or the Commandant-General or any other officer or employee of the Group for any act done in pursuance or execution of this Bill or any other enactment or law, or of any public duty or authority or in respect of any alleged neglect or default in the execution of this Bill or any other enactment or law, duty or authority, shall lie or be instituted in any court unless it is commenced:
 - (a) within three months after the act, neglect or default complained of; or
 - (b) in the case of a continuation of damage or injury, within six months after the ceasing thereof.
- (3) No suit shall be commenced against a member or the Board or the Commandant-General or any other officer or employee of the Group before the expiration of a period of one month after written notice of intention to commence the suit shall have been served on the Group by the intending plaintiff or his agent.
- (4) The notice referred to in subsection (3) of this section shall clearly and explicitly state:
 - (a) the cause of action;
 - (b) the particulars of claim;
 - (c) the name and place of abode of the intending plaintiff; and
 - (d) the relief which the plaintiff claims (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 23 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:**Clause 24: Service of documents.**

A notice, summons or other document required or authorized to be served on the Group under the provisions of this Bill or any other enactment or law may be served by delivering it to the Commandant-General or by sending it by registered post and addressed to the Commandant-General at the principal office of the Group (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 24 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:**Clause 25: Restriction on execution against property of the Group.**

(1) In any action or suit against the Group, no execution or attachment of process in the nature thereof shall be issued against the Group unless a notice of not less than 3 months of the intention to execute or attach has been given to the Group.

(2) Any sum of money, which may, by the judgment of any Court, be awarded against the Group shall, subject to any directions given by the court where notice of appeal against the judgment has been given, be paid from the general reserve fund of the Group (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 25 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:**Clause 26: Indemnity of officers.**

A member of the Board or the Commandant-General or any officer or employee of the Group shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Group against any liability incurred by him in defending any proceeding, whether civil or criminal, if the proceeding is brought against him in his capacity as a member, Commandant-General, officer or other employee of the Group (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 26 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:**Clause 27: Secrecy.**

(1) A member of the Board or the Commandant-General or any other officer or employee of the Group shall —

(a) not, for his personal gain, make use of any information which has come to his knowledge in the exercise of his powers or is obtained by him in the ordinary course of his duty as a member of the Board as the Commandant-General, officer or employee of the Group;

(b) treat as confidential any information which has come to his knowledge in the exercise of his powers or is obtained by him in the performance of his duties under this Bill; or

(c) not disclose any information referred to under paragraph (b) of this subsection except when required to do so by any court or in such other circumstances as may be prescribed by the Board, from time to time.

- (2) Person who contravenes the provisions of subsection (1) of this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of not less than ₦50,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 27 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 28: Power to obtain information.

- (1) For the purpose of carrying out the functions conferred on the Group under this Bill, the Commandant-General or any other officer or employee of the Group authorised in that behalf —
- (a) shall have a right of access to all the records of any person or authority affected by this Bill for the specific purpose of discharging his duties under this Bill; and
- (b) may by notice in writing served on any person or premises, require that person or authority to furnish information on such matters as may be specified in notice.
- (2) The person or authority served with the notice under subsection (1) shall furnish information it's required under subsection (1) of this section and comply with the notice a reasonable time (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 28 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 29: Directives by the Minister, etc.

- (1) The Minister may give to the Group or the Commandant-General such directives:
- (a) of a general nature or relating generally to matters of policy with regard to the exercise of its functions; or
- (b) with respect to the maintenance and securing of public safety and order, as he may consider necessary, and the Group or the Commandant-General shall comply with the directives or cause them to be complied with.
- (2) Subject to the provisions Subsection (1) of this section, a Governor of a State may give to a State Command, such directives with respect to the maintenance and security of public safety and order in the State as he may consider necessary and it shall be the duty of the State Commandant shall comply with the directives or cause them to be complied with (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 29 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 30: Regulations.

The Board may, with the approval of the Minister, make such regulations as in its opinion are necessary or expedient for giving full effects to the provisions of this Bill and for the due administration of its provisions (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 30 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 31: Transitional Management.

