



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 25 September, 2019

1. The House met at 11.41 a.m. Mr Deputy Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 24 September, 2019.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Message**
Mr Deputy Speaker read a message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

24th September, 2019

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

Dear Rt Hon. F. Gbajabiamila,

**SUBMISSION OF 2020-2022 MEDIUM-TERM EXPENDITURE
FRAMEWORK AND FISCAL STRATEGY PAPER**

It is with pleasure that I hereby submit the 2020-2022 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework and Fiscal Strategy Paper (MTEF/FSP) to the House of Representatives. Let me use this medium to express my gratitude for the much improved partnership between the Legislative and Executive arms of the Federal Government in our goal of making the budget process deliver better outcomes for the Nigerian people. In particular, I note, with appreciation, the commitment and support, Honourable Members have continued to demonstrate.

Pursuant to provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007, the preparation towards submission of the 2020 Budget to the National Assembly is progressing well. The MTEF/FSP was prepared taking into account key developments in the global and domestic environments. We have endeavoured to ensure that forecasted revenues are realistic but also reasonably challenging in the face of our significantly constrained fiscal space. Planned spending has been set at prudent and sustainable levels, consistent with Government's overall developmental objectives as set out in the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP).

Given our shared objective of returning the Budget to a predictable January-December fiscal year with effect from 2020, I hereby forward the 2020-2022 MTEF/FSP to the House of Representatives and trust that it would be expeditiously considered in order to facilitate the 2020 FGN Budget preparation process.

Please accept, Mr Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

(Signed)

Muhammadu Buhari

Matter referred to the Committees on Finance, and Appropriations.

5. Announcement

Visitors in the Gallery:

Mr Deputy Speaker recognised the presence of members of *National Association of Political Science Students (NAPSS)*, Gombe State University Chapter, Gombe State.

6. Petition

- (i) A petition from Ramatu Abraham, on the termination of her appointment by the Nigerian Export Import Bank, was presented and laid by Hon. Sani Zangon Daura Nasiru (*Zango/Baure Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) A petition from Badiru A. Olufemi, on alleged assault, intimidation and conspiracy to withdraw him from the Passport Office of the Nigeria Immigration Service, Ikoyi by Nasir Umar, was presented and laid by Hon. Bamidele Salam (*Ede North/Ede South/Egbedore/Ejigbo Federal Constituency*);
- (iii) A petition from Akinloye Oyeniyi, on behalf of indigenes of Ilaje Local Government Area, Ondo State, on the non-regularization of the name of the Federal Constituency from Ese Odo/Ilaje Federal Constituency to Ilaje/Ese Odo Federal Constituency, was presented and laid by Hon. Kolade Victor Akinjo (*Ilaje/Ese-Odo Federal Constituency*); and
- (iv) A petition from Opeyemi Oguntimehin and 1 other, on the breach of contractual agreement by Gamestar/G1 Retail Private Limited, was presented and laid by Hon. Alli Adeyemi Taofeek (*Mushin I Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

7. Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**(i) Need to Halt the Imminent Extinction of Significant Parts of the Country Due to the Rapid Advancement of the Sahara Desert:**

Hon. Sulaiman Abubakar Gumi (*Gumi/Bukuyum 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 Halt the Imminent Extinction of Significant Parts of the Country Due to the Rapid Advancement of the Sahara Desert:

The House:

Notes that the northern parts of Nigeria with vast arable land capable of being cultivated to feed the entire nation is vanishing due to the advancing Sahara Desert that is displacing millions of inhabitants while rapidly moving southward at a rate of 0.6 Kilometres per year;

Also notes that some of the major effects of annual loss of 35,000 hectares (or 350km²) of arable land to desertification in the northern Nigeria include the massive migration of people due to loss of farm lands, reduction in crop yields by as much as 80% and the continuous movement of herders towards more fertile vegetation, thereby resulting hostilities between farmers and herders in the area;

Disturbed that the frontline States including Kebbi, Zamfara, Gombe, Yobe, Adamawa and Yobe have been the worst hit, considering that apart from land losses, the migration of a large population, including herders to relatively fertile areas within the States, particularly Zamfara, have occasioned atrocities of various kinds therein;

Also disturbed that every day that the nation fails in the requirement for the commencement of the Great Green Wall Programme, which entails the planned cultivation of a wall of trees expected to run across frontline areas of the affected regions, about 97.2 hectares (or 0.97km²) of land is lost, thus, distorting the expected scope and timeline to the achievement of the programme by 2030;

Aware that the Great Green Wall Programme, a Pan-African initiative was conceived by the African Union in 2006 to address land degradation and desertification, boost food security and support communities to adapt to climate change in the Sahel-Sahara region of Africa;

