



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 25 February, 2020

1. The House met at 11.34 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 20 February, 2020.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcements**
 - (a) **Visitors in the Gallery:**
Mr Speaker recognised the presence of the following:
 - (i) Staff and Students of *Leemary Prosper International School*, Gwagwalada, Abuja;
 - (ii) Staff and Students of *Ma-Yashau Islamic Academy*, Lugbe, Abuja; and
 - (ii) Staff and Students of *Excel Academy*; Suleja, Niger State.
 - (b) **Members of the Special Ad-hoc Committee on Constitution Review:**
Mr Speaker recalled that State Caucuses were requested to submit the names of Members to represent their States in the Special Ad-hoc Committee on Constitution Review. He reiterated that only lists of State representatives duly signed by majority of Members from such States would be accepted as authentic, and enjoined State Caucuses to comply accordingly.
5. **Petition**
A petition from Granville Abibo (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Okrika community of Rivers State seeking the amendment of the Oil and Gas Export Free Zone, Act to include Okrika as part of the Oil and Gas Export Free Zone, was presented and laid by Hon. Gogo Bright Tamuno (*Okrika/Ogu/Bolo Federal Constituency*);

Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

(i) **Call on the Federal Government to Appoint Thirty-seven Commissioners into the Federal Character Commission to Aid Effective Delivery of its Mandate:**

Hon. Umyime Idem (*Ukanafun/Oruk Anam 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.

Call on the Federal Government to Appoint Thirty-seven Commissioners into the Federal Character Commission to Aid Effective Delivery of its Mandate:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Character Commission is one of the Agencies of the Federal government with the responsibility to promote, monitor and enforce compliance with the principles of the proportional sharing of all bureaucratic, economic, media and political posts at all levels of government;

Aware that the Federal Character Commission came into operation and has the full force of law by an Act of the National Assembly on 27 December, 1995, and that it has been performing its basic responsibility since creation till recently when there was a drastic reduction in the number of Commissioners available for the effective operation of the commission representing the interest of each State of the Federation;

Also notes that the last Commissioner is the Acting Chairman of the Commission who will bow out of office in April 2020 having reached the end of his tenure;

Further notes that the particular purpose of setting up the Federal Character Commission is to maintain the Federal Character policy across the country but unfortunately, the Commission has failed to maintain its internal appointment according to the Federal Character principle;

Also aware that Section 2 (1) (a) - (c) of the Federal Character Commission Establishment Act, 2004 (As amended) provides that the Commission shall consist of (a) a Chairman who shall be the Chief Executive of the Commission; (b) a representative from each of the States of the Federation; and (c) a representative of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja;

Further aware that the Federal Character Commission as at now is parading only one Commissioner who is the Acting Chairman and functions in place of the 37 Commissioners made provision for by the enabling Act of the National Assembly, and that only one Commissioner can not function efficiently and maximally; no matter how brilliant and intelligent he is and cannot represent the interest of the different States of the country, hence the need to urge the Federal Government to appoint more Commissioners to the Federal Character Commission to accelerate the determination of objective of setting up of the Commission;

Concerned that the Federal Character Commission, due to shortage of Commissioners, cannot effectively see to development inhibiting and adequate representation of the interest of each States of the Federation as the reduction in the number of Commissioners will certainly slow down the equitable dispensation of development across board;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to appoint thirty-seven Commissioners into the Federal Character Commission; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Federal Character to ensure compliance (*Hon. Unyime Idem — Ukanafun/Oruk Anam Federal Constituency*).

*Debate:**Agreed to:*

The House:

Noted that the Federal Character Commission is one of the Agencies of the Federal government with the responsibility to promote, monitor and enforce compliance with the principles of the proportional sharing of all bureaucratic, economic, media and political posts at all levels of government;

Aware that the Federal Character Commission came into operation and has the full force of law by an Act of the National Assembly on 27 December, 1995, and that it has been performing its basic responsibility since creation till recently when there was a drastic reduction in the number of Commissioners available for the effective operation of the commission representing the interest of each State of the Federation;

Also noted that the last Commissioner is the Acting Chairman of the Commission who will bow out of office in April 2020 having reached the end of his tenure;

Further noted that the particular purpose of setting up the Federal Character Commission is to maintain the Federal Character policy across the country but unfortunately, the Commission has failed to maintain its internal appointment according to the Federal Character principle;

Also aware that Section 2 (1) (a) - (c) of the Federal Character Commission Establishment Act, 2004 (As amended) provides that the Commission shall consist of (a) a Chairman who shall be the Chief Executive of the Commission; (b) a representative from each of the States of the Federation; and (c) a representative of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja;

Further aware that the Federal Character Commission as at now is parading only one Commissioner who is the Acting Chairman and functions in place of the 37 Commissioners made provision for by the enabling Act of the National Assembly, and that only one Commissioner can not function efficiently and maximally, no matter how brilliant and intelligent he is and cannot represent the interest of the different States of the country, hence the need to urge the Federal Government to appoint more Commissioners to the Federal Character Commission to accelerate the determination of objective of setting up of the Commission;

Concerned that the Federal Character Commission, due to shortage of Commissioners, cannot effectively see to development inhibiting and adequate representation of the interest of each States of the Federation as the reduction in the number of Commissioners will certainly slow down the equitable dispensation of development across board;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to appoint thirty-seven Commissioners into the Federal Character Commission; and

(ii) mandate the Committee on Federal Character to ensure compliance (HIR. 48/02/2020).