- (1) Notwithstanding any provisions of this Bill, on the commencement of this Bill, the Inspector-General of Police shall subject to the approval of the Minister appoint a serving Police Officer not below the rank of a:
 - (a) Commissioner of Police to serve as the Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer of Vigilante Group in the Federation;
 - (b) Chief Superintendent of Police to serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the Vigilante Group in every State of the Federation and Federal Capital Territory, Abuja; and
 - (c) Assistant Superintendent of Police as Chief Executive of the Vigilante Group in every Local Government Area in the Federation.
- (2) All Officers appointed under this Section shall serve for 5 years starting from the date specified as transition period, after which their tenure shall expire or deemed to have expired.
- (3) The transition period indicated in this Section shall apply regardless of the actual date of appointment (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 31 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 32: Interpretation.

In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Vigilante Group of Nigeria" means the Group established under this Bill (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Vigilante Group of Nigeria" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Community Service" shall include those listed in section 5 of this Bill (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Community Service" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Commandant General" means the Commandant of the Vigilante Group in Nigeria (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Commandant General" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Deputy Commandant General" means the Deputy to the Commandant General (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Deputy Commandant General" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Assistant Commandant General" means the Assistant to the Commandant Général (Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency).

Question that the meaning of the words "Assistant Commandant General" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Zonal Commandant" is the officer responsible for any of the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria (Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency).

Question that the meaning of the words "Zonal Commandant" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"State Commandant" means the Commandant of the Vigilante Group at the State level (Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency).

Question that the meaning of the words "State Commandant" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Officer" means an officer from the ranks of the Commandant General to Assistant Superintendent of the Vigilante Group (Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency).

Question that the meaning of the word "Officer" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Minister" means Minister responsible for Police Affairs (Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency).

Question that the meaning of the word "Minister" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Member" means a non-commissioned member below the rank of Assistant Superintendent of the Vigilante Group (Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency).

Question that the meaning of the word "Member" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Rank and File" has the same meaning as members (Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency).

Question that the meaning of the words "Rank and File" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"State" means any State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency).

Question that the meaning of the word "State" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Zonal Office" means the Vigilante office in each of the geopolitical zones of Nigeria (Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency).

Question that the meaning of the words "Zonal Office" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

Question that Clause 32 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 33: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Vigilante Group of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2017
(Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency).

Question that Clause 33 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

SCHEDULE

ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE BOARD, ETC.

Section 2 (2)

Proceedings

1. (1) The Board shall, for the purpose of this Bill, meet not less than three times in each year.
- (2) The board shall meet whenever it is summoned by the Chairman and if the Chairman is required to do so by a notice given to him by not less than five other members, he shall summon a meeting of the Board to be held within fourteen days from the date on which the notice is given.
- (3) Where the Board desires to obtain the advice of any person on a particular matter, the Board may co-opt him to the board for such period as it thinks fit but a person who is a member by virtue of this sub-paragraph shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Board and shall not count towards a quorum.

Committees

2. (1) The Board may appoint one or more committees to carry out, on behalf of the Board, its functions under this Bill as the Board may determine.
- (2) A committee appointed under this paragraph shall consist of such number of persons (not necessarily members of the Board as may be determined by the Board) and a person other than a member of the Board shall hold office in the committee in accordance with the terms of his appointment.
- (3) A decision of a Committee of the Board shall be of no effect until it is confirmed by the Board.

Miscellaneous

3. (1) The fixing of the seal of the Group shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman or any other person authorised generally or specifically to act for that purpose by the Board and the Commandant-General.
- (2) Any contract or instrument, which if made or executed by a person not being a body corporate, would not be required to be under seal, may be made or executed on behalf of the Board by the Commandant-General or any person generally or specially authorised to act for the purpose by the Board.

- (3) Any document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal of the Board shall receive in evidence and shall, unless and until the contrary is proved, be presumed to be so executed (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that the provisions of the Schedule stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to establish the Vigilante Group of Nigeria Charged with the Responsibilities among others; provide Community policing, Maintenance of Law and Order in Communities and Community Service for Nigerians (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Vigilante Group of Nigeria (VGN) Charged with the Responsibilities to, among Others, Provide Community Policing, Maintenance of Law and Order and Community Service for Nigerians and for Related Matters (HB.718) (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report progress.