Also aware that in compliance with the initiative, Nigeria established the National Agency for the Great Green Wall in 2015 with the mandate to halt and reverse land degradation, prevent depletion of biological diversity, ensure that by 2025, ecosystems are resilient to climate change while it continually provides essential services that would contribute to human welfare and poverty eradication;

Further notes that the creation of the Agency remains the major mechanism that can be used to ensure the sustainable development of dry lands, combat rural poverty, ameliorate/eradicate farmer-herder conflict, restore ancestral lands/homes and create hope for affected Nigerians, given that the framework of the programme envisages that about 22,500km² (i.e. 2,250,000 hectares) of degraded land in the dry region of the country will

be rehabilitated for agricultural production and the livelihoods of over 25 million people improved by the year 2030;

Further disturbed that the operations of the Agency is being hampered by lack of funding despite the fact that the programme is expected to have a Fund comprising 15 per cent of the Ecological Fund and other sources, including appropriations from the annual budgets, evidence shows that the Agency is cash-strapped and is not likely to achieve its mandate or mission within the appointed time frame;

Desirous of ensuring that urgent steps are taken to fast track the effective working of the Great Green Wall Programme in Nigeria;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Climate Change to, as a matter of urgency, appraise the operations of the National Agency for the Great Green Wall with regard to its funding and general workings of the Agency, and report back in for (4) weeks (*Hon. Sulaiman Abubakar Gumi — Gumi/Bukuyum Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 95/09/2019).

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

(ii) *Expression of Solidarity with the Executive on the Closure of the Southern and Northern Borders of the Country and a Call for Immediate Measures to Assist Genuine and Legitimate Users of the Borders while the Reasons for the Border Closure are Looked into:* Hon. Valentine Ayika Ogbonna (*Njikoka/Dunukofia/Anaocha Federal Constituency and 6 others*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Expression of Solidarity with the Executive on the Closure of the Southern and Northern Borders of the Country and A Call for Immediate Measures to Assist Genuine and Legitimate Users of the Borders While the Reasons for the Border Closure Are Looked Into:

The House:

Notes that President Muhamadu Buhari on Wednesday, August 21, 2019 ordered the closure of the border between Nigeria and Benin Republic in the south, and later that of Nigeria and Niger in the north for activities inimical to the security, agricultural and commercial interest of the country, and the said border remain closed till date;

Also notes that the border closure exercise, code-named, 'Ex-Swift Response' was being jointly conducted by the customs, immigration, police and military personnel and coordinated by the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA);

Further notes that Nigeria's Comptroller General of Customs, Hameed Ali, remarked that the borders would remain shut until neighbors help Nigeria to curb the widespread problem of smuggling;

Very happy that the closure sends a strong signal to Nigeria's neighbors in the north and south regarding our collective resolve to bring them to comply with the principles and doctrines of the sub-regional treaties, existing laws and other bilateral agreements;

Aware that the border closure was done without any formal notice either to the public in general, or to those who genuinely use the borders for legitimate businesses;

Recalls that the President of Benin Republic, the leadership of ECOWAS, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria Export Group (MANEG), and other relevant stakeholders called on the Federal Government to reconsider its decision on the border closure;

Worried that the prolonged border closure will in no small measure, have a devastating effect on the businesses of genuine users of the border;

Deeply worried for the immediate, remote and collateral damage the prolonged border closure will bring about on small and medium businesses and the economy at large.

Resolves to:

- (i) mandate the Committee on Environment and Habitat to interface with relevant agencies and stakeholders for a quick resolution to the impasse;
- (ii) also mandate the Committee to arrange for a tripartite meeting of the concerned legislative Houses for a review of the relevant laws, treaties and protocols;
- (iii) further mandate the Committee on Environment and Habitat to meet up with relevant stakeholders with interest in the border usage for their input on the impasse and make further directives as may be deemed expedient in the circumstances (*Hon. Valentine Ayika — Njikoka/Dunukofia/Anaocha Federal Constituency and Six (6) others*)

Debate.

Negatived.

8. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Pharmacy Council of Nigeria (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2019 (HB. 334).
- (2) National Security Trust Fund (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2019 (HB. 335).
- (3) Federal College of Education, Lissam Bill, 2019 (HB. 336).
- (4) Prohibition of Mercenary Regulations of Certain Activities in the Country of Armed Conflict Bill, 2019 (HB. 337).
- (5) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2019 (HB. 338).
- (6) Nigerian Metallurgical Industry Bill, 2019 (HB. 339).
- (7) Lobbyists (Registration and Regulation) Bill, 2019 (HB. 340).

9. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology Act, Cap. N96, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 by Increasing the amount for which the College may charge Mortgage or dispose of a Property of the College for which the consent of the Minister is required and Reduce the Membership of the Board; and for Related Matters (HB. 31) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology Act, Cap. N96, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 by Increasing the amount for which the College may charge Mortgage or dispose of a Property of the College for which the consent of the Minister is required and Reduce the Membership of the Board; and for Related Matters (HB. 31) be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Aviation.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Design, Development, Installation and Management of a Robust Crime and Criminal Tracking System for the Nigeria Police to enhance National Security through Automation of Criminals Records with Biometric Identification Information for background Security checks, Crime Investigation and Prosecution and Counter -Terrorism; and for Related Matters (HB. 25) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

11. **Need to Revamp the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria, Udonmora Substation, Edo State**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Agricultural sector presents Nigeria with the opportunity to diversify her economy in line with the vision of the Federal Government to reduce over dependence on oil as the major source of revenue;

Also notes that the economic history of Nigeria reveals that until the 1970s, Agriculture was the backbone of the economy, especially the production and exportation of cocoa;

Aware that prior to the 1970s, Nigeria was a major producer and exporter of cocoa following the establishment of Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) in 1964 and the creation of 6 substations across the six (6) geopolitical zones in Nigeria to boost the production of cocoa and other cash crops;

Informed that the substations are located at Owena (Ondo State) which caters for cocoa, robusta coffee and kola; Udonmora (Edo State) which caters for cocoa; Oshaja; (Kogi State) for cashew and kola; Ibeku (Abia State) caters for cocoa and cashew; while Ajassor (Cross River State) caters for cocoa and Kola; and Kusuku-Mambilla (Taraba State) caters for Arabica coffee and tea;

Also aware that the Udonmora Substation that was established in 1967, with office block, rest house, Clinic and 20 residential quarters, has made extensive and invaluable contributions via research that supported the work of cocoa farmers in this marginal forest area;

Concerned that due to low level funding of Research in the past years, the infrastructure in this substation have dilapidated to such a sorry state that it can no longer carry out serious and sustainable research activities as well as create wealth and employment opportunity for the people which in turn, greatly affects the economic growth of that sector, and has completely defeated the mandate for which the Institute was established;

Also informed that approximately 30 to 40% of all potential cocoa production are lost to diseases with farmers suffering the major loss due to the poor research capacity among other reasons and this has also contributed to the low production of cocoa in the Country;

Worried that in macroeconomic terms, Nigeria's global cocoa production rating has dropped from second to the fourth position at a time of rising demand for cocoa in the world market;

Also worried that the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) substation at Uhonmora is a research center in name only, lacking laboratories, electricity, facilities and also holding insufficient administrative staff, with dilapidated and uninhabitable buildings without library or computers and equally, with low budgetary allocation;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) to propose a workable agenda for revamping the substation at Uhonmora, Edo State;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to upscale the Institute's budgetary allocation to fast-track revival of research activities at the substation that has been grounded;
- (iii) again urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to carry out works at the various buildings, health facility and Staff quarters as well as road leading to the Uhonmora substation; and
- (iv) further urge the Federal Ministries of Works and Housing, and Science and Technology to provide standard research equipment needed for the effective functioning of the Uhonmora Substation at Owan Federal Constituency of Edo State;
- (v) mandate the Committee on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions to ensure implementation (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Agricultural sector presents Nigeria with the opportunity to diversify her economy in line with the vision of the Federal Government to reduce over dependence on oil as the major source of revenue;

Also noted that the economic history of Nigeria reveals that until the 1970s, Agriculture was the backbone of the economy, especially the production and exportation of cocoa;

Aware that prior to the 1970s, Nigeria was a major producer and exporter of cocoa following the establishment of Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) in 1964 and the creation of 6 substations across the six (6) geopolitical zones in Nigeria to boost the production of cocoa and other cash crops;

Informed that the substations are located at Owena (Ondo State) which caters for cocoa, robusta coffee and kola; Uhonmora (Edo State) which caters for cocoa; Ochaja; (Kogi State) for cashew and kola; Ibeku (Abia State) caters for cocoa and cashew; while Ajassor (Cross River State) caters for cocoa and Kola; and Kusuku-Mambilla (Taraba State) caters for Arabica coffee and tea;

Also aware that the Uhonmora Substation that was established in 1967, with office block, rest house, Clinic and 20 residential quarters, has made extensive and invaluable contributions via research that supported the work of cocoa farmers in this marginal forest area;