(ii) ***Need to Address the Illegal and Forceful Occupation of Farmlands in Utagba Ogbe, Ndemili and Oliogo Communities in Ndokwa and Ukwuani Local Government Areas of Delta State and Violent Attacks on Farmers by Nomadic Herdsmen:***

Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai (*Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

(a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and

(b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

Need to Address the Illegal and Forceful Occupation of Farmlands in Utagba Ogbe, Ndemili and Oliogo Communities in Ndokwa and Ukwuani Local Government Areas of Delta State and Violent Attacks on Farmers by Nomadic Herdsmen:

The House:

Notes the reported illegal and forceful occupation of farmlands and brutal attacks of Utagba - Ogbe - Ndemili and Oliogo communities in Ndokwa and Ukwuani Local Government Areas of Delta State by nomadic herdsmen;

Also notes that the recent attacks on these communities have led to the death of 3 (three) youths at Ndemili and scores left with life threatening injuries and permanent disabilities;

Observes that the members of these communities who are mostly farmers have been denied access to their farms and means of livelihood as a result of the brutal attacks by these herdsmen who are permanently occupying their farmlands and destroying their crops;

Worried that the continuous occupation of these communities and the painful denial of their means of livelihood by these herdsmen have inflicted untold hardship on the people as well as increased crime rate amongst the idle youth;

Disturbed that these communities may resort to self-help to defend themselves which may lead to the loss of more lives, if urgent steps are not taken by the government through the necessary Agencies to arrest this ugly situation;

Resolves to:

(i) urge the Inspector General of Police to urgently dispatch enough Personnel to the troubled communities to ensure that the herdsmen vacate their farmlands;

(ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to as a matter of urgency send relief Materials to the affected communities that are unable to access their means of livelihood;

(iii) mandate the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to urgently visit the affected communities and the families of the murdered youths with a view to assessing the situation as well as recommend adequate compensations to the family members of the deceased youths and report back within two (2) weeks (*Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the reported illegal and forceful occupation of farmlands and brutal attacks of Utagba - Ogbe - Ndemili and Oliogo communities in Ndokwa and Ukwuani Local Government Areas of Delta State by nomadic herdsmen;

Also noted that the recent attacks on these communities have led to the death of 3 (three) youths at Ndemili and scores left with life threatening injuries and permanent disabilities;

Observed that the members of these communities who are mostly farmers have been denied access to their farms and means of livelihood as a result of the brutal attacks by these herdsmen who are permanently occupying their farmlands and destroying their crops;

Worried that the continuous occupation of these communities and the painful denial of their means of livelihood by these herdsmen have inflicted untold hardship on the people as well as, increased crime rate amongst the idle youth;

Disturbed that these communities may resort to self-help to defend themselves which may lead to the loss of more lives, if urgent steps are not taken by the government through the necessary Agencies to arrest this ugly situation;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Inspector General of Police to urgently dispatch enough Personnel to the troubled communities to ensure that the herdsmen vacate their farmlands;
- (ii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to as a matter of urgency send relief Materials to the affected communities that are unable to access their means of livelihood;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to urgently visit the affected communities and the families of the murdered youths with a view to assessing the situation as well as recommend adequate compensations to the family members of the deceased youths and report back within two (2) weeks (HR. 49/02/2020).

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (4) to enable it take more than 2 matters of urgent public importance" (Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader).

Agreed to.

- (iii) ***Need for the Federal Government to Provide Adequate Security, Reconstruction and Relief Materials to Parts of Gombi and Hong of Adamwa State Attacked by Insurgents and for the Nigerian Army to Review Strategy on its Current Campaign Against Terrorism:***
Hon. Yusuf Buba Yakub (Gombi/Hong 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 for the Federal Government to Provide Adequate Security, Reconstruction and Relief Materials to Parts of Gombi and Hong of Adamawa State Attacked by Insurgents and for the Nigerian Army to Review Strategy on its Current Campaign Against Terrorism:

The House:

Notes that in recent weeks there has been a serious upsurge in the activities of the Boko Haram insurgents across the North East Zone, which has continued to witness incessant attacks by the group since 2010. It is easy to recall that in the last few weeks, the Auno in Borno State, and Garkida in Adamawa State, attacks, including others that are not reported, have left the world asking questions that remain unanswered. These attacks, coming more ferociously after a time the insurgents were said to have been highly degraded, to say the least, have left the people in even more grave danger and have left their homes, business premises, places of worship, farms and, above all, lives at the mercy of the insurgents;

Also notes that, with these attacks the confidence of the people reposed in the leaders, the Nigerian military and in the entire security architecture of the country has completely waned, a testimony that the soldiers are either too few or ill-equipped to save people from harm's way;

Further notes that there is muted disquiet in the entire military, owing largely, to the sad reality that generations of soldiers, younger soldiers who have the zeal to showcase their abilities, are now being retired before their seniors, and today, the military is being led by what we know as members of Course 29 of the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA) and Courses 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35 are reportedly either on their way to retirement or have retired, leaving behind those they met in the Service as their seniors;

Recalls that in 2014, seven (7) of the Local Government Areas in Adamawa State were overrun and occupied by the insurgents, and that it took the combined forces of local hunters, the vigilante and the military, who operated from behind, to completely recapture the Area Councils from the insurgents in a record time of about two weeks, yet rather than integrate these local people into the security framework, an ingenious harmonisation with our conventional security apparatus, Nigerians are still asking why it is difficult to develop a home-grown strategy to end this ravaging insurgency;

Also recalls that when the present crop of the military leaders took command of the military campaign against the insurgents in 2015, Nigerians all saw what difference fresh ideas, fresh energy and the desire to make a mark made on the war on terrorism, as the insurgents were pushed to the fringes of the Lake Chad region and were decimated in their numbers. However, it appears that today five years later, Nigeria is losing grip on the war because of what many have seen as the inertia, infighting, complacency and lethargy that currently exist in our military, especially among the top brass of that noble profession;

Aware that there have been heightened calls to strengthen the number of soldiers because the nation can maintain an army of a million soldiers, and conservatively put, if a soldier costs ₦100,000 a month to maintain, the sum of ₦100 billion is not too big for Nigeria to handle when past military budgets have overshot trillions of Naira in just a few years, and such an army of one million soldiers can even generate revenue for the military and the Government through involvement in medical services at the local areas in which ordinary medical practitioners, usually, refuse to serve, engaging in construction works, tailoring for themselves, the police, the NYSC and for other Agencies of government that may need their services at a time of peace, instead of the abnormal penchant to import everything and give out contracts at outrageous sums;