(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 Police Affairs on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Vigilante Group of Nigeria (VGN) charged with Responsibilities, among Others, to Provide Community Policing, Maintenance of Law and Order and Community Service for Nigerians and for Related Matters (HB.718) and approved Clause 1, approved Clause 2 as amended, approved Clauses 3 - 11, deferred Clause 12, approved Clauses 13 - 33, the Explanatory Memorandum, the Schedule and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

(ii) Committee on Justice:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Justice on a Bill for an Act to Make it Mandatory for the National Assembly to Scrutinize and Approve a Subsidiary Legislation before it becomes Enforceable and for Related Matters (HB. 13) and approve the recommendations therein" (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku 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)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO MAKE IT MANDATORY FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO
SCRUTINISE AND APPROVE SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION BEFORE IT BECOMES
ENFORCEABLE AND TO PROVIDE FOR MATTERS INCIDENTAL THERETO (HB.13)

Committee Recommendation:**Clause 1:**

Except otherwise provided in the Constitution, where by an Act of the National Assembly, power on any matter within the legislative competence of the National Assembly is conferred on a person to make Subsidiary Legislation, the provision of this Bill shall apply notwithstanding any contrary provision in the Act or any other law (*Hon. Atunwa Razak — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 1 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:**Clause 2:**

A Subsidiary Legislation made by a person under a power conferred by an Act of the National Assembly shall be —

- (a) laid before both Chambers of the National Assembly;
- (b) be published in the official Gazette or the National Assembly Journal; and
- (c) come into force at the expiration of twenty-one sitting days after being so laid unless National Assembly before expiration of the twenty-one days invalidates the instrument by a resolution (*Hon. Atunwa Razak — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 2 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:**Clause 3:**

- (1) A Subsidiary Legislation shall not be valid unless it is made in compliance with the provisions of this Act.

- (2) Failure to observe a requirement imposed by this or any other Act as to the publication of a Subsidiary Legislation or the laying before National Assembly shall invalidate the instrument, but the National Assembly may resolve by a vote of two-thirds majority of each Chamber that an instrument in respect of which such requirement has not been observed shall come into operation or shall not be deemed to have come into operation on a specified date (*Hon. Atunwa Razak — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 3 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:**Clause 4:**

- (1) Where an instrument is made after the passing but before the coming into operation of the enactment under which it is made, the instrument, whether or not it is previously published, shall not come into operation before the date on which the said enactment comes into operation.

- (2) A Subsidiary Legislation may provide that it shall come into operation on a date earlier than the making thereof, not being a date earlier than the coming into operation of the enactment under which it is made (*Hon. Atunwa Razak — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 4 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:**Clause 5:**

- (1) Where an Act confers power to make a Subsidiary Legislation, the Act shall, unless the context otherwise requires, be deemed also to confer power, exercisable by the like authority and in the like manner, to amend or revoke the instrument.

- (2) Where a Subsidiary Legislation is amended by an Act or further Subsidiary Legislation the Attorney-General may authorise the reprinting of the whole or a part of the instrument in a form which gives effect to the amendments; and when published by authority the instrument or the parts as so reprinted shall be conclusive evidence of the provisions of the amended instrument or part (*Hon. Atunwa Razak — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 5 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 6: In this Act unless the context otherwise requires —

"Act" or "Act of the National Assembly" means any law made by the National Assembly and includes any law which takes effect under the provision of the Constitution as an Act of the National Assembly (*Hon. Atunwa Razak — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Act" or "Act of the National Assembly" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"approving authority" means a person authorized by law to recommend, determine, fix or approve fee or salary (*Hon. Atunwa Razak — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "approving authority" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Attorney General" means Attorney-General of the Federation (*Hon. Atunwa Razak — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Attorney General" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"National Assembly" means Senate and the House of Representatives (*Hon. Atunwa Razak — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "National Assembly" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"person" includes corporate body (*Hon. Atunwa Razak — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word "person" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"power" includes function and duty (*Hon. Atunwa Razak — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word "power" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"public officer" means a member of staff of the public service as defined by the Constitution (*Hon. Atunwa Razak — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "public officer" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Subsidiary Legislation" means an instrument made, whether directly or indirectly, under a power conferred by an enactment (Hon. Atunwa Razak — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency).