Concerned that due to low level funding of Research in the past years, the infrastructure in this substation have dilapidated to such a sorry state that it can no longer carry out serious and sustainable research activities as well as create wealth and employment opportunity for the people which in turn, greatly affects the economic growth of that sector, and has completely defeated the mandate for which the Institute was established;

Also informed that approximately 30 to 40% of all potential cocoa production are lost to diseases with farmers suffering the major loss due to the poor research capacity among other reasons and this has also contributed to the low production of cocoa in the Country;

Worried that in macroeconomic terms, Nigeria's global cocoa production rating has dropped from second to the fourth position at a time of rising demand for cocoa in the world market;

Also worried that the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) substation at Uhonmora is a research center in name only, lacking laboratories, electricity, facilities and also holding insufficient administrative staff, with dilapidated and uninhabitable buildings without library or computers and equally, with low budgetary allocation;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) to propose a workable agenda for revamping the substation at Uhonmora, Edo State;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to upscale the Institute's budgetary allocation to fast-track revival of research activities at the substation that has been grounded;
- (iii) again urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to carry out works at the various buildings, health facility and Staff quarters as well as road leading to the Uhonmora substation; and
- (iv) further urge the Federal Ministries of Works and Housing, and Science and Technology to provide standard research equipment needed for the effective functioning of the Uhonmora Substation at Owan Federal Constituency of Edo State;
- (v) mandate the Committee on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions to ensure implementation (HR. 96/09/2019).

12. **Rehabilitation of Lokoja - Okene - Auchi Road**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Lokoja-Okene-Auchi road which is the major link between the northern and the southern parts of Nigeria, connecting seven (7) states in the country, and is also the gateway to Ajaokuta Steel Company as well as Itakpe Iron Ore Mining Company of Nigeria is under serious threat of being washed off by gully erosion with over 70% already devastated by the menace;

Also notes that the road has suffered the worst form of neglect in the history of road maintenance and rehabilitation in Nigeria despite having featured in successive budget for over a decade among capital projects to be undertaken;

Worried that the current state of the road is a sad commentary on the state of highways in Nigeria, thus painting an unsavory picture of the country's deteriorating culture of road use;

Aware of an instance where Abuja and Lagos bound travellers spent about three days on the road as traffic was on a standstill and all the routes within the township were congested and completely blocked;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to, as a matter of urgency, commence rehabilitation of the road; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Works to ensure compliance (*Hon. Yusuf Ahmed Tijani — Okene/Ogori-Mangogo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
"Urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to initiate the dualization of the existing road with all the necessary road furniture" (*Hon. Ganiyu Johnson — Oshodi-Isolo II Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

- (ii) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (i) and *insert* as follows:
"Urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to review the ongoing contract and if need be fund the project to enable the contractor complete the ongoing rehabilitation work" (*Hon. Ndudi Elumelu — Aniocha/Oshimili Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (ii) and *insert* as follows:
"Mandate the Committees on Works, and FERMA to interface with the Ministry of Works so as to ascertain the reason for the delay in completion of the ongoing rehabilitation, if need be, fund the rehabilitation work in 2020 budget" (*Hon. Ndudi Elumelu — Aniocha/Oshimili Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Lokoja-Okene-Auchi road which is the major link between the northern and the southern parts of Nigeria, connecting seven (7) states in the country, and is also the gateway to Ajaokuta Steel Company as well as Itakpe Iron Ore Mining Company of Nigeria is under serious threat of being washed off by gully erosion with over 70% already devastated by the menace;

Also noted that the road has suffered the worst form of neglect in the history of road maintenance and rehabilitation in Nigeria despite having featured in successive budget for over a decade among capital projects to be undertaken;

Worried that the current state of the road is a sad commentary on the state of highways in Nigeria, thus painting an unsavory picture of the country's deteriorating culture of road use;

Aware of an instance where Abuja and Lagos bound travellers spent about three days on the road as traffic was on a standstill and all the routes within the township were congested and completely blocked;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to review the ongoing contract and if need be fund the project to enable the contractor complete the ongoing rehabilitation work; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Works, and FERMA to interface with the Ministry of Works so as to ascertain the reason for the delay in completion of the ongoing rehabilitation, if need be, fund the rehabilitation work in 2020 budget (HR. 97/09/2019).

13. Rehabilitation of 73 Kilometer Gwaram to Misau Federal Road

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the 73 Kilometer Gwaram to Misau Federal Road which runs through Shira/Giade Federal constituency of Bauchi State has deteriorated to such an extent that it is now a death trap;

Aware that the road is a major route to the viable markets in the ancient towns of Yana, Sara and Giade communities in Shira and Giade Local Government Areas of Bauchi State;

Also aware that other major roads like Wudil- Kari highway, and the rural roads surrounding those major roads which ought to be veritable routes for the Socio-economic sustenance of the people of Shira/Giade Federal Constituency are in very poor state;

Worried that maintenance work which the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) commenced in 2017 on the Gwaram-Misau Road starting from Zandam was abruptly abandoned;

Believes that no meaningful achievement can be attained without a good road infrastructure;

Also worried that owing to deplorable state of the road, innocent lives have been lost through avoidable accidents and hoodlums attack motorists and dispossess them of their valuables, not minding the precious time being spent by the people to convey their goods to the markets;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to commence repairs of Gwaram-Misau road;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to make provision in the 2020 budget estimates for the construction/reconstruction of rural roads to enhance socio-economic growth in the area;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to initiate the dualization of the 252 km Wudil-Kari highway and make provisions in the 2020 budget estimates for same;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), and Works to ensure compliance (Hon. Kani Abubakar Faggo — Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Further aware that from 1 January to 30 June, 2019, a total of 2,882 suspected cases have been reported from 22 States, of which 603 were confirmed positive, 17 probable and 2,262 were negative;

Concerned that since the onset of the 2019 outbreak in the country, there have been 136 confirmed cases of deaths thereby putting the fatality ratio in confirmed cases to a high 22.6%;

Worried that the Benue State Commissioner for Health and Human Services, Dr Sunday Ongbabo had confirmed another round of outbreak of Lassa fever in the state with the death of a patient in Makurdi, the State Capital;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Federal Ministry of Health to ensure that the outbreak is contained to reduce the fatality ratio in confirmed cases;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Health to create more awareness on the dangers of Lassa Fever and other communicable diseases to enable the populace adopt preventive measures to avoid contracting the disease; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to ensure compliance and report back within four (4) weeks (**HR. 103/09/2019**).

19. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 26 September, 2019 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.27 p.m.

Ahmed Idris
Deputy Speaker

Aware that on 21 January 2019, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) declared an outbreak of Lassa fever following an increase in the number of cases, a total of 213 confirmed cases were reported in sixteen States including Edo, Ondo, Ebonyi, Bauchi, Plateau, Taraba, Gombe, Anambra, Kaduna, Kwara, FCT, Benue, Rivers, Nassarawa and Kogi across 40 Local Government Areas leading to the death of 41 people;

Also aware that in the reporting week 26 between 24 - 30 June, 2019, two new confirmed cases were reported from the two States of Edo (1) and Benue (1) with one death from Benue state;

Further aware that from 1 January to 30 June, 2019, a total of 2,882 suspected cases have been reported from 22 States, of which 603 were confirmed positive, 17 probable and 2,262 were negative;

Concerned that since the onset of the 2019 outbreak in the country, there have been 136 confirmed cases of deaths thereby putting the fatality ratio in confirmed cases to a high 22.6%;

Worried that the Benue State Commissioner for Health and Human Services, Dr Sunday Ongbabo had confirmed another round of outbreak of Lassa fever in the state with the death of a patient in Makurdi, the State Capital;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Federal Ministry of Health to ensure that the outbreak is contained to reduce the fatality ratio in confirmed cases;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Health to create more awareness on the dangers of Lassa Fever and other communicable diseases to enable the populace adopt preventive measures to avoid contracting the disease;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to ensure compliance and report back within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Robert Aondona Tyough — Kwande/Ushongo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Lassa fever is an acute viral hemorrhagic illness of 2-21 days duration that is transmitted to humans through contact with food or household items contaminated with urine or faeces of a rodent;

Also noted that person-to-person infections and laboratory transmission can also occur, particularly in hospitals lacking adequate infection prevention and control measures;

Further noted that Lassa fever is known to be endemic in Benin, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, but probably exists in other West African countries as well;

Aware that on 21 January 2019, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) declared an outbreak of Lassa fever following an increase in the number of cases, a total of 213 confirmed cases were reported in sixteen States including Edo, Ondo, Ebonyi, Bauchi, Plateau, Taraba, Gombe, Anambra, Kaduna, Kwara, FCT, Benue, Rivers, Nassarawa and Kogi across 40 Local Government Areas leading to the death of 41 people;

Also aware that in the reporting week 26 between 24 - 30 June, 2019, two new confirmed cases were reported from the two States of Edo (1) and Benue (1) with one death from Benue state;

Worried that Malaria is transmitted throughout Nigeria with 76% of the population living in high malaria transmission areas and 24% in low malaria transmission areas;

Cognizant that the National Malaria Strategic Plan of 2014-2020 (NMSP-2014-2020) is based on National Strategic Health Development Plan of 2010-2015 and aligns with the National Health and Development Priorities;

Acknowledged that the Strategy outlines the provision of a comprehensive package of integrated malaria prevention and treatment services through the community, primary, secondary and tertiary levels, defining the roles of each health care cadre/level relative to malaria control and case management across all health care services, including public, private and traditional health providers;

Worried that with all the efforts put in place, the cost of effective malaria treatment is still unaffordable to the poor rural dwellers on whom the burden of malaria is heaviest and has frustrated the effort to control the disease;

Also acknowledged the need to make malaria treatment free in all public hospitals in Nigeria;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health to implement the National Malaria Treatment Policy and ensure that treatment of malaria in all public hospitals is free across the country;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to declare a state of emergency on the eradication of malaria disease;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Health Care Services to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Health, relevant International Organizations and Donor Agencies to ensure that malaria treatment is free in all public hospitals in Nigeria;
- (iv) also mandate the Committee on HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria Control to explore the use of Dichloro Difloro Trichloroethane (DDT) to totally eradicate malaria in Nigeria; and
- (v) further mandate the Committee on HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria Control to investigate the implementation and funding of the National Malaria Programme in Nigeria from 2005 till date with regards to drugs kept till their expiration in the Federal Ministry of Health stores and same drugs repeated in subsequent budget circles (HR. 102/09/2019).

18. Recent Outbreak of Lassa Fever in Benue State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Lassa fever is an acute viral hemorrhagic illness of 2-21 days duration that is transmitted to humans through contact with food or household items contaminated with urine or faeces of a rodent;

Also notes that person-to-person infections and laboratory transmission can also occur, particularly in hospitals lacking adequate infection prevention and control measures;

Further notes that Lassa fever is known to be endemic in Benin, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, but probably exists in other West African countries as well;

Amendments Proposed:

(i) *Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:*

“Urge the Federal Government to declare a state of emergency on the eradication of malaria disease” (*Hon. Ali Lawan Shettima — Bursari/Geidam/Yunusari Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(ii) *Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:*

“Mandate the Committee on HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria Control to explore the use of Dichloro Difloro Trichloroethane (DDT) to totally eradicate malaria in Nigeria” (*Hon. Agibe Christopher Ngoro — Boki/Ikom Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(iii) *Insert a new Prayer (v) as follows:*

“Also mandate the Committee on HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria Control to investigate the implementation and funding of the National Malaria Programme in Nigeria from 2005 till date with regards to drugs kept till their expiration in the Federal Ministry of Health stores and same drugs repeated in subsequent budget circles” (*Hon. Dachung Bagos Musa — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Nigeria was identified as one of the countries targeted by the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) in 2005 to reduce malaria-related mortality by 50% across 15 high-burden countries in sub-Saharan Africa;

Also noted that the initiative revolved around four proven and highly effective malaria prevention and treatment measures: Insecticide-Treated Mosquito Nets (ITNs), Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS), Accurate Diagnosis and prompt treatment with Artemisinin-Based Combination Therapies (ACTs), and Intermittent Preventive Treatment of Pregnant Women (IPTP);

Further noted that there are over 100 million people at risk of malaria every year in Nigeria and indeed, it was estimated that about 50% of the adult population in Nigeria experienced at least one malaria attack yearly, while the under five years children have up to 2 - 4 attacks of malaria annually;

Recalled that during the 2005 African Summit on Roll Back Malaria in Abuja, the Heads of Governments and International Agencies signed the Abuja Declaration committing themselves to the Abuja target, one of which stipulated that concerted efforts would be made to ensure that by the end of 2005, at least 60% of those at risk of malaria attacks should have access to good, quality, affordable and efficacious antimalaria drugs;

Aware that the PMI Strategy for 2015-2020 takes into account the progress over the past decades and the new challenges that have arisen, including the yearly economic losses due to malaria attack in Nigeria which have been put at ₦132 Billion due to costs of treatment, transport to sources of treatment, loss of man-hours, absenteeism from schools and other indirect costs;

Also aware that in 2011 Nigeria began implementation as a PMI focus country with support to three States of Cross River, Nasarawa, and Zamfara and in 2012, expanded to six more States of Bauchi, Benue, Ebonyi, Kogi, Oyo, and Sokoto while in 2013, it added two more States of Akwa Ibom and Kebbi, bringing the total to 11 States;

Also notes that the initiative revolved around four proven and highly effective malaria prevention and treatment measures: Insecticide-Treated Mosquito Nets (ITNs), Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS), Accurate Diagnosis and prompt treatment with Artemisinin-Based Combination Therapies (ACTs), and Intermittent Preventive Treatment of Pregnant Women (IPTP);

Further notes that there are over 100 million people at risk of malaria every year in Nigeria and indeed, it was estimated that about 50% of the adult population in Nigeria experienced at least one malaria attack yearly, while the under five years children have up to 2 - 4 attacks of malaria annually;

Recalls that during the 2005 African Summit on Roll Back Malaria in Abuja, the Heads of Governments and International Agencies signed the Abuja Declaration committing themselves to the Abuja target, one of which stipulated that concerted efforts would be made to ensure that by the end of 2005, at least 60% of those at risk of malaria attacks should have access to good, quality, affordable and efficacious antimalaria drugs;

Aware that the PMI Strategy for 2015-2020 takes into account the progress over the past decades and the new challenges that have arisen, including the yearly economic losses due to malaria attack in Nigeria which have been put at ₦132 Billion due to costs of treatment, transport to sources of treatment, loss of man-hours, absenteeism from schools and other indirect costs;

Also aware that in 2011 Nigeria began implementation as a PMI focus country with support to three States of Cross River, Nasarawa, and Zamfara and in 2012, expanded to six more States of Bauchi, Benue, Ebonyi, Kogi, Oyo, and Sokoto while in 2013, it added two more States of Akwa Ibom and Kebbi, bringing the total to 11 States;

Worried that Malaria is transmitted throughout Nigeria with 76% of the population living in high malaria transmission areas and 24% in low malaria transmission areas;

Cognizant that the National Malaria Strategic Plan of 2014-2020 (NMSP-2014-2020) is based on National Strategic Health Development Plan of 2010-2015 and aligns with the National Health and Development Priorities;

Acknowledges that the Strategy outlines the provision of a comprehensive package of integrated malaria prevention and treatment services through the community, primary, secondary and tertiary levels, defining the roles of each health care cadre/level relative to malaria control and case management across all health care services, including public, private and traditional health providers;

Worried that with all the efforts put in place, the cost of effective malaria treatment is still unaffordable to the poor rural dwellers on whom the burden of malaria is heaviest and has frustrated the effort to control the disease;

Also acknowledges the need to make malaria treatment free in all public hospitals in Nigeria;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health to implement the National Malaria Treatment Policy and ensure that treatment of malaria in all public hospitals is free across the country;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Health Care Services to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Health, relevant International Organizations and Donor Agencies to ensure that malaria treatment is free in all public hospitals in Nigeria (*Hon. Benjamin Bem Mzondu — Makurdi/Guma Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:*
“investigate and determine the actual debt profile of the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON)” (*Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwu East/Ukwu West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *In Prayer (i), immediately after the words “Banking and Currency”, insert the words “and Insurance and Actuarial Matters” (Hon. Dachung Bagos Musa — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency).*

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Notes that the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) was established in 2010 to, among other functions, acquire eligible bank assets from eligible financial institutions and to hold, manage, realize and dispose of eligible bank assets (including the collection of interest, principal and capital due and taking over of collateral securing such assets);

Also notes that AMCON is currently challenged by difficulties in recovery of debts owed by debtors to the tune of ₦5.4 trillion;

Aware that AMCON claims that 20 individuals/entities are responsible for about 67 percent of the ₦5.4 trillion debt portfolio of the corporation, an amount which is over 50 percent of the 2018 Budget of Nigeria;

Concerned that some of the debtors who owe large portions of the debts are alleged to be unwilling to pay;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Banking and Currency, and Insurance and Actuarial Matters to:

- (i) investigate the debt portfolio of ₦5.4 trillion to AMCON and the alleged unwillingness of some of the debtors to pay;
- (ii) evaluate the status of the debts and the practical, legal and other strategies for the recovery of the debts, including recommending a time frame, and other options such as amendment of the AMCON Act, and report back within three (3) weeks; and
- (iii) investigate and determine the actual debt profile of the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) (**HR. 101/09/2019**).

17. Review of the National Anti-Malaria Treatment Policy in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Nigeria was identified as one of the countries targeted by the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) in 2005 to reduce malaria-related mortality by 50% across 15 high-burden countries in sub-Saharan Africa;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the displaced persons;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to include funds in the 2020 budget estimates for the construction of a Reservoir at Ringim to collect more spill water from Chalawa and Tiga Dams to avoid reoccurrence of erosion/flooding;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, and Water Resources to ensure Compliance (*Hon. Ado Sani Kiri — Ringim/Taura Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR 100/09/2019).

Motion referred to the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, and Water Resources, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

- 16. Accumulation of Debts by the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON), Amounting to about ₦5.4 trillion, in Excess of its ₦800 Billion Debt Ceiling**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) was established in 2010 to, among other functions, acquire eligible bank assets from eligible financial institutions and to hold, manage, realize and dispose of eligible bank assets (including the collection of interest, principal and capital due and taking over of collateral securing such assets);

Also notes that AMCON is currently challenged by difficulties in recovery of debts owed by debtors to the tune of ₦5.4 trillion;

Aware that AMCON claims that 20 individuals/entities are responsible for about 67 percent of the ₦5.4 trillion debt portfolio of the corporation, an amount which is over 50 percent of the 2018 Budget of Nigeria;

Concerned that some of the debtors who owe large portions of the debts are alleged to be unwilling to pay;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to:

- (i) investigate the debt portfolio of ₦5.4 trillion to AMCON and the alleged unwillingness of some of the debtors to pay;
- (ii) evaluate the status of the debts and the practical, legal and other strategies for the recovery of the debts, including recommending a time frame, and other options such as amendment of the AMCON Act, and report back within three (3) weeks (*Hon. Cornelius Nnaedozie Nnaji — Enugu East/Isi-Uzo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

14. Flood Disaster in Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro Federal Constituency, Kogi State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the recent torrential rainfall in the communities of Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro Federal Constituency which destroyed roads, farmlands and properties worth millions of naira and also rendered hundreds of residents homeless;

Concerned that the flood could lead to outbreak of epidemics and attacks by reptiles it washed up, and a lot of the areas can no longer be accessed due to the flood;

Cognizant that if urgent measures are not taken by the Federal Government to address the root causes of the perennial flooding, the devastating ecological problem will continue with adverse socio-economic problems for the people of the area;

Resolves to:

- (i) commiserate with the people of the affected areas and urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send relief materials to the victims of the flood disaster;
- (ii) call on the Federal Government to, as a matter of urgency, direct the Ecological Fund Office (EFO) to develop and fund a process of remedying the ecological problems of those areas;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Environment to undertake a tour of the affected areas to ascertain the level of damages done and liaise with relevant Agencies with a view to recommending measures to tackle the menace (*Hon. Ali Abdullahi Ibrahim Halims — Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 99/09/2019).

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

15. Erosion and Flood Disaster in Ringim/Taura Federal Consistency and other parts of Jigawa State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the perennial problems of erosion/flooding in Ringim/Taura Local Government Areas and other parts of Jigawa State;

Recalls that on 16 August 2019 the rainfall which began at about 4:00pm lasted till about 10:00 pm leading to loss of lives and destruction of many houses, roads, farm lands and displaced over 500 persons, in the Communities of Ringim/Taura Federal Constituency;

Worried that losses in the areas of commercial/economic activities cannot be quantified, as well as loss of manpower due to traffic congestion as citizens of those communities who ply the roads to their various places of work and businesses are being held up for several hours;

Concerned that if necessary actions are not taken to avert reoccurrence of the menace, it might result in more disastrous consequences to the lives and destruction of properties of residents of the said communities;

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (iv), line 1, immediately after the word "Works", insert the words "and Rural Development" (*Hon. Ganiyu Johnson — Oshodi-Isolo II Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayer (i), line 2, immediately after the words "Gwaram-Misau road", insert the words "Wudil road in Kano State to Kari junction in Bauchi State" (*Hon. Manu Soro Mansur — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

The House:

Notes that the 73 Kilometer Gwaram to Misau Federal Road which runs through Shira/Giade Federal constituency of Bauchi State has deteriorated to such an extent that it is now a death trap;

Aware that the road is a major route to the viable markets in the ancient towns of Yana, Sara and Giade communities in Shira and Giade Local Government Areas of Bauchi State;

Also aware that other major roads like Wudil- Kari highway, and the rural roads surrounding those major roads which ought to be veritable routes for the Socio-economic sustenance of the people of Shira/Giade Federal Constituency are in very poor state;

Worried that maintenance work which the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) commenced in 2017 on the Gwaram-Misau Road starting from Zandam was abruptly abandoned;

Believes that no meaningful achievement can be attained without a good road infrastructure;

Also worried that owing to deplorable state of the road, innocent lives have been lost through avoidable accidents and hoodlums attack motorists and dispossess them of their valuables, not minding the precious time being spent by the people to convey their goods to the markets;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to commence repairs of Gwaram-Misau road, and Wudil road in Kano State to Kari junction in Bauchi State;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to make provision in the 2020 budget estimates for the construction/reconstruction of rural roads to enhance socio-economic growth in the area;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to initiate the dualization of the 252 km Wudil-Kari highway and make provisions in the 2020 budget estimates for same; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), Works, and Rural Development to ensure compliance (**HR. 98/09/2019**).

Motion referred to the Committees on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) Works, and Rural Development.