Also aware that there is an international dimension to the activities of insurgent groups like the Boko Haram, ISWAP and other like-minded groups in the Sahel Region and the Lake Chad Basin, whose activities and territorial ambitions and agenda have been greatly encouraged by intractable conflicts in the Middle East, in the Horn of Africa, including Libya and Sudan, and the above must challenge Nigeria's military to think globally on its war on terrorism, re-strategize its tactics and create room for more injection of men, materials and ideas into the war;

Concerned that if nothing urgent is done to increase the number of soldiers by way of massive recruitment, the number of men on the theatres of conflicts, will continue to decrease and their morale will drop considerably, while the nation may have a sad recourse back to pre-2015;

Also concerned that those whose property, homes and means of livelihood were destroyed in the latest Garkida attacks are generally unable to rebuild their lives and homes and that if no relief materials/resettlement are provided to them they will be made to suffer further hardship as a result of the activities of the Boko Haram insurgents;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Executive arm of government to, as a matter of urgency; deploy enough soldiers to the affected areas to forestall further occurrence and offer the people of the area a sense of belonging as Nigerians;
- (ii) also call on the Executive arm of government to, as a matter of urgency reorganize the entire security architecture of the country to move with the realities of the times;
- (iii) further call on the Executive arm of government to commence the process of massive recruitment into the Nigerian Army;
- (iv) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials like food items, drugs, items of clothing, building materials, seedlings as well as fertilizer and other humanitarian needs to victims of the Garkida attacks;
- (v) mandate the Committee on North East Development Commission to ensure compliance; and
- (vi) observe a minute silence for the souls of those lost in the attacks (*Hon. Yusuf Buba Yakub — Gombi/Hong Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that in recent weeks there has been a serious upsurge in the activities of the Boko Haram insurgents across the North East Zone, which has continued to witness incessant attacks by the group since 2010. It is easy to recall that in the last few weeks, the Auno in Borno State, and Garkida in Adamawa State, attacks, including others that are not reported, have left the world asking questions that remain unanswered. These attacks, coming more ferociously after a time the insurgents were said to have been highly degraded, to say the least, have left the people in even more grave danger and have left their homes, business premises, places of worship, farms and, above all, lives at the mercy of the insurgents;

Also noted that, with these attacks the confidence of the people reposed in the leaders, the Nigerian military and in the entire security architecture of the country has completely waned, a testimony that the soldiers are either too few or ill-equipped to save people from harms way;

Further noted that there is muted disquiet in the entire military, owing largely, to the sad reality that generations of soldiers, younger soldiers who have the zeal to showcase their abilities, are now being retired before their seniors, and today, the military is being led by what we know as members of Course 29 of the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA) and Courses 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35 are reportedly either on their way to retirement or have retired, leaving behind those they met in the Service as their seniors;

Recalled that in 2014, seven (7) of the Local Government Areas in Adamawa State were overrun and occupied by the insurgents, and that it took the combined forces of local hunters, the vigilante and the military, who operated from behind, to completely recapture the Area Councils from the insurgents in a record time of about two weeks, yet rather than integrate these local people into the security framework, an ingenious harmonisation with our conventional security apparatus, Nigerians are still asking why it is difficult to develop a home-grown strategy to end this ravaging insurgency;

Also recalled that when the present crop of the military leaders took command of the military campaign against the insurgents in 2015, Nigerians all saw what difference fresh ideas, fresh energy and the desire to make a mark made on the war on terrorism, as the insurgents were pushed to the fringes of the Lake Chad region and were decimated in their numbers, however, it appears that today five years later, Nigeria is losing grip on the war because of what many have seen as the inertia, infighting, complacency and lethargy that currently exist in our military, especially among the top brass of that noble profession;

Aware that there have been heightened calls to strengthen the number of soldiers because the nation can maintain an army of a million soldiers, and conservatively put, if a soldier costs ₦100,000 a month to maintain, the sum of ₦100 billion is not too big for Nigeria to handle when past military budgets have overshot trillions of Naira in just a few years, and such an army of one million soldiers can even generate revenue for the military and the Government through involvement in medical services at the local areas in which ordinary medical practitioners, usually, refuse to serve, engaging in construction works, tailoring for themselves, the police, the NYSC and for other Agencies of government that may need their services at a time of peace, instead of the abnormal penchant to import everything and give out contracts at outrageous sums;

Also aware that there is an international dimension to the activities of insurgent groups like the Boko Haram, ISWAP and other like-minded groups in the Sahel Region and the Lake Chad Basin, whose activities and territorial ambitions and agenda have been greatly encouraged by intractable conflicts in the Middle East, in the Horn of Africa, including Libya and Sudan, and the above must challenge Nigeria's military to think globally on its war on terrorism, re-strategize its tactics and create room for more injection of men, materials and ideas into the war;

Concerned that if nothing urgent is done to increase the number of soldiers by way of massive recruitment, the number of men on the theatres of conflicts, will continue to decrease and their morale will drop considerably, while the nation may have a sad recourse back to pre-2015;

Also concerned that those whose property, homes and means of livelihood were destroyed in the latest Garkida attacks are generally unable to rebuild their lives and homes and that if no relief materials/resettlement are provided to them they will be made to suffer further hardship as a result of the activities of the Boko Haram insurgents;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the Executive arm of government to, as a matter of urgency; deploy enough soldiers to the affected areas to forestall further occurrence and offer the people of the area a sense of belonging as Nigerians;
- (ii) also call on the Executive arm of government to, as a matter of urgency reorganize the entire security architecture of the country to move with the realities of the times;
- (iii) further call on the Executive arm of government to commence the process of massive recruitment into the Nigerian Army;
- (iv) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials like food items, drugs, items of clothing, building materials, seedlings as well as fertilizer and other humanitarian needs to victims of the Garkida attacks;
- (v) mandate the Committee on North East Development Commission to ensure compliance; and
- (vi) observe a minute silence for the souls of those lost in the attacks (HR. 50/02/2020).

A minute silence observed in hour of the deceased.

7. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Federal University of Agriculture, Wase (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB.746).
- (2) Federal Polytechnic, Kishi, Oyo State (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB.729).
- (3) National Convict and Criminal Records (Registry) Bill, 2020 (HB.730).
- (4) Chemical and Biological Weapons (Prohibition) Bill, 2020 (HB.731).
- (5) Federal University of Agriculture, Igboho, Oyo State (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB.732).
- (6) Federal Medical Centre, Igboho, Oyo State (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB.733).
- (7) Federal College of Education, Igbeti, Oyo State (HB.734).
- (8) Federal College of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Mubi, Adamawa State (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB.735).
- (9) Nigerian Electric Power University, Gantsa, Jigawa State (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB.736).
- (10) Nigeria French Language Village (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB.737).
- (11) Nigeria Arabic Language Village (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB.738).
- (12) Regulation of Ecological Funds (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB.739).
- (13) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (HB.740).
- (14) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (HB.741).
- (15) Nigerian Armed Forces Support Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB.742).

- (16) Tertiary Hospitals Development Tax Fund (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (HB.743).
- (17) Akanu Ibiam Federal University of Technology, Unwana (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB.744).
- (18) National Infrastructure Management and Maintenance Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB.745).
- (19) Federal College of Education (Technical), Lafiagi (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB.747).
- (20) Small and Medium Scale Enterprises Development Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB.748).

8. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal College of Education (Special), Birnin Kudu, Jigawa State, to Provide full-time Courses Teaching, Instruction and Training in Technology, Applied Science, Arts, Social Sciences, Humanities and Management; and for Related Matters(HB. 169) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal College of Education (Special), Birnin Kudu, Jigawa State, to Provide full-time Courses Teaching, Instruction and Training in Technology, Applied Science, Arts, Social Sciences, Humanities and Management; and for Related Matters(HB. 169) be now read the Third Time" (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Alter Section 308 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to extend Immunity to cover Presiding Officers of Legislative Institutions; and for Related Matters (HB. 325) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Alter Section 308 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999. to extend Immunity to cover Presiding Officers of Legislative Institutions; and for Related Matters (HB. 325) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Odeunmi Olusegun — Ogo-Oluwa/Surulere Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Special Ad-hoc Committee on Constitution Review.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal University, Oye-Ekiti Act 2015 to make Provision for a change of Name of the Federal University, Oye-Ekiti to Adeyinka Adebayo Federal University, Oye-Ekiti; and for Related Matters. (HB. 212) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal University, Oye-Ekiti Act 2015, to make Provision for a change of Name of the Federal University, Oye-Ekiti to Adeyinka Adebayo Federal University, Oye-Ekiti; and for Related Matters (HB. 212) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Adeyemi Adaramodu — Ekiti Southwest/Ikere/Ise/Orun 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 Tertiary Education and Services.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Maritime Development Bank of Nigeria to enhance and promote Indigenous participation in the Nigerian Maritime Sector, Accelerate Capacity Building in the Maritime Sector; and for Related matters (HB. 531) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Maritime Development Bank of Nigeria to enhance and promote Indigenous participation in the Nigerian Maritime Sector, Accelerate Capacity Building in the Maritime Sector; and for Related matters (HB. 531) be now read a Second Time” (*Hon. Mansur Manu Soro — Borogo/Dass/Tafawa Balewa 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 Maritime Safety, Education and Administration.

12. **Suspension of Plenary**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do take 15 minutes recess” (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

House on Recess — 2.11 p.m.

House in Plenary — 2.28 p.m.

13. **Outstanding Bills from the Preceding Assembly**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that pursuant to Order Twelve, Rule 16 of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives, Bills passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the Senate for concurrence for which no concurrence was made or negatived or passed by the Senate and forwarded to the House for which no concurrence was made or negatived or which were passed by the National Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but for which assent or withholding thereof was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the Assembly, the House may resolve that such Bills, upon being re-gazetted or clean copies circulated, be re-considered in the Committee of the Whole without being commenced *de-novo*;

Also notes that the under-listed Bills were passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent or withholding thereof was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the last Assembly:

- (i) Age Discrimination (Eradication) Bill, 2019 (HB.495), and
- (ii) Plastic Bags (Prohibition) Bill, 2020 (HB. 496);

Aware that the Bills were re-gazetted as HBs. 495 and 496 respectively and read the first time;

Resolves to:

Commit the Bills to the Committee of the Whole for consideration (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Kiri-Kassama/Guri Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

14. **Need to Reinforce the Security Personnel to Safeguard Road Users from Incessant Robberies and Kidnappings at Ohukabi-Ndi-Njibi Axis of ABSU-Ahaba Road and Ugwe-Ogwe Axis of Uturu-Afikpo Road in Isuikwuato Local Government Area of Abia State**
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that the primary purpose of government is to provide for the security and welfare of the citizens despite the efforts of government, insecurity has been on the rise in many parts of the country;

Informed that in Ohukabi-Ndi-Njibi axis of ABSU-Ahaba Road and Ugwu Ogwe axis of Uturu-Afikpo road in Isuikwuato Local Government Area, the situation is almost out of control as armed robberies and kidnappings have become the order of the day in the last few weeks;

Also informed that no fewer than 10 cases of kidnapping and armed robbery attacks occur on that axis weekly, putting the lives and properties of indigenes, residents and even travelers in danger, thus making them to live in perpetual fear;

Worried that if nothing is done to bring the situation under control, it would continue to worsen thereby becoming ticking time bomb as criminal elements hold sway along those routes causing law-abiding Nigerians to recoil in apprehension;

Cognizant of the need for the Nigeria Police Force and other security agencies to contain the tide and wave of those criminal elements in their reign of terror in those areas;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge that the Inspector-General of Police to, as a matter of urgency, deploy more policemen to secure the areas with a view to preventing the incidences of kidnapping and armed robberies, and also bring the criminals to justice; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to ensure compliance (*Hqn. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the primary purpose of government is to provide for the security and welfare of the citizens despite the efforts of government, insecurity has been on the rise in many parts of the country;

Informed that in Ohukabi-Ndi-Njibi axis of ABSU-Ahaba Road and Ugwu Ogwe axis of Uturu-Afikpo road in Isuikwuato Local Government Area, the situation is almost out of control as armed robberies and kidnappings have become the order of the day in the last few weeks;

Also informed that no fewer than 10 cases of kidnapping and armed robbery attacks occur on that axis weekly, putting the lives and properties of indigenes, residents and even travelers in danger, thus making them to live in perpetual fear;

Worried that if nothing is done to bring the situation under control, it would continue to worsen thereby becoming ticking time bomb as criminal elements hold sway along those routes causing law-abiding Nigerians to recoil in apprehension;

Cognizant of the need for the Nigeria Police Force and other security agencies to contain the tide and wave of those criminal elements in their reign of terror in those areas;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge that the Inspector-General of Police to, as a matter of urgency, deploy more policemen to secure the areas with a view to preventing the incidences of kidnapping and armed robberies, and also bring the criminals to justice; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to ensure compliance (HR. 51/02/2020).

15. **Need to Restore Sapele Inland Port and Relocate the Nigerian Navy College from Sapele Seaport**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Delta State is endowed with the highest concentration of seaports in the country which include the as old and new Warri Ports, Forcadoskoto, Burutu and Sapele Ports which has one of the best complexes in Nigeria;

Concerned that the endless promises by the Federal Government to dredge the Escravos channel and Warri Ports that will lead to full operation of those ports have remained unfulfilled even after proclamation that the Nigeria Ports Authority has approved the sum of thirteen billion naira (₦13,000,000,000.00) for Award of contract for the dredging;

Aware that the Ports were the earliest employers of labour in the old Mid-Western Region, that boosted economic activities of the areas;

Also aware that the pitiable state of the ports have diminished the hopes and aspirations of Nigerians who obtained various degrees in marine and related fields, and had hoped to be employed in that sector;

Further aware of a resolution passed by the 6th House Representatives which mandated the Nigeria Navy to relocate, within 15 months, its Engineering Training College from Sapele Port to the Naval Logistics Centre in Oghara, Delta State which has not been complied with;

Convinced that reviving the Ports in Delta is the only solution to the current congestion of Lagos Ports where demurrage as high as \$10,000 are being paid daily per vessel waiting to berth, thereby increasing the cost of imported goods and raw materials for industries.

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Ports and Harbours to investigate the failure of the Nigerian Navy to comply with the House Resolution and report back within four (4) weeks (Hon. Obeuokpefe Anthony — Okpe/Sapele/Uvwie Federal Constituency).

Debate:

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Delta State is endowed with the highest concentration of seaports in the country which include the as old and new Warri Ports, Forcadoskoto, Burutu and Sapele Ports which has one of the best complexes in Nigeria;

Concerned that the endless promises by the Federal Government to dredge the Escravos channel and Warri Ports that will lead to full operation of those ports have remained unfulfilled even after proclamation that the Nigeria Ports Authority has approved the sum of thirteen billion naira (₦13,000,000,000.00) for Award of contract for the dredging;

Aware that the Ports were the earliest employers of labour in the old Mid-Western Region, that boosted economic activities of the areas;

Also aware that the pitiable state of the ports have diminished the hopes and aspirations of Nigerians who obtained various degrees in marine and related fields and had hoped to be employed in that sector;

Further aware of a resolution passed by the 6th House Representatives which mandated the Nigeria Navy to relocate, within 15 months, its Engineering Training College from Sapele Port to the Naval Logistics Centre in Oghara, Delta State which has not been complied with;

Convinced that reviving the Ports in Delta is the only solution to the current congestion of Lagos Ports where demurrage as high as \$10,000 are being paid daily per vessel waiting to berth, thereby increasing the cost of imported goods and raw materials for industries.

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Ports and Harbours to investigate the failure of the Nigerian Navy to comply with the House Resolution and report back within four (4) weeks (HR. 52/02/2020).

16. **Lingering Disputes between Ikot-Udo Village in Ika and Akirika Oba in Ukwa East Local Government Areas of Akwa Ibom and Abia States**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the protracted boundary dispute arising from the change of the name "Ikot Udo Ika" to "Akirika Obu" between Ikot Udo Village in Ika Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State and Akirika Obu in Ukwa East Local Government Area of Abia State has been a source of lingering communal clashes which have claimed many lives and properties for decades;

Also notes Ikot Udo Village in Ika Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State has a border with Abiaka Village in Obingwa Local Government Area of Abia State, with no proximity or close boundary with Akirika Obu in Ukwa East Local Government Area of Abia State;

Recalls that since 1927, Ikot Udo village in Ika Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State had settled the boundary dispute between Abiaka Village in Obingwa Local Government Area of Abia State;

Also recalls that Abiaka people instituted a suit against Ikot Udo People in 1927 on the same land in dispute in Provincial Court and the case was resolved in favour of Ikot Udo people and since then, the Abiaka people have not challenged the judgment;

Aware that the National Boundary Commission had intervened in the demarcation of the boundary in order to ensure peace in the affected village in Ika Local Government Area, but their Commission is yet to implement its findings;

Cognizant that Decree No. 23 of 1985 erroneously carved part of Ikot Udo Village in Ika Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State to Ukwa East Local Government area of Abia State; whereas Ikot Udo Village has no link or common boundary with Ukwa-East Local Government Area and erroneously changed the name of "Ikot Udo Ika" to "Akirika Obu";

Concerned that the boundary dispute has caused several clashes leading to loss of lives and destruction properties thereby affecting the peaceful co-existence of the people of Ikot Udo.

Resolves to:

Urge the National Boundary Commission to:

- (i) release the results of the field tracing exercise, physical survey and demarcation which were carried out along the axis in September, 1995;
- (ii) also release the White Paper on the last Boundary Demarcation exercise of 1997 headed by Hon. Justice R. D. Mohammed and to settle the dispute once and for all;
- (iii) return all Ika Villages, venerated places and farm lands erroneously carved by the Decree into Abia State back to Akwa Ibom State where they rightful belong;
- (iv) further release, without further delay, the results of the ethnographic survey of border communities along Akwa Ibom/Abia Interstate Boundary which it carried out on November 2016 (*Hon. Aniekan Umanah — Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the protracted boundary dispute arising from the change of the name "Ikot Udo Ika" to "Akirika Obu" between Ikot Udo Village in Ika Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State and Akirika Obu in Ukwa East Local Government Area of Abia State has been a source of lingering communal clashes which have claimed many lives and properties for decades;

Also noted Ikot Udo Village in Ika Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State has a border with Abiaka Village in Obingwa Local Government Area of Abia State, with no proximity or close boundary with Akirika Obu in Ukwa East Local Government Area of Abia State;

Recalled that since 1927, Ikot Udo village in Ika Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State had settled the boundary dispute between Abiaka Village in Obingwa Local Government Area of Abia State;

Also recalled that Abiaka people instituted a suit against Ikot Udo People in 1927 on the same land in dispute in Provincial Court and the case was resolved in favour of Ikot Udo people and since then, the Abiaka people have not challenged the judgment;

Aware that the National Boundary Commission had intervened in the demarcation of the boundary in order to ensure peace in the affected village in Ika Local Government Area, but their Commission is yet to implement its findings;

Cognizant that Decree No. 23 of 1985 erroneously carved part of Ikot Udo Village in Ika Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State to Ukwa East Local Government area of Abia State, whereas Ikot Udo Village has no link or common boundary with Ukwa East Local Government Area and erroneously changed the name of "Ikot Udo Ika" to "Akirika Obu";

Concerned that the boundary dispute has caused several clashes leading to loss of lives and destruction properties thereby affecting the peaceful co-existence of the people of Ikot Udo.

Resolved to:

Urge the National Boundary Commission to:

- (i) release the results of the field tracing exercise, physical survey and demarcation which were carried out along the axis in September, 1995;
- (ii) also release the White Paper on the last Boundary Demarcation exercise of 1997 headed by Hon. Justice R. D. Mohammed and to settle the dispute once and for all;
- (iii) further release, without further delay, the results of the ethnographic survey of border communities along Akwa Ibom/Abia Interstate Boundary which it carried out on November 2016; and
- (iv) return all Ika Villages, venerated places and farm lands erroneously carved by the Decree into Abia State back to Akwa Ibom State where they rightful belong (HR. 53/02/2020).

17. Need to Investigate the Destruction of Homes and Properties by Naval Officers in Amuwo Odofin Federal Constituency of Lagos State

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

18. Need to Boost Ginger Production and Exportation

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that revenue drive is an important scheme necessary to finance the budget and enhance the government execute its programs and projects including financing of the budget, and for diversification of the economy;

Also notes that exports are a crucial component of a country's economy as they facilitate international trade and stimulate domestic economic activities by creating production, revenue and employment opportunities for the Nigerian masses;

Further notes that ginger cannot be produced in Europe, thereby making its countries the highest importers of ginger in the world as since 2013, the import volume of ginger by countries of the European Union has increased by 12% annually. In 2017 alone, more than 70% of their total imports were sourced directly from developing countries;

Aware that in February 19, 2019, the Transparency Market Research a globally recognized Market Research, Analysis and Intelligence Firm predicted that the global ginger market is expected to gain revenue worth US\$4.18 billion by the end of 2022;

Also aware that the former Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Prof. Adewumi Adeshina had posited on Thursday, 20 December, 2018 at the Africa International Investment Summit and Expo (Africinvest, 2018) that Nigeria has the best quality of ginger in the world, therefore making it next to crude oil;

Further aware that ginger is heavily produced in Kachia, Kagarko, Jaba and Zango Kataf Local Government Areas of Kaduna State, accounting for more than 80% of the total ginger produce in Nigeria and is the finest in the world, and the fact that ginger finds wide range application in culinary, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, as well as pharmacology make it an indispensable Community;

Worried that despite these statistics, there is no significant value to the Gross Domestic Product of the country, principally due to neglect by government as there is little or no support from government in terms of access to finance and promotion of the product by relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria to set aside a special intervention fund for ginger farming and processing for value addition and production of useful by-products;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to ensure that the loan mirror initiatives like the anchor borrowing for rice that was largely successful should be in selected States that produce ginger;
- (iii) also urge the Federal Government to also consider setting up a large-scale processing facility to enable farmers clean the ginger and process them into many other by-products across the value chain;
- (iv) urge the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to provide more processing facilities, and also secure all the necessary certifications like Good Agricultural Practices(GAP), Department of Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and United State Department of Agriculture USDA to ensure immediate export;
- (v) call on the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) to immediately designate ginger as a priority crop and give it the necessary attention it deserves;
- (vi) further call on the Federal Government to use the proceed from export by of the product to finance government policies and programs in the ginger producing areas;
- (vii) mandate the Committees on Agricultural Production and Services, Commerce, and Industry to collaborate with the Federal Government and relevant stakeholders to ensure that ginger production is given due attention (*Hon. Gabriel Saleh Zock — Kachia/Kagarko Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that revenue drive is an important scheme necessary to finance the budget and enhance the government execute its programs and projects including financing of the budget, and for diversification of the economy;

Also noted that exports are a crucial component of a country's economy as they facilitate international trade and stimulate domestic economic activities by creating production, revenue and employment opportunities for the Nigerian masses;

Further noted that ginger cannot be produced in Europe, thereby making its countries the highest importers of ginger in the world as since 2013, the import volume of ginger by countries of the European Union has increased by 12% annually. In 2017 alone, more than 70% of their total imports were sourced directly from developing countries;

Aware that in February¹⁹, 2019; the Transparency Market Research a globally recognized Market Research, Analysis and Intelligence Firm predicted that the global ginger market is expected to gain revenue worth US\$4.18 billion by the end of 2022;

Also aware that the former Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Prof. Adewumi Adeshina had posited on Thursday, 20 December, 2018 at the Africa International Investment Summit and Expo (Africinvest, 2018) that Nigeria has the best quality of ginger in the world, therefore making it next to crude oil;

Further aware that ginger is heavily produced in Kachia, Kagarko, Jaba and Zango Kataf Local Government Areas of Kaduna State, accounting for more than 80% of the total ginger produce in Nigeria and is the finest in the world, and the fact that ginger finds wide range application in culinary, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, as well as pharmacology make it an indispensable Community;

Worried that despite these statistics, there is no significant value to the Gross Domestic Product of the country, principally due to neglect by government as there is little or no support from government in terms of access to finance and promotion of the product by relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government.

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria to set aside a special intervention fund for ginger farming and processing for value addition and production of useful by-products;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to ensure that the loan mirror initiatives like the anchor borrowing for rice that was largely successful should be in selected States that produce ginger;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Government to also consider setting up a large-scale processing facility to enable farmers clean the ginger and process them into many other by-products across the value chain;
- (iv) still urge the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to provide more processing facilities, and also secure all the necessary certifications like Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Department of Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and United State Department of Agriculture USDA to ensure immediate export;
- (v) call on the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) to immediately designate ginger as a priority crop and give it the necessary attention it deserves;
- (vi) also call on the Federal Government to use the proceed from export by of the product to finance government policies and programs in the ginger producing areas;
- (vii) mandate the Committees on Agricultural Production and Services, Commerce and Industry to collaborate with the Federal Government and relevant stakeholders to ensure that ginger production is given due attention (HR. 54/02/2020).

19. Call on the Federal Government to make Aluminium Smelter Company of Nigeria Functional
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Aluminium Smelter Company of Nigeria (ALSCON), before its privatisation, had the Federal Government of Nigeria, Forrester of Germany and Reynolds Incorporated of America as major shareholders on an equity holding of 70 per cent, 20 per cent and 10 per cent respectively;

Also notes that ALSCON, located in Ikot Abasi, Akwa Ibom State, was an aluminium-producing plant that serviced Nigerian markets with aluminium products and provided jobs for thousands of Nigerians;

Further notes that the objectives of establishing the company were to utilize and enhance the country's gas reserve and to discourage gas flaring in the Niger Delta, to establish a self-reliant aluminium factory, provide employment for Nigerians, impact technical/develop trained technical manpower, conserve and earn foreign exchange by meeting local aluminium demands and to aid the development of aluminium downstream industries.

Aware that between 1997 and 1999 when ALSCON was operational, the company provided employment for about 1,820 permanent workers and over 4,000 casual workers, and the number of people employed was expected to increase with the expansion of the production capacity of the company;

Also aware that the company stopped operation on 6 June, 1999 due to irreconcilable differences between some shareholders, coupled with other associated problems of lack of working capital, insufficient gas supply and non-dredging of Imo River, among others;

Further aware that those problems necessitated the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) to privatise the company in 2004 for smooth operation and efficient service delivery;

Cognizant that by privatising ALSCON, it was expected that there would be improved management of assets of the company, job retention, job creation, technological advancement, empowerment of local communities, improved tax revenues and execution of corporate social responsibility projects for the communities;

Worried that since the privatization of ALSCON, there has not been any significant improvement in the operations of the company which is not producing any aluminium at the moment;

Also worried that the former staff of ALSCON and their families are facing hardship due to Federal Government's failure to pay the retrenched staff their terminal benefits of ₦2.3 billion, having only paid ₦4million to them;

Concerned that the assets of the company are deteriorating as they are not being put into use, serviced or maintained and with the level of unemployment in the country, ALSCON would have provided thousands of job opportunities for the teeming population;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to ensure the resumption of operations by the Aluminium Smelter Company of Nigeria (ALSCON) and to pay all the former staff of the Company the remaining terminal benefits of ₦2.3 billion; and
- (ii) invite the Director-General, Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) to brief the Committee on Steel Development on the current state of Aluminium Smelter Company of Nigeria (ALSCON) (*Hon. Onofiok Akpan Luke — Etinan/Nsit-Ibom/Nsit Ubium Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Aluminium Smelter Company of Nigeria (ALSCON), before its privatisation, had the Federal Government of Nigeria, Forrester of Germany and Reynolds Incorporated of America as major shareholders on an equity holding of 70 per cent, 20 per cent and 10 per cent respectively;

Also noted that ALSCON, located in Ikot Abasi, Akwa Ibom State, was an aluminium-producing plant that serviced Nigerian markets with aluminium products and provided jobs for thousands of Nigerians;

Further noted that the objectives of establishing the company were to utilize and enhance the country's gas reserve and to discourage gas flaring in the Niger Delta, to establish a self-reliant aluminium factory, provide employment for Nigerians, impact technical/develop trained technical manpower, conserve and earn foreign exchange by meeting local aluminium demands and to aid the development of aluminium downstream industries.

Aware that between 1997 and 1999 when ALSCON was operational, the company provided employment for about 1,820 permanent workers and over 4,000 casual workers; and the number of people employed was expected to increase with the expansion of the production capacity of the company;

Also aware that the company stopped operation on 6 June, 1999 due to irreconcilable differences between some shareholders, coupled with other associated problems of lack of working capital, insufficient gas supply and non-dredging of Imo River, among others;

Further aware that those problems necessitated the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) to privatise the company in 2004 for smooth operation and efficient service delivery;

Cognizant that by privatising ALSCON, it was expected that there would be improved management of assets of the company, job retention, job creation, technological advancement, empowerment of local communities, improved tax revenues and execution of corporate social responsibility projects for the communities;

Worried that since the privatization of ALSCON, there has not been any significant improvement in the operations of the company which is not producing any aluminium at the moment;

Also worried that the former staff of ALSCON and their families are facing hardship due to Federal Government's failure to pay the retrenched staff their terminal benefits of ₦2.3 billion, having only paid ₦4million to them;

Concerned that the assets of the company are deteriorating as they are not being put into use, serviced or maintained and with the level of unemployment in the country, ALSCON would have provided thousands of job opportunities for the teeming population;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to ensure the resumption of operations by the Aluminium Smelter Company of Nigeria (ALSCON) and to pay all the former staff of the Company the remaining terminal benefits of ₦2.3 billion; and*
- (ii) invite the Director-General, Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) to brief the Committee on Steel Development on the current state of Aluminium Smelter Company of Nigeria (ALSCON) (HR. 55/02/2020).*

20. Call on the Armed Forces to halt Incessant Attacks on Avwon, Agadama, Ohoror and Other Communities in Uwheru Kingdom of Ughelli North Local Government Area, Delta State
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that there have been series of attacks on Avwon, Agadama, Ohoror and other communities in Ughelli North Local Government Area of Delta State in the recent time;

Also notes that on Friday, 14 February, 2020 approximately 20 people were killed by unknown persons who were aided by people in Army uniforms, while over 10 corpses have been recovered from the farms, with searches still ongoing;

Concerned that despite the killings over the last few years, not a single prosecution of the culprits to serve as deterrent, has been recorded;

Informed that apart from the numerous lives lost as a result of the incessant attacks, the hoodlums have continued to destroy farmlands, make away with valuables and on other occasions, raped married women and young girls of the community as well as killed husbands and youths who intervened;

Further notes that as a result of the continuous attacks, farmers in various communities have refused to go to their farms for fear of being attacked and the people of the communities are living in fear and starvation as they are unable to farm;

Observes that given the effects on food security and the inherent adverse economic effects on the people, the activities of the unknown gun men, if not checked, could result to self-help by the local communities which should not be encouraged;

Also concerned that the nefarious activities of the unknown gun men have continued unabated for over three (3) years with devastating consequences and despite the routine activities of security agencies to tackle the menace, there is an urgent need for a more pro-active and sustainable approach to solving the problem by all stakeholders;

Aware that section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that the welfare and security of the people shall be the primary responsibility of the Government.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Army, the Nigeria Police Force, the Department of State Services (DSS), and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) to, as a matter of urgency, call a meeting of stakeholders in Ughelli North Local Government Area and leaders of the herdsmen to find a lasting solution to these recurring security challenges;
- (ii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to, as a matter of urgency, provide relief materials for the victims of the attacks;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to pay a fact-finding visit to the affected communities and report back within three weeks for further legislative action;
- (iv) also mandate the Committees on Army, Police Affairs, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that there have been series of attacks on Avwon, Agadama, Ohoror and other communities in Ughelli North Local Government Area of Delta State in the recent time;

Also noted that on Friday, 14 February, 2020 approximately 20 people were killed by unknown persons who were aided by people in Army uniforms, while over 10 corpses have been recovered from the farms, with searches still ongoing;

Concerned that despite the killings over the last few years, not a single prosecution of the culprits to serve as deterrent, has been recorded;

Informed that apart from the numerous lives lost as a result of the incessant attacks, the hoodlums have continued to destroy farmlands, make away with valuables and on other occasions, raped married women and young girls of the community as well as killed husbands and youths who intervened;

Further noted that as a result of the continuous attacks, farmers in various communities have refused to go to their farms for fear of being attacked and the people of the communities are living in fear and starvation as they are unable to farm;

Observed that given the effects on food security and the inherent adverse economic effects on the people, the activities of the unknown gun men, if not checked, could result to self-help by the local communities which should not be encouraged;

Also concerned that the nefarious activities of the unknown gun men have continued unabated for over three (3) years with devastating consequences and despite the routine activities of security agencies to tackle the menace, there is an urgent need for a more pro-active and sustainable approach to solving the problem by all stakeholders;

Aware that section 14(2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that the welfare and security of the people shall be the primary responsibility of the Government.

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Army; the Nigeria Police Force, the Department of State Services (DSS), and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) to, as a matter of urgency, call a meeting of stakeholders in Ughelli North Local Government Area and leaders of the herdsmen to find a lasting solution to these recurring security challenges;
- (ii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to, as a matter of urgency, provide relief materials for the victims of the attacks;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to pay a fact-finding visit to the affected communities and report back within three weeks for further legislative action;
- (iv) also mandate the Committees on Army, Police Affairs, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance (HR. 56/02/2020).

21. Consideration of Reports

- (i) *A Bill for an Act to Establish the Fisheries Research Institute of Nigeria, Ngo-Andoni for Fishery Research, Education and Cooperative Training in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 417) (Committee of the Whole):*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Fisheries Research Institute of Nigeria, Ngo-Andoni for Fishery Research, Education and Cooperative Training in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 417)" (Hon. Awaji-Inombèk Dagomie Abiante — Andoni-Opobo/Nkoro 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 NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR BRACKISH WATER FISHERIES RESEARCH, NGO-ANDONI FOR FISHERY RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND COOPERATIVE TRAINING IN NIGERIA; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 417)

Consideration deferred to enable it re-examine the provisions of the Bill.

Chairman to report progress.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole deferred consideration of the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Fisheries Research Institute of Nigeria, Ngo-Andoni for Fishery Research, Education and Cooperative Training in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB.417).

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

- (ii) *A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Polytechnic, Koko, Delta State to Provide for equity and access to Tertiary Education in the Country, make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration; and for Related Matters (IIB. 381) (Committee of the Whole):*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Polytechnic, Koko, Delta State to Provide for equity and access to Tertiary Education in the Country, make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration; and for Related Matters (HB. 381)" (Hon. Thomas Ereyitomi — Warri South/Warri West/Warri North 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 FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, KOKO, DELTA STATE TO PROVIDE FOR EQUITY AND ACCESS TO TERTIARY EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY, MAKE COMPREHENSIVE PROVISIONS FOR DUE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Consideration deferred to enable it re-examine the provisions of the Bill.

Chairman to report progress.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole deferred consideration of the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Polytechnic, Koko, Delta State to Provide for equity and access to Tertiary Education in the Country, make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration; and for Related Matters (HB. 381).

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

(iii) *A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of Adeyemi Federal University of Education, Ondo for the Promotion and Development of Teacher Education in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 426) (Committee of the Whole):*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of Adeyemi Federal University of Education, Ondo for the Promotion and Development of Teacher Education in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 426)" (Hon. Makinde Peter Abiola — Ondo East/Ondo West 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 PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADEYEMI FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, ONDO FOR THE PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHER EDUCATION IN NIGERIA; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 426)

Consideration deferred to enable it re-examine the provisions of the Bill.

Chairman to report progress.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole deferred consideration of the Report on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of Adeyemi Federal University of Education, Ondo for the Promotion and Development of Teacher Education in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 426).

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

22. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 26 February, 2020 at 12.00 p.m. (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 4.08 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila
Speaker