Question that the meaning of the words "Subsidiary Legislation" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

Question that Clause 6 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 7: This Bill may be cited as the Subsidiary Legislation (Legislative Scrutiny) Bill, 2017 (Hon. Atunwa Razak — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency).

Question that Clause 7 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to make it mandatory for the National Assembly to scrutinise and approve Subsidiary Legislation before it becomes enforceable, in order to ensure compliance with parent Acts and guard against abuse of delegated powers (Hon. Atunwa Razak — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Make it Mandatory for the National Assembly to Scrutinise and Approve Subsidiary Legislation Before it Becomes Enforceable and to Provide for Matters Incidental Thereto (HB.13) (Hon. Atunwa Razak — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(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 Justice on a Bill for an Act to Make it Mandatory for the National Assembly to Scrutinize and Approve a Subsidiary Legislation before it becomes Enforceable and for Related Matters (HB. 13) and approved Clauses 1 - 7, the Explanatory Memorandum and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

(iii) Committee on Justice:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Justice on a Bill for an Act to Make Provision for a Standard Scale of Fines and Financial Penalties to be Imposed by Courts, Tribunals and Other Statutory Instruments and for Related Matters (HB. 642) and approve the recommendations therein" (Hon. Oker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku 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)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISIONS FOR A SYSTEM OF STANDARD SCALE OF FINES AND FINANCIAL PENALTIES IMPOSED BY COURTS, TRIBUNALS AND OTHER JUDICIAL BODIES (HB. 642)

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 1: The Standard Scale of fines and financial penalties.

- (1) There shall be a Standard Scale of fines for offences, which shall be known as 'the Standard Scale'.
- (2) The Standard Scale is as shown below:

Level on the scale	Maximum Amount of fine
1	
2	₦25,000
3	₦50,000
4	₦100,000
5	₦250,000
6	₦500,000
7	₦1,000,000
8	₦5,000,000
9	₦10,000,000
10.	₦25,000,000
	₦100,000,000 (Hon. Atunwa Razak — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency).

Question that Clause 1 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 2: Where any enactment (whether contained in an Act passed before or after this Bill):

- (a) provides that a person convicted of an offence shall be liable on conviction to a fine or a maximum fine be reference to a specified level on the Standard Scale; or
- (b) confers power by subordinate instrument to make a person liable on conviction of an offence (whether or not created by the instrument) to a fine or maximum fine by reference to a specified level on the standard scale it is to be construed as referring to the Standard Scale as provided in Section 1 (2) of this Bill (Hon. Atunwa Razak — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency).

Question that Clause 2 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 3: Nothing in this Bill shall prevent or prohibit an Act of the National Assembly from imposing an indefinite fine outside of the Standard Scale (Hon. Atunwa Razak — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency).

Question that Clause 3 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:**Clause 4: Citation.**

This Bill may be cited as the Courts and Tribunals Fines and Financial Penalties Bill, 2017 (*Hon. Atunwa Razak — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 4 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to make provisions for a system of standard scale of fines and financial penalties imposed by Courts, Tribunals and other judicial bodies by providing maximum of fines set against a standard scale, so that where there is need to increase the levels of the fines as a result of inflation the legislature needs to modify only the scale without amending individual piece of legislation (*Hon. Atunwa Razak — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Make Provisions for a System of Standard Scale of Fines and Financial Penalties Imposed by Courts, Tribunals and Other Judicial Bodies (HB. 642) (*Hon. Atunwa Razak — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(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 Justice on a Bill for an Act to Make Provision for a Standard Scale of Fines and Financial Penalties to be Imposed by Courts, Tribunals and Other Statutory Instruments and for Related Matters (HB. 642) and approved Clauses 1 - 4, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

14. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 11 October, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. (Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 3.08 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker