



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

FIRST VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 17 March, 2020

1. The House met at 11:03 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, 12 March, 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 *Queens of Christ Jubilation Academy*, Masaka, Nasarawa State;
 - (ii) Staff and Students of *Amid Primary and Secondary Academy*, Keffi, Nasarawa State;
 - (iii) Staff and Students of *Blesses Nursery/Primary and Secondary School*, Keffi, Nasarawa State;
 - (iv) Staff and Students of *Lauret Angels*, Dutse, Abuja; and
 - (v) Staff and Students of *Riche-Dad School of Basic and Advanced Studies*, Bwari, Abuja.
 - (b) **Election of the Deputy Speaker of the ECOWAS Parliament:**
Mr Speaker announced that the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Ahmed Idris was elected the 1st Deputy Speaker of ECOWAS Parliament.

(c) ***The Plight of Out-of-School Children in Nigeria:***

Mr Speaker made the following Remarks:

On Thursday, the 12th of March, 2020, this House sat in a special session to deliberate on the matter of the millions of out of school children in Nigeria and to consider lasting solutions. This session was the first of its kind. It allowed members from all over the country to speak freely about the scope and various manifestations of the problem. It was also an opportunity to proffer possible solutions and to debate the merits of those solutions. I thank all of you who prepared for the session and were present to contribute to the very important conversations that held in this chamber on that day.

2. *Now the real work begins. We must act to translate the noble rhetoric of the special session into actionable solutions. That effort begins with the House Committee on Basic Education who have the mandate of the House to carry out a holistic investigation into the matter of Nigeria's out of school children to ascertain first the current figure of out of school children in Nigeria, including specific numbers in each State of the Federation.*

3. *The Committee would also further conduct an assessment of total Federal Government expenditure on basic education over the last ten years to identify how and what these funds have been spent on and review the status of all ongoing capital projects by the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) across the country. Four weeks hence, the House will receive, consider and act on the Committee's report.*

4. *It has been past practice for the Federal Government to make basic education policy for the country without taking into cognizance the unique realities of the different parts of our country and the peculiar dynamics that motivate decision-making about education. This one size fits all approach is part of the reason the significant investments in basic education over the years have not yielded the desired results.*

5. *The time has come for us to make education policy from the ground up, drawing on the perspectives of our constituencies, factoring the unique needs of the different part of the country so that we can deliver plans and programs that deliver the outcomes we desire and our people deserve. We will recess for a week to allow each of us to go home to listen to our constituents, gather their views and present to the House so that the recommendations contained therein can form part of our future deliberations and action plans.*

6. *It is in this same spirit that the Committee of the Whole will host a Public Hearing and Town Hall with the Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government, Civil Society Organisations and individuals who are active in the education space. This will provide further opportunity for us to sample the views of Nigerians so that we may receive guidance and be enabled in our objectives by the collective wisdom of our citizens. I will meet with the leadership of the House to decide the date and modalities for the Public Hearing and Town Hall event. The date will subsequently be communicated to the House so that we can all prepare to participate constructively on that day.*

7. *Honourable colleagues, for as long as millions of our children are roaming the streets without an education, without skills and the possibility of a worthwhile future, our nation is at risk. There is not much we will do with our public office that will mean more for the future than providing Nigeria's millions of out of school children with an education that empowers them to have full lives and to contribute to the progress and prosperity of our nation. We have an opportunity now to meet this high challenge. Let us do so, to the glory of God and for the edification of all mankind.*

8. *Thank you.*

5. **Petitions**

- (i) A petition from Ugbokodo community in Okpe Local Government Area of Delta State, on the alleged marginalization and neglect by defunct Oil Mineral Producing Areas Development Commission (OMPADEC) and the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), was presented and laid by Hon. Oberuakpefe Anthony Afe (*Okpe/Sapele/Uvwie Federal Constituency*); and
- (ii) A petition from Ugeaba Raphael and 2 others, on the refusal by Federal Housing Authority (FHA) to comply with the House Resolution of 9 November, 2004 to reinstate them and pay their outstanding entitlements, was presented and laid by Hon. Yusuf Tajudeen (*Ijumu/Kabba-Bunu Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

- (i) ***Need to Investigate Federal Government Abandoned Properties Across the Federation:***
Hon. Julius Ihonvbere (*Owan East/Owan West 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 Investigate Federal Government Abandoned Properties Across the Federation:

The House:

Notes that buildings belonging to Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government have been abandoned across the Federation;

Also notes that the situation, though precipitated by the hurried relocation of the Federal Capital Territory from Lagos to Abuja in the aftermath of the 1990 Coup, has not elicited any clear policy on commercialization, outright disposal or rehabilitation and allocation to Agencies in need of office spaces in Lagos and elsewhere;

Informed that most of these abandoned properties across the country have since become a haven for hoodlums, kidnappers, miscreants, armed robbers and avenues for other anti-social vices as evidenced in a recent video released by Pulse News/TV that has gone viral;

Also informed that according to an investigative report by Pulse News/TV there are over 60 abandoned properties belonging to the Federal Government in Lagos alone, including Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSTIF); Old Federal Government Secretariat, Ikoyi; Old Defence House, Lagos Island; Ministry of Communications, Obalende; Ministry of Defence, Lagos Island; and National Assembly Complex, Lagos Island amongst others;

Worried that a country so richly blessed like Nigeria has remained underdeveloped largely due to the unprecedented wastage, inefficient-utilization of resources and a very bad maintenance culture;

Concerned that the abuse, misuse and illegal appropriation of government properties across the tiers of government has become a threat in the wheel of development and growth of the country;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the status, use and current state of all Federal Government properties in all parts of the country and report back within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Julius O. Ihonvbere — Owan East/West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that buildings belonging to Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government have been abandoned across the Federation;

Also noted that the situation, though precipitated by the hurried relocation of the Federal Capital Territory from Lagos to Abuja in the aftermath of the 1990 Coup, has not elicited any clear policy on commercialization, outright disposal or rehabilitation and allocation to Agencies in need of office spaces in Lagos and elsewhere;

Informed that most of these abandoned properties across the country have since become a haven for hoodlums, kidnapers, miscreants, armed robbers and avenues for other anti-social vices as evidenced in a recent video released by Pulse News/TV that has gone viral;

Also informed that according to an investigative report by Pulse News/TV there are over 60 abandoned properties belonging to the Federal Government in Lagos alone, including Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSTIF); Old Federal Government Secretariat, Ikoyi; Old Defence House, Lagos Island; Ministry of Communications, Obalende; Ministry of Defence, Lagos Island; and National Assembly Complex, Lagos Island amongst others;

Worried that a country so richly blessed like Nigeria has remained underdeveloped largely due to the unprecedented wastage, inefficient-utilization of resources and a very bad maintenance culture;

Concerned that the abuse, misuse and illegal appropriation of government properties across the tiers of government has become a threat in the wheel of development and growth of the country;

Resolved to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the status, use and current state of all Federal Government properties in all parts of the country and report back within four (4) weeks (**HR. 105/03/2020**).

Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Federal Government Abandoned Properties Across the Federation:

Mr Speaker announced the membership of the *Ad-hoc* Committee as follows:

(1)	Hon. Kuye Ademorin Aliu	—	<i>Chairman</i>
(2)	Hon. Haruna Maitala	—	<i>Deputy Chairman</i>
(3)	Hon. Abdulumuni Ari	—	<i>Member</i>
(4)	Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali	—	<i>Member</i>
(5)	Hon. Simon Elisha	—	<i>Member</i>
(6)	Hon. Mubarak Gambo	—	<i>Member</i>
(7)	Hon. Abiante Awaji-Inombek	—	<i>Member</i>
(8)	Hon. Archibong Henry Okon	—	<i>Member</i>
(9)	Hon. Salisu Iro Isansi	—	<i>Member</i>
(10)	Hon. Mukhtar Zakari	—	<i>Member</i>
(11)	Hon. Chukwuma Umeoji	—	<i>Member</i>
(12)	Hon. Oluyemi Taiwo	—	<i>Member</i>
(13)	Hon. Mariam Onuoha	—	<i>Member</i>
(14)	Hon. Kolapo Ogunsanya	—	<i>Member</i>
(15)	Hon. Makinde Abiola	—	<i>Member</i>
(16)	Hon. Nnolim Nnaji	—	<i>Member</i>

(ii) ***Need for the Federal Government to Postpone the National Sports Festival in Edo State and Other Large Gatherings:***

Hon. Onofiok Akpan Luke — Etinan/Nsit Ibom/Nsit Ubium 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 Postpone the National Sports Festival in Edo State and Other Large Gatherings:

The House:

Appreciates the place and importance of sports in national development, harmony and unity;

Understands the numerous ways in which sports serves as platforms for identifying new talents, building sports infrastructure, promoting friendships and preparing athletes for international competitions;

Recognizes the fact that the National Sports Festival is hosted by States and involves the participation of all States of the Federation as well as the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) with this year's event being hosted by Edo State;

Also appreciates that the Edo State Government has spent substantial public funds on publicity, rehabilitation and upgrading of sporting facilities and already set to welcome other athletes:

Further Appreciates the seriousness of the current global coronavirus epidemic, which the World Health Organization has branded a Global epidemic that has so far affected almost 200,000 persons worldwide and killed over 7,000 in over 60 nations, except the State of West Virginia in the United States of America which is yet to report a case of Coronavirus;

Notes the very far-reaching efforts of governments all over the world including nations such as Ghana and South Africa where gatherings of more than 50 persons have been prohibited, social distancing of at least 3 feet apart is encouraged, widespread use of sanitizers recommended, and citizens encouraged to stay indoors with some cities and nations on total lockdown (save for strategic and essential movements)- in fact workers are encouraged to work from home while students are encouraged to study online;

Recognizes that virtually all sporting activities in the world such as the ATP (Tennis), Judo (International Judo Federation), London Marathon, NBA, EFL, Formula 1, The US Masters, Kentucky Derby, Boxing, FA Women's Championships, FA Women's Super League, UEFA, LaLiga, World Cup Qualifiers, Darts (the Professional Darts Corporation), and Cricket — have been cancelled or postponed due to precautions about the spread of the coronavirus, including indoor games, with schools from pre-kindergarten through universities and research centers shut down;

Still appreciates the fact that Nigeria has been fortunate to have only one index case that is said to be recovering, and given that our borders are porous and no one can predict the transboundary movement of persons in absolute terms;

Draws attention to the already established fact that without effective social distancing and drastic steps to avoid contacts, this epidemic could be easily transmitted and the Sports Festival would bring' together thousands of young healthy Nigerians from all the States and the FCT which will mingle and inter-mingle and go back to their states to further mingle with friends, family colleagues and community with the attendant implications;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministries of Health, Youth and Sports, in line with global best practice, to immediately postpone the National Sports Festival scheduled for Edo State and other activities with a large gathering in the interest of the nation's health and wellbeing till further notice.
- (ii) urge the Ministry of Aviation and security agencies to immediately halt all flights from high-risk countries especially the UK, Spain, Italy, the USA, China and South Korea except for Nigerian citizens who will be tested on arrival and may be quarantined if necessary;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Health to continue to work with Federal and State medical establishments to update and upgrade facilities and prepare for eventualities (*Hon. Onofriok Akpan Luke — Etinan/Nsit Ibom/Nsit Ubiom Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Appreciated the place and importance of sports in national development, harmony and unity;

Understands the numerous ways in which sports serves as platforms for identifying new talents, building sports infrastructure, promoting friendships and preparing athletes for international competitions;

Recognized the fact that the National Sports Festival is hosted by States and involves the participation of all States of the Federation as well as the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) with this year's event being hosted by Edo State;

Also appreciated that the Edo State Government has spent substantial public funds on publicity, rehabilitation and upgrading of sporting facilities and already set to welcome other athletes:

Further Appreciated the seriousness of the current global coronavirus epidemic, which the World Health Organization has branded a Global epidemic that has so far affected almost 200,000 persons worldwide and killed over 7,000 in over 60 nations, except the State of West Virginia in the United States of America which is yet to report a case of Coronavirus;

Notes the very far-reaching efforts of governments all over the world including nations such as Ghana and South Africa where gatherings of more than 50 persons have been prohibited, social distancing of at least 3 feet apart is encouraged, widespread use of sanitizers recommended, and citizens encouraged to stay indoors with some cities and nations on total lockdown (save for strategic and essential movements)- in fact workers are encouraged to work from home while students are encouraged to study online:

Recognized that virtually all sporting activities in the world such as the ATP (Tennis), Judo (International Judo Federation), London Marathon, NBA, EFL, Formula 1, The US Masters, Kentucky Derby, Boxing, FA Women's Championships, FA Women's Super League, UEFA, LaLiga, World Cup Qualifiers, Darts (the Professional Darts Corporation), and Cricket — have been cancelled or postponed due to precautions about the spread of the coronavirus, including indoor games, with schools from pre-kindergarten through universities and research centers shut down;

Still appreciates the fact that Nigeria has been fortunate to have only one index case that is said to be recovering, and given that our borders are porous and no one can predict the transboundary movement of persons in absolute terms;

Draws attention to the already established fact that without effective social distancing and drastic steps to avoid contacts, this epidemic could be easily transmitted and the Sports Festival would bring' together thousands of young healthy Nigerians from all the States and the FCT which will mingle and inter-mingle and go back to their states to further mingle with friends, family colleagues and community with the attendant implications;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government, the Federal Ministry of Health and the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports, in line with global best practice, to immediately postpone the National Sports Festival scheduled for Edo State and other activities with a large gathering in the interest of the nation's health and wellbeing till further notice.
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government and the Ministry of Aviation and security agencies to immediately half all flights from high-risk countries especially the UK, Spain, Italy, the USA, China and South Korea except for Nigerian citizens who will be tested on arrival and may be quarantined if necessary;

- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Health to continue to work with Federal and State medical establishments to update and upgrade facilities and prepare for eventualities (HR. 106/03/2020).

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. Haruna Isa Dederi — Karaye/Rogo Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

(iii) **Need to Address the Frequent Infiltration of Armed Bandits Into Rogo and Some Other Local Govt Areas of Kano State:**

Hon. Haruna Isa Dederi (Karaye/Rogo 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 Frequent Infiltration of Armed Bandits Into Rogo and Some Other Local Govt Areas of Kano State:

The House:

Notes that security and welfare of the people is the primary purpose of government as clearly provided under section 14 (2) (b) of the 1999 constitution as amended;

Also notes that Rogo and Karaye Local Government Areas, share borders with Katsina State which for quite sometime have been bedevilled by the nefarious activities of armed bandits, kidnapers and cattle rustlers;

Disturbed that the past few days have witnessed alarming rate of resurgence in the activities of armed bandits in Zamfara and Katsina States with attendant infiltration of the bandits into some Local Government Areas of Kano State;

Also disturbed that in the past few weeks, armed bandits had attacked communities in Rogo LGA, leading to loss of lives and kidnapping in four instances, attack and shooting in Fulatan Town leading to the kidnap of a woman; the attack of Karshi village leading to kidnap of the village head; attack on Gidan Mari village leading to the killing of a man and kidnap of another and lastly the attack, six days ago of Mato village, a predominantly Christian community leading to the kidnap of the wife of a Bishop and his Secretary;

Worried that in the past few weeks, similar attacks were reported in some other Local Government Areas in Kano State;

Concerned that if this situation is unchecked, there could be more disastrous infiltration leading to the upsetting of the relative peace enjoyed in Kano State for quite sometime now;

Also concerned that the gains recorded by the governments of Katsina and Zamfara States through painstaking efforts which saw massive reduction in banditry activities, could be frittered away if the security agencies do not step up efforts to consolidate on such gains:

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to set up a well-equipped joint Security Taskforce with the mandate to operate along the border lines between Katsina and Kano States to address the frequent infiltration of armed bandits into Kano State;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to step up efforts to consolidate on the gains recorded by Zamfara and Katsina States in the area of curtailing the activities of armed bandits;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on National Security and intelligence, Army, and Police Affairs to ensure compliance (*Hon. Haruna Isa Dederi — Karaye/Rogo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that security and welfare of the people is the primary purpose of government as clearly provided under section 14 (2) (b) of the 1999 constitution as amended;

Also noted that Rogo and Karaye Local Government Areas, share borders with Katsina State which for quite sometime have been bedevilled by the nefarious activities of armed bandits, kidnapers and cattle rustlers;

Disturbed that the past few days have witnessed alarming rate of resurgence in the activities of armed bandits in Zamfara and Katsina States with attendant infiltration of the bandits into some Local Government Areas of Kano State;

Also disturbed that in the past few weeks, armed bandits had attacked communities in Rogo LGA, leading to loss of lives and kidnapping in four instances, attack and shooting in Fulatah Town leading to the kidnap of a woman; the attack of Karshi village leading to kidnap of the village head; attack on Gidan Mari village leading to the killing of a man and kidnap of another and lastly the attack, six days ago of Mato village, a predominantly Christian community leading to the kidnap of the wife of a Bishop and his Secretary;

Worried that in the past few weeks, similar attacks were reported in some other Local Government Areas in Kano State;

Concerned that if this situation is unchecked, there could be more disastrous infiltration leading to the upsetting of the relative peace enjoyed in Kano State for quite sometime now;

Also concerned that the gains recorded by the governments of Katsina and Zamfara States through painstaking efforts which saw massive reduction in banditry activities, could be frittered away if the security agencies do not step up efforts to consolidate on such gains;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to set up a well-equipped joint Security Taskforce with the mandate to operate along the border lines between Katsina and Kano States to address the frequent infiltration of armed bandits into Kano State;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to step up efforts to consolidate on the gains recorded by Zamfara and Katsina States in the area of curtailing the activities of armed bandits;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on National Security and intelligence, Army, and Police Affairs to ensure compliance (HR. 107/03/2020).

7. **Presentation of Bills**

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Federal Medical Centre, Mgbakwu (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB.811).
- (2) Federal University of Agriculture, Oba-Ofemili (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB.812).
- (3) Nigeria Food Safety and Hygiene Surveillance Corps (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB.813).
- (4) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Fifth Alteration) Bill, 2020 (HB.814).
- (5) Federal University of Agriculture, Lalaipido (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB.815).
- (6) Federal University of Science and Technology, Kaltungo (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB.816).
- (7) National Community Service Scheme (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB.817).
- (8) Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB.818).
- (9) Nigeria National Heroes Register (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB.819).
- (10) Federal Polytechnic, Garko (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB.820).
- (11) Parole Bill, 2020 (HB.821).
- (12) Explosives Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB.822).
- (13) National Tobacco Control Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB.823).
- (14) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (HB.824).

8. **A Bill for an Act to Alter Part 1 of the Second Schedule to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to devolve to States some items on the Exclusive Legislative List; and for Related Matters (HB. 755) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Alter Part 1 of the Second Schedule to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to devolve to States some items on the Exclusive Legislative List; and for Related Matters (HB. 755) be read a Second Time" (Hon. *Shammed 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 Special Ad-hoc Committee on Constitution Review.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act, Cap. C15, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Related Matters (HB.420) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act, Cap. C15, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Related Matters (HB.420) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Awaji-Inombek Dagomie Abiante — Andoni-Opobo/Nkoro 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 Anti-Corruption.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Civil Societies Regulatory Commission for Coordinated Regulation of Civil Society Organizations for the Purposes of Strengthening their Capacities to Promote Democracy and Development in the Country; and for Related Matters (HB. 722) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Civil Societies Regulatory Commission for Coordinated Regulation of Civil Society Organizations for the Purposes of Strengthening their Capacities to Promote Democracy and Development in the Country; and for Related Matters (HB. 722) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Abbas Tajudeen — Zaria Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Bill withdrawn by leave of the House.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal College of Education (Technical), Katsina Ala; and for Related Matters (HB. 650) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal College of Education (Technical), Katsina Ala; and for Related Matters (HB. 650) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. John Dyegh — Gboko/Tarka Federal Constituency and 1 other*).

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.

12. **Need to Investigate the Death of Martins Chineme on the Football pitch in Lafia, Nasarawa State:**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that on March 8, 2020, one Mr Martins Chineme, a member of Nasarawa United FC, slumped on the football pitch during a match in Lafia, Nasarawa State and died;

Aware that First Aid Manual and Related Healthcare Issues for Football which is the standard for international best practice, provides guidelines for scene safety, safe environment, first aide, assessment of injuries and basic life support among others which were all ignored in that case;

Further aware that Article 10, No.3, Grade "A", Players' Welfare 6-9 of the "Nigeria Football Federation Club Licensing Regulations that deal with annual medical examination provides Regulation for examination which was also not adhered to;

Again aware that Article 11, No.101, Grade "A" of the Football Federation Club licensing regulations give specific guidelines on first aid equipment (e.g "Defibrillator") and facilities that must be available, but there was no first aid or ambulance service on that day;

Worried that League Management Company (LMC) has not taken necessary steps to ensure compliance by providing necessary medical equipment and ambulances;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe one minute of silence in honor of late Martins Chineme;
- (ii) urge the Nigeria Football Federation and League Management Company (NFFLMC) to ensure that first aid and emergency response with ambulance services are on standby at all match events in line with international best practices;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Sports to investigate cause of death of Martins Chineme and also audit the health facilities provided by the LMC for league matches across the country and report back within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Dachung Musa Bagos — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Notes that on March 8, 2020, one Mr. Martins Chineme, a member of Nasarawa United FC, slumped on the football pitch during a match in Lafia, Nasarawa State and died;

Aware that First Aid Manual and Related Healthcare Issues for Football which is the standard for international best practice, provides guidelines for scene safety, safe environment, first aide, assessment of injuries and basic life support among others which were all ignored in that case;

Further aware that Article 10, No.3, Grade "A", Players' Welfare 6-9 of the "Nigeria Football Federation Club Licensing Regulations that deal with annual medical examination provides Regulation for examination which was also not adhered to;

Again aware that Article 11, No.101, Grade "A" of the Football Federation Club licensing regulations give specific guidelines on first aid equipment (e.g. "Defibrillator") and facilities that must be available, but there was no first aid or ambulance service on that day;

Worried that League Management Company (LMC) has not taken necessary steps to ensure compliance by providing necessary medical equipment and ambulances;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe one minute of silence in honor of late Martins Chineme;
- (ii) urge the Nigeria Football Federation and League Management Company (NFFLMC) to ensure that first aid and emergency response with ambulance services are on standby at all match events in line with international best practices;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Sports to investigate cause of death of Martins Chineme and also audit the health facilities provided by the LMC for league matches across the country and report back within four (4) weeks (HR. 108/03/2020).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

13. Call on Multichoice Digital Satellite Television (DSTV) and Other Service Providers to Introduce the Pay as You Go Tariff (PAYG) Plan

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the National Broadcasting Commission Act empowers the National Broadcasting Commission to regulate the ownerships activities or operations of Radio and Television Stations, as well as Direct Broadcast Satellite Service Providers and currently, there are over 10 Direct-To-Home Service Providers operating in Nigeria and rendering paid services;

Also notes that DSTV, one of the leading Direct-To-Home Service Providers in Nigeria, was launched in 1995 and has about 11.9 million subscribers, which is largest market for its operations;

Concerned that DSTV and other Direct-To-Home Service Providers have deliberately refused to implement the Pay As You Go Tariff Plan but rather charge users on a fixed monthly tariff plan, unlike what is obtainable outside Nigeria;

Aware that Nigeria constitutes 40% of DSTV's global market share, yet over 40% of the citizens do not use a greater part of their paid monthly tariff due to engagements that take them from one location to the other on a daily basis, hence they cannot access the services upon expiration, whether or not they used their previous subscriptions until they renew it for another month;

Also aware that DSTV operates a Pay As You Go Tariff Plan in other countries but has chosen to exploit Nigerians through a fixed monthly Tariff Plan;

Cognizant that the continuous exploitation by Multichoice, owners of DSTV, constitutes economic sabotage against Nigerians as most of them pay for services they do not consume while the Company, judging from their average monthly tariff of eight thousand naira, if multiplied by 11.9 million subscribers, makes about 100 billion naira monthly at the expense of its subscribers;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to direct Multichoice and other direct-to-home broadcast service providers to implement a Pay As You Go Tariff Plan;

- (ii) mandate the Committees on Information Technology and Telecommunications to investigate the non-implementation of the Pay As You Go (PAYG) tariff plan by broadcast Satellite Service Providers with a view to ensuring strict compliance with the tariff plan and report back within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Unyime Idem — Ukanafun/Oruk Anam Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Prayers (i) and (ii), and insert a new Prayer as follows:

“Set up an Ad-hoc Committee to investigate the matter and report back within four (4) weeks”
(*Hon. Ndudi Elumelu — Aniocha/Oshimili Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Notes that the National Broadcasting Commission Act empowers the National Broadcasting Commission to regulate the ownerships activities or operations of Radio and Television Stations, as well as Direct Broadcast Satellite Service Providers and currently, there are over 10 Direct-To-Home Service Providers operating in Nigeria and rendering paid services;

Also notes that DSTV, one of the leading Direct-To-Home Service Providers in Nigeria, was launched in 1995 and has about 11.9 million subscribers, which is largest market for its operations;

Concerned that DSTV and other Direct-To-Home Service Providers have deliberately refused to implement the Pay As You Go Tariff Plan but rather charge users on a fixed monthly tariff plan, unlike what is obtainable outside Nigeria;

Aware that Nigeria constitutes 40% of DSTV's global market share, yet over 40% of the citizens do not use a greater part of their paid monthly tariff due to engagements that take them from one location to the other on a daily basis, hence they cannot access the services upon expiration, whether or not they used their previous subscriptions until they renew it for another month;

Also aware that DSTV operates a Pay As You Go Tariff Plan in other countries but has chosen to exploit Nigerians through a fixed monthly Tariff Plan;

Cognizant that the continuous exploitation by Multichoice, owners of DSTV, constitutes economic sabotage against Nigerians as most of them pay for services they do not consume while the Company, judging from their average monthly tariff of eight thousand naira, if multiplied by 11.9 million subscribers, makes about 100 billion naira monthly at the expense of its subscribers;

Resolved to:

Set up an Ad-hoc Committee to investigate the matter and report back within four (4) weeks (**HR. 109/03/2020**)

Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Non-implementation of Pay as You Go Tariff (PAYG) Plan by Broadcast Satellite Services Providers:

Mr Speaker announced the membership of the *Ad-hoc* Committee as follows:

(1)	Hon. Unyime Idem	—	<i>Chairman</i>
(2)	Hon. John Deygh	—	<i>Deputy Chairman</i>
(3)	Hon. Usman Zanna	—	<i>Member</i>
(4)	Hon. Victor Mela	—	<i>Member</i>
(5)	Hon. Chinedu Ogah	—	<i>Member</i>
(6)	Hon. Kingsley Uju	—	<i>Member</i>
(7)	Hon. Yuguda Hassan Kila	—	<i>Member</i>
(8)	Hon. Stanley Olajide Adedeji	—	<i>Member</i>
(9)	Hon. Suleima Aminu Goro	—	<i>Member</i>
(10)	Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga	—	<i>Member</i>
(11)	Hon. Umana Aniekan	—	<i>Member</i>
(12)	Hon. Julius Pondi	—	<i>Member</i>
(13)	Hon. Bede Eke	—	<i>Member</i>
(14)	Hon. Ossy Prestige	—	<i>Member</i>
(15)	Hon. Qlododo Cook	—	<i>Member</i>
(16)	Hon. Komsol Longap	—	<i>Member</i>
(17)	Hon. Nasiru Abduwa Gabasawa	—	<i>Member</i>

**14. Construction of a Link Bridge and Rehabilitation of the Abakaliki-Ikwo-Obubra Road:
*Motion made and Question proposed:***

The House:

Notes that Ikwo-Obubra road is a major route that serves as a link between States in the South East and Cross River State;

Also notes that the people of Ikwo in Ebonyi State and Obubra in Cross River State are predominantly farmers who rely on the Abakaliki-Ikwo-Obubra road to transport their agricultural products to different parts of the States and other neighbouring States in order to earn a living;

Concerned that the road is in a dilapidated state thus making transportation of goods and other economic transactions extremely difficult for the people as well as causing countless accidents leading to loss of lives and properties, thereby discouraging people from plying it;

Also concerned that there is no bridge across the river in Obubra which separates Ebonyi State from Cross River State, hence commuters take great risks to ferry their goods from either State;

Aware that Ebonyi State is set to open an International Market, thus good access roads from neighbouring States to the market will enhance the economy of the state and Nigeria as a whole;

Also Aware that Ebonyi and Cross River States are endowed with abundant agricultural resources, hence there is need to boost relations between the two States and the road is the shortest border route from the South-east to Cross River State;

Worried that if not rehabilitated, the road may become a haven for criminals to unleash mayhem on unsuspecting commuters;

Commends President Muhammadu Buhari's Administration for its committed efforts towards rehabilitation and construction of major roads across the country, a typical example being the rehabilitation of Okigwe-Umuahia road;

Cognizant that good road infrastructure is a critical tool for development of a nation and the reconstruction of Abakaliki-Ikwo-Obubra road will foster economic relations between Ebonyi and Cross River States, as well as douse the crisis between communities in the two States;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to commence the reconstruction of Abakaliki-Ikwo-Obubra road as well as build a bridge across the river in Obubra to link Ebonyi and Cross River States;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Works to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to ensure that the construction of a link bridge and reconstruction of Abakaliki-Ikwo-Obubra road is included in the 2021 Budget estimates;
- (iii) also mandate the Committees on Works, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Chinedu Nweke Ogah — Ezza South/Ikwo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 110/03/2020).

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, and Legislative Compliance, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

15. Need to Equip Federal Medical Centers with Modern Laboratory and Diagnostic Equipment
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes with dismay the deplorable states of Federal Medical Centres across the country despite reforms and investments made in the health sector as most of them wear the look of glorified clinics due to lack of modern medical equipment;

Also notes that the poor state of laboratory and diagnostic equipment in Federal Medical Centres further exacerbates the already dismal health sector, and has in many cases, led to wrong diagnoses of patients who ordinarily cannot afford to go to private hospitals, leading to avoidable cases of wrong treatment, unnecessary medical expenses, misery and even death;

Aware that in modern medical practice, healthcare delivery has moved beyond the use of analogue methods of diagnosis, as innovation and use of modern medical laboratory equipment have influenced how diseases and ailments are detected and managed, resulting in increased life expectancy.

Also aware that other causes of misdiagnoses in hospitals include excessive workload which has overstretched health care providers, inadequate training of physicians and medical laboratory scientists, non-conducive work environments and negligence by medical practitioners;

Further aware that equipping Medical Centres in Nigeria with modern medical equipment will drastically reduce the adverse effects of such factors;

Recalls the Ebola scare in 2014 when Dr Sawyer, a Liberian collapsed on arrival at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos and was later diagnosed with Ebola virus in a private hospital where Dr. Adadevo, along with her team exhibited professionalism and the medical examination carried out by the team quickly detected the virus and led to its being checked;

Again aware that had the patient been taken to any of the government hospitals, the story may have been different, considering that Federal Medical Centres are not properly equipped and prepared to handle an outbreak of epidemic;

Further notes that the world today is a global village, where the outbreak of an epidemic in one part of the world is a threat to the rest of the world, as 15 being witnessed with Coronavirus pandemic which originated in Wuhan, China but has spread to over 29 other countries, causing over 2000 deaths and infecting over 75,000 people worldwide;

Cognizant that with recent global developments, Nigeria more than ever needs to equip and upgrade Federal Medical Centres and Government Hospitals with modern laboratory and diagnostic equipment in order for them to be able to detect and contain any threat of epidemic in the country;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health to urgently equip and upgrade all Federal Medical Centres and Government Hospitals with modern laboratory and diagnostic equipment, to meet the global standards and best practices;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Health Institutions, and Healthcare Services to ensure compliance (*Hon. Emeka Martins Chinedu — Ahiazu/Ezinihitte/Mbaise Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 111/03/2020).

Motion referred to the Committees on Health Institutions, and Health Care Services, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

16. Economic Implications of the Production and Adoption of Electric Vehicles on Nigeria
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes with dismay the bleak future for Nigeria's oil exports as its biggest crude oil buyers and other major Asian and European customers are poised to do away with petrol and diesel-powered vehicles from year 2025;

Informed that India, China, France, Netherlands and the United Kingdom that bought a total of 24.4 million barrels of crude oil from Nigeria in May of 2019, almost half of the nation's total exports for the month, are now pushing ahead with plans to stop the use of oil-powered vehicles as part of efforts to reduce pollution and carbon emissions, a development that could spell trouble for Nigeria's oil exports in the coming decades;

Also informed that the UK followed France in announcing that new diesel and petrol cars would be banned by 2040 in a bid to encourage people to switch to electric and hybrid vehicles: Netherlands as well has mooted a 2025 ban for diesel and petrol cars, Germany too, another major buyer of Nigeria's crude in Europe, aims to have one million electric cars on the road by 2020, while India, the biggest importer of Nigeria's crude, is considering even more radical action, with plans to support electrifying all vehicles in the country by 2030 while China equally has announced that it was looking to ban the production and sale of diesel and petrol cars and vans as well;

Aware that if more countries follow the same path, the development could translate to a drastic reduction in the demand for crude oil globally and developing countries such as Nigeria with excessive dependence on crude oil revenues would experience serious and prolonged economic shocks from gradual moderation and reduction in crude oil demands;

Worried by the recent Bloomberg New Energy Finance Report, which forecast that electric powered vehicles will be cheaper to buy than their internal combustion engine counterparts by 2025 and also predicted that by 2040, there would be 530 million electric vehicles worldwide, comprising about one third of the fleet, which would displace roughly eight million barrels of oil production per day;

Concerned that Nigeria is not prepared for this shift politically, socially and economically, since the country failed to internally build capacity and capabilities to enjoy the benefits of its natural endowments, and equally refused to broaden the opportunities and ancillary services that are associated with crude oil and natural gas;

Believes that as government income dwindles due to this development, Nigeria would be forced to implement structural reforms and stop paying lip service to diversification of her economy as well as look more inwards into utilisation of crude oil as raw material for the manufacturing of other products;

Aware that Netherlands is currently seeking collaboration with the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) towards utilizing petroleum products for the manufacturing of animal feeds as more innovations are coming up towards utilizing crude oil as raw materials for the production of other products;

Confident that Nigeria could still explore the vast opportunities that exist in the domestic markets and the African sub region if the government implements structural reforms and develops the capacity to efficiently refine Nigeria's crude oil to supply the entire West Africa and the Gulf region;

Cognizant that oil and gas business is dynamic and as more customers and usefulness dwindle from a particular region, other developing countries will also be demanding for the products, and equally looking for other possibilities of utilising crude oil as raw material for production of other goods;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to critically evaluate the implications of reduced demand for crude oil in the light of emerging trends of preference for electric vehicles by her major oil buyers;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to, without delay, commence genuine and far reaching diversification and structural reforms of the economy from over dependence on oil revenues;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Government to commence research on developing alternative uses of crude oil as raw material for the production of other goods (*Hon. Ossy Prestige — At. North/Aba South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with dismay the bleak future for Nigeria's oil exports as its biggest crude oil buyers and other major Asian and European customers are poised to do away with petrol and diesel-powered vehicles from year 2025;

Informed that India, China, France, Netherlands and the United Kingdom that bought a total of 24.4 million barrels of crude oil from Nigeria in May of 2019, almost half of the nation's total exports for the month, are now pushing ahead with plans to stop the use of oil-powered vehicles as part of efforts to reduce pollution and carbon emissions, a development that could spell trouble for Nigeria's oil exports in the coming decades;

Also informed that the UK followed France in announcing that new diesel and petrol cars would be banned by 2040 in a bid to encourage people to switch to electric and hybrid vehicles; Netherlands as well has mooted a 2025 ban for diesel and petrol cars, Germany too, another major buyer of Nigeria's crude in Europe, aims to have one million electric cars on the road by 2020, while India, the biggest importer of Nigeria's crude, is considering even more radical action, with plans to support electrifying all vehicles in the country by 2030 while China equally has announced that it was looking to ban the production and sale of diesel and petrol cars and vans as well;

Aware that if more countries follow the same path, the development could translate to a drastic reduction in the demand for crude oil globally and developing countries such as Nigeria with excessive dependence on crude oil revenues would experience serious and prolonged economic shocks from gradual moderation and reduction in crude oil demands;

Worried by the recent Bloomberg New Energy Finance Report, which forecast that electric powered vehicles will be cheaper to buy than their internal combustion engine counterparts by 2025 and also predicted that by 2040, there would be 530 million electric vehicles worldwide, comprising about one third of the fleet, which would displace roughly eight million barrels of oil production per day;

Concerned that Nigeria is not prepared for this shift politically, socially and economically, since the country failed to internally build capacity and capabilities to enjoy the benefits of its natural endowments, and equally refused to broaden the opportunities and ancillary services that are associated with crude oil and natural gas;

Believed that as government income dwindles due to this development, Nigeria would be forced to implement structural reforms and stop paying lip service to diversification of her economy as well as look more inwards into utilisation of crude oil as raw material for the manufacturing of other products;

Aware that Netherlands is currently seeking collaboration with the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) towards utilizing petroleum products for the manufacturing of animal feeds as more innovations are coming up towards utilizing crude oil as raw materials for the production of other products;

Confident that Nigeria could still explore the vast opportunities that exist in the domestic markets and the African sub region if the government implements structural reforms and develops the capacity to efficiently refine Nigeria's crude oil to supply the entire West Africa and the Gulf region;

Cognizant that oil and gas business is dynamic and as more customers and usefulness dwindle from a particular region, other developing countries will also be demanding for the products, and equally looking for other possibilities of utilising crude oil as raw material for production of other goods;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to critically evaluate the implications of reduced demand for crude oil s in the light of emerging trends of preference for electric vehicles by her major oil buyers;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to, without delay, commence genuine and far reaching diversification and structural reforms of the economy from over dependence on oil revenues;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Government to commence research on developing alternative uses of crude oil as raw material for the production of other goods (HR. 112/03/2020).

17. Need to Investigate the Failure of the Federal Government's 3.4 Billion Naira Solar Powered Grid Project in the Six Geopolitical Zones and the Federal Capital Territory

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Recalls that the then Federal Ministry of Power, in 2013 rolled out an Off Grid Renewable Solar Energy Project code named Operation Light up Rural Nigeria (OLRN) with a budget of ₦3.446bn for four years, from 2013 - 2016;

Also recalls that the project was targeted at four communities of Durumi-Mpape, Waru, Shape in the FCT as pilot scheme with plans to expand the scope later to other States of the Federation;

Observes that with the coming of the present Administration in 2015, the project was rechristened Renewable Energy (Solar) Micro Utility (REMU) by the then Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing and was expanded to provide additional 18 mini grids with three in each geopolitical zone;

Aware that the sum of ₦1.4bn was released in 2014 to fund the Pilot Projects, where ₦40.6 billion was earmarked for periodic maintenance in 2015, and another ₦40.1 billion for maintenance of each of the 18 grids;

Also aware that Messrs Schneider Electric Nigeria Ltd was awarded the Durumi grid in the sum of ₦228.4m in 2014; Mesers Lordzotech got Waru grid for ₦228.4m and also won Shape grid, all in the FCT for ₦218.9m, according to records at the Bureau of Public Enterprises ;

Further aware that the sum of ₦ 82.6m was fully released in 2015 to fund the 18 mini grids while another ₦305.3m meant to construct a grid in Pakau, Kaduna State was also fully released;

Worried that the sum of ₦625.5m has been expended on OLRN alone, while ₦687.9m has also gone into funding REMU as at 2017 according to budget records;

Also concerns that despite the huge investments on the projects, most of them were found, shortly after their commissioning in 2014 not to have been properly implemented while others were outrightly abandoned till date with some of the equipment already vandalized;

Further concerned that the overall intention of government to power up the rural areas in order to create jobs and assist in the springing up of small businesses for the local populace, thereby bringing development closer to the people and checkmating rural-urban migration has been defeated by the inefficient handling of the projects since inception;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Power to investigate the abandonment of the projects by the Federal Ministry of Power since 2018 and report back within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Aniekan Umanah John — Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency*).

Amendment Proposed:

In the Prayer, *leave out* the words “Mandate the Committee on Power”, and *insert* the words “Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee” (*Hon. Ndudi Elumelu — Aniocha/Oshimili Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Recalled that the then Federal Ministry of Power, in 2013 rolled out an Off Grid Renewable Solar Energy Project code named Operation Light up Rural Nigeria (OLRN) with a budget of ₦3.446bn for four years, from 2013 - 2016;

Also recalled that the project was targeted at four communities of Durumi-Mpape, Waru. Shape in the FCT as pilot scheme with plans to expand the scope later to other States of the Federation;

Observes that with the coming of the present Administration in 2015, the project was rechristened Renewable Energy (Solar) Micro Utility (REMU) by the then Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing and was expanded to provide additional 18 mini grids with three in each geopolitical zone;

Aware that the sum of ₦1.4bn was released in 2014 to fund the Pilot Projects, where ₦40.6 billion was earmarked for periodic maintenance in 2015, and another ₦40.1 billion for maintenance of each of the 18 grids;

Also aware that Messrs Schneider Electric Nigeria Ltd was awarded the Durumi grid in the sum of ₦228.4m in 2014; Messrs Lordzotech got Waru grid for ₦228.4m and also won Shape grid, all in the FCT for ₦218.9m, according to records at the Bureau of Public Enterprises ;

Further aware that the sum of ₦382.6m was fully released in 2015 to fund the 18 mini grids while another ₦305.3m meant to construct a grid in Pakau, Kaduna State was also fully released;

Worried that the sum of ₦625.5m has been expended on OLRN alone, while ₦687.9m has also gone into funding REMU as at 2017 according to budget records;

Also concerned that despite the huge investments on the projects, most of them were found, shortly after their commissioning in 2014 not to have been properly implemented while others were outrightly abandoned till date with some of the equipment already vandalized;

Further concerned that the overall intention of government to power up the rural areas in order to create jobs and assist in the springing up of small businesses for the local populace, thereby bringing development closer to the people and checkmating rural-urban migration has been defeated by the inefficient handling of the projects since inception;

Resolved to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the abandonment of the projects by the Federal Ministry of Power since 2018 and report back within four (4) weeks (**HR. 113/03/2020**).

Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Failure of the Federal Government's 3.4 Billion Naira Solar Powered Grid Project in the Six Geopolitical Zones and the Federal Capital Territory:

Mr Speaker announced the membership of the *Ad-hoc* Committee as follows:

(1)	Hon. Ossy Prestige	—	<i>Chairman</i>
(2)	Hon. Olanrewaju Edun	—	<i>Deputy Chairman</i>
(3)	Hon. Ajao Jacob Adejumo	—	<i>Member</i>
(4)	Hon. Olatunji Okwuyi	—	<i>Member</i>
(5)	Hon. Mohammed Ja'afaru Iliya	—	<i>Member</i>
(6)	Hon. Murtala Isa Kankara	—	<i>Member</i>
(7)	Hon. Samaila Suleiman	—	<i>Member</i>
(8)	Hon. Tijjani Zakariya	—	<i>Member</i>
(9)	Hon. Bukar Gana Kareto	—	<i>Member</i>
(10)	Hon. Darlington Nwokocha	—	<i>Member</i>
(11)	Hon. Ugonna Ozurigbo	—	<i>Member</i>
(12)	Hon. Kabiru Ahmadu	—	<i>Member</i>
(13)	Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai	—	<i>Member</i>
(14)	Hon. Kingsley Chinda	—	<i>Member</i>
(15)	Hon. Ibrahim Babangida	—	<i>Member</i>
(16)	Hon. Shehu Garba	—	<i>Member</i>
(17)	Hon. Omolafe Isaac Adedayo	—	<i>Member</i>

18. Consideration of Reports

- (i) ***A Bill for an Act to Establish Chartered Institute of Social Work Practitioners and to make Provisions, among other things, for Membership and Control of the Profession of Social Work; and for Related Matters (HB. 358) (Committee of the Whole):***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish Chartered Institute of Social Work Practitioners and to make Provisions, among other things, for Membership and Control of the Profession of Social Work; and for Related Matters (HB. 358)" (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi 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 CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL WORK PRACTITIONERS AND TO MAKE PROVISIONS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, FOR MEMBERSHIP AND CONTROL OF THE PROFESSION OF SOCIAL WORK, AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

PART I — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE
OF SOCIAL WORK PRACTITIONERS

Clause 1: Establishment of the Chartered Institute of Social Work Practitioners.

- (1) There is established the Institute of Social Work Practitioners in the Bill referred to as "the Institute").
- (2) The Institute:
 - (a) is body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal;
 - (b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name; and
 - (c) may, subject to the Land Use Act, hold, acquire and dispose of any property, movable or immovable (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 2: Functions of the Institute.

The Institute is charged with:

- (a) determining the standards of knowledge and skill to be attained by persons seeking to become registered as chartered social work practitioners (in this Bill referred to as "the Professionals"), and raising the standards as circumstances may permit;
- (b) securing in accordance with the provisions of the Act, the establishment and maintenance of register of corporate members, fellows, associates, honorary fellows, and the publication of the list of registered members;
- (c) building professional capacities and providing professional guidance to members for enhanced service delivery in the chosen area of the Institute professional practice.
- (d) creating and advancing consciousness in the professional practice of social work, providing a forum for the interaction of practising social work practitioners and collaborating with individuals, groups and corporate bodies with interest in social work practice with the aims of sharing professional and technical skills, experiences, benefits and research findings for advancement of professional social work;
- (e) licensing and providing professional proficiencies and guidance to members in practice and to persons who shall practice as social work practitioners;
- (d) issuing code of conduct booklet to serve as catalyst guiding the professional behavior of the members of the Institute (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 3: Membership of the Institute.

- (1) Members of the Institute shall be drawn from diverse professions in areas of social work and related matters including community development, adult education, sociology, psychology and medical social welfare amongst others.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of the Bill, a person admitted as a member of the Institute shall possess adequate interest, knowledge and understanding of social work and related matters, and shall be registered as a member in any of the following categories:
 - (a) Fellow;
 - (b) Senior Member;
 - (c) Member; or
 - (d) Associate Member.
- (3) A person registered under this Bill as a Member of the Institute is entitled to be enrolled as:
 - (a) a Fellow, if he satisfies the Council that he:
 - (i) is the holder of an approved academic qualification;
 - (ii) is an Associate Member of the Institute for not less than five years; or
 - (iii) has attended all mandatory continuous professional programmes, seminars and symposia organised by the Institute;
 - (iv) pays the entire Institute's annual subscription, dues and levies; and
 - (v) has been in continuous active practice on his own account as a social work practitioner, employee or in partnership with other social workers;
 - (b) as a Senior Member, if he has passed all the stages of the Institute examination and inducted, is otherwise a fit and proper person to be enrolled as Senior Member; and
 - (c) as an Associate Member, is enrolled as a student of the Institute and has satisfied the Council that he is a fit and proper person to be enrolled as Associate Member.
- (4) The Institute may register a member as an Honorary Fellow or Corporate Member.
- (5) An Honorary Fellow shall be a person who has been in continuous employment of a reputable organisation as a social worker for at least 15 years preceding the date of his application or nomination to the Institute

for registration as an honorary fellow or person who has contributed to human capacity development in the country, and who is an employer of labour with knowledge of social work.

- (6) Corporate membership shall consist of Ministries, Departments, Agencies or companies which:
- (a) are in a functional working relationship with the Institute,
 - (b) at the date of application, employ at least 25 persons,
 - (c) it has been licensed to carry out a business with high corporate social content in Nigeria in the case of a company,
 - (d) satisfied any other condition which the Council may from time to time approve:

Provided that corporate membership shall be conferred at the discretion of the Council and that admission shall not confer automatic professional membership of the Institute on any member of the company or organisation.

- (7) A corporate member shall ensure that its employees are registered with the Institute to promote ethical standards and self-regulation in social work practice.
- (8) A person shall, when enrolled or registered, as the case may be, receive a certificate in such form as the Council may approve for the purpose.
- (9) Every member is required to attend a number of mandatory training programs as may be specified by the Council which shall serve as a prerequisite for upgrading and recertification.
- (10) At the commencement of this Bill, any person not a member of the former Institute who, but for the Act, would have been qualified to apply for and obtain membership of the profession, may, within three months from the date of commencement of this Bill apply for membership of the Institute in such manner as may be prescribed by the rules made by the Council and, if approved, he shall be registered according to his qualifications (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

Amendment Proposed:

In Subclause (1), immediately after the word “diverse”, *leave out* the word “professions” and *insert* the word “discipline” (*Hon. Muhammad Umar Jega — Aliero/Gwandu/Jega Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question that Clause 3 as amended, stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 4: Membership privileges.

- (1) Persons registered as Fellows and Associates of the Institute are entitled to use after their names, the following Acronyms:

- (a) "Fellow, Institute of Social Work Practitioners" (FSOW);
 - (b) "Senior Member, Institute of Social Work Practitioners" (SMSOW);
 - (c) "Associate, Institute of Social Work Practitioners" (ASOW);
- (2) A person registered as a Fellow or Associate of the Institute shall:
- (a) have the right to affix a member seal and stamp on every document endorsed by or emanating from them; and
 - (b) be awarded a certificate of qualification, practising certificate, plaque and other membership details in such form as the Council may approve (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 5: Duties of members and code of conduct.

Every registered member of the Institute:

- (a) shall abide by the rules, regulations, code of conduct and other policy established by the Institute for the purpose of sound practice;
- (b) is bound to further, to the best of his ability and judgment, the objects, purposes and interest of the Institute;

Schedule.

- (c) subject to section 3 (9) and (10) of this Bill, comply with the Code of Conduct set out by the Council in paragraph 5 of the Schedule;
- (d) every member shall order his conduct as to uphold the dignity and reputation of the Institute; and
- (e) shall observe the provisions of this Bill and other regulations as may be made by the Council (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 6: Governing Council of the Institute.

- (1) There shall be for the Institute a Governing Council (in the Bill referred to as "the Council") charged with the administration and general management of the Institute.
- (2) The Council shall consist of:
 - (a) the President of the Institute who shall be the Chairman;
 - (b) the Vice-President of the Institute who shall be the Vice-Chairman;

- (c) a representative from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management, and Social Development;
- (d) one duly enrolled social worker to represent institutions involved in training of social workers on rotation;
- (e) one duly enrolled Social Worker from non-governmental organisation working on human services NGOs to represent public interest;
- (f) six State Zonal Coordinators to represent the six geopolitical zones; and
- (g) the Registrar of the Institute who shall be the Secretary to the Council.

Schedule.

- (3) The supplementary provisions set out in the Schedule to the Act shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Council and the other matters contained in the Schedule.
- (4) Subject to this section, the Council may capacity to make standing orders for the regulation of its proceedings and meetings.
- (5) Decisions and acts of the Council are deemed to be decisions and acts of the Institute (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 7: Functions of the Council.

The Council shall:

- (a) determine the standards of knowledge and skill of candidates aspiring to be members of the Institute;
- (b) ensure that those admitted into the Institute as members upgrade their knowledge from time to time through regular attendance of seminars and workshops and Mandatory Continuous Professional Education Programs (MCPEP) designed to raise their skills as social work practitioners and experts;
- (c) regulate and control the social work profession through adequate screening of prospective desirous candidates who apply (enroll) for memberships; and
- (d) do such other things that in its opinion are necessary to ensure the effective performance of the functions of the Institute under the Bill (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 7 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to:

Clause 8: The President and Vice-President of the Institute.

- (1) There shall be a President and Vice-Presidents of the Institute who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Institute.
- (2) The President shall be the Chairman at all meetings of the Institute, but in the event of death, incapacity or inability, for any reason, of the President, the Vice-President shall act as President for the un-expired portion of the term of office as Chairman, as the case may be, and references in this Bill to the President shall be construed accordingly.
- (3) The President and Vice-President respectively shall be Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council of the Institute under the Bill.
- (4) Where the President or Vice-President ceases to be a member of the Institute, he shall cease to hold any of the offices designated under this section (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 9: Tenure and Cessation of Office.

- (1) The President and members of the Council, other than the *ex-officio* members:
 - (a) shall hold office for two years in the first instance from the date of investiture; and
 - (b) may be elected or reappointed for another two years and no more.
- (2) The office of the President or any member of the Council becomes vacant where:
 - (a) he resigns his office by notice in writing under his hand addressed to the Registrar of the Institute;
 - (b) he becomes of unsound mind or is incapable of discharging his duties due to infirmity of mind or body;
 - (c) he is declared bankrupt by a court of competent jurisdiction;
 - (d) he is found guilty of gross misconduct relating to his duties or is convicted of a felony or any offence involving dishonesty, corruption or embezzlement; or
 - (e) in the case of an *ex-officio* member, he ceases to hold the office on the basis of which he became a member of the Council (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 10: Remuneration of members of the Council.

Members of the Council are entitled to allowances, travel expenses and such other benefits as may be determined by the Council (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 11: Establishment of the Board of Trustees.

- (1) There shall be for the Institute the Board of Trustees (IBOT) which shall consist of the promoters of the Institute and such other persons that the Board of Trustees may deem qualified, and which membership shall:
 - (a) not be subjected to any election;
 - (b) ensure that in the event of death of a member, the Board shall arrange for a successor, but not necessarily from among the Council members.
- (2) The Board of Trustees consist of:
 - (a) Chairman;
 - (b) Vice Chairman;
 - (c) Secretary; and
 - (d) four other members (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 12: Functions of Board of Trustees.

- (1) The Board of Trustees shall bear and determine complaints brought before it by members (who are not in arrears of their subscriptions and levies, and its decision on any issue is not subjected to any further debate;
- (2) The Board of Trustees shall hold its meeting, from time to time as may be scheduled by its Chairman.
- (3) The Board of Trustees shall act as an adviser on issues relating to the activities of the Institute.
- (4) At least a member of the Board of Trustees is required to be present at the meeting of the Council.
- (5) Where the Disciplinary Committee is unable to resolve any matter brought before it, it shall refer the matter to the Council, but if the Council is unable to resolve, it shall in turn refer it to Board of Trustees and any decision taken on the matter is final (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 12 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART II — STAFF OF THE INSTITUTE

Clause 13: Appointment and duties of the Registrar.

- (1) The Council shall appoint the Registrar who shall be the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Institute for the purpose of the Bill.

(2) The Registrar shall:

- (a) be charged with the general responsibility for matters affecting the management and operations of the Institute;
- (b) on the instructions of the President of the Institute, any committee of the Institute or the Council, convene and keep minutes of the proceedings at all meetings thereof as the case may be;
- (c) be responsible to the Council for:
 - (i) taking the minutes of meetings of the Council,
 - (ii) keeping records and conducting the correspondence of the Council, and
 - (iii) issuing notices for the meetings of the Council.
- (d) responsible for any other duty or function as may be necessary for the effective and efficient running of the Institute (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 14: Qualifications, functions of the Registrar, etc.

- (1) The Registrar shall possess such professional qualifications and cognate experience as the Council may prescribe.
- (2) In addition to other duties under this Bill, the Registrar shall prepare and maintain, in accordance with the rules and regulations made by the Council, a register of the names, addresses, approved qualifications and such other qualifications and particulars as may be specified in the rules, of all persons who are enrolled, in accordance with the provisions of this Bill as Fellows, Full Members, Associate Members, Graduate Members, Student Members, Honorary Fellows or Corporate Members.
- (3) The Registrar shall:
 - (a) correct, in accordance with the Council's directions, any entry in the register which the Council directs him to correct as being in the Council's opinion, an entry which was incorrectly made;
 - (b) make, from time to time, any necessary alteration in the registered particulars of registered members;
 - (c) remove from the register the name of any enrolled or registered member who has died; and
 - (d) record the names of members of the Institute who are in default for more than six months in the payment of annual subscriptions, and to take such action in relation to it including removal of the names of defaulters from the register, as the Council may direct or require.

- (4) If the Registrar:
- (a) sends by post to any enrolled or registered person a registered letter addressed to him at his enrolled address on the register, enquiring whether the enrolled registered particulars relating to him are correct and receives no reply to the letter within the six months from the date of posting it, and
 - (b) upon the expiration of that period, sends in the like manner to the person in question a second similar letter and receives no reply to that letter within three months from the date of posting it,

the Registrar may remove the particulars relating to the person in question from the Register and the Council may direct the Registrar to restore to the appropriate part of the register any particulars removed from the register under this subsection.

- (5) The Registrar shall:
- (a) cause the register to be printed, published and put on sale to members of the public, not later than two years from the commencement of this Bill and thereafter, cause to be printed, published and put on sale, either a corrected edition of the register or list of corrections made to the register, since it was last printed;
 - (b) cause a print of each edition of the register and of each list of the corrections to be deposited at the principal offices of the Institute;
 - (c) keep the register and lists so deposited and made available at all reasonable times for inspection by members of the public;
 - (d) from time to time, appoint such other category of staff or as it may deem expedient and necessary to assist the Institute in the performance of its functions under this Bill;
 - (e) pay its employees such remuneration, allowances and other benefits as may be approved by the Council; and
 - (f) make rules relating generally to the conditions of service of employees of the Institute, and the rules may provide for the appointment, promotion and disciplinary control of all employees of the Institute as approved by the Council (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 15: Other staff.

- (1) The Council may, on the recommendation of the Registrar, appoint such other staff as it may consider necessary to assist the Registrar in the discharge of his duties:

- (2) The employment of the Registrar and other staff shall be pensionable, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Civil Service of the Federation (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 16: Indemnity of members.

Every member, agent, auditor or employee for the time being of the Council shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Institute against any liability incurred by him in defending any proceeding, whether civil or criminal in which judgment is given in his favour or in which he is acquitted, if any such proceeding has been brought against him in his capacity as a member, agent, auditor or employee (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

PART III — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Clause 17: Establishment of Fund of the Institute.

- (1) The Council shall establish and maintain a fund (in this Bill referred to as "the Fund") for the purpose of the Bill.
- (2) There shall be paid into the Fund of the Council:
- (a) all fees and other moneys payable to the Council in under this Bill, and
- (b) such money as may be payable to the Council, whether in the course of the performance of its functions or otherwise.
- (3) There shall be paid out of the Fund:
- (a) the remuneration and allowances of the Registrar and other employees of the Council; and
- (b) such reasonable travelling and subsistence allowance of members of the Council in respect of the time spent on the business of the Council as the Council may determine.
- (4) The Council may invest money in the Fund in any security created or issued by or on behalf of the Federal Government or in any other securities in Nigeria approved by the Council.
- (5) The Council may borrow money for the purposes of the Institute and any interest payable on money so borrowed shall be paid out of the Fund.
- (6) The Council may create as Social Work Practitioners Benevolent and Educational Fund which shall:
- (a) be managed by the Board of Trustees and a management committee both to consist of members appointed by the Council; and

- (b) provide assistance to indigent or distressed or ill or incapacitated members of the Institute.
- (7) The Council may create other Funds as it deems fit (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 18: Accounts and audit.

The Council shall, keep proper accounts on behalf of the Institute in respect of each year and proper records in relation to those accounts and the Council shall cause the accounts to be audited by an auditor and, when audited, the accounts shall be submitted to the members of the Institute for approval by them at the meeting of the Institute (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 19: Power to accept gifts.

- (1) The Institute may accept gifts of land, money or other property upon such terms and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the person or organisation making the gift.
- (2) The Council shall not accept any gift if the conditions attached by the person or organisation making the gift are inconsistent with the functions of the Council or any other law in Nigeria (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 20: Annual estimates and expenditure.

- (1) The Institute shall, not later than 1 October in each financial year or soon thereafter, submit to the Council for approval its estimate of revenue and expenditure in respect of the following financial year.
- (2) The Institute shall prepare and submit to the Council, not later than 31 July in each financial year, a report on its activities during the preceding financial year, and the report shall be accompanied by a copy of the audited accounts of the Institute for that period and of the auditor's report on the accounts (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

PART IV — REGISTER AND REGISTRATION OF SOCIAL WORK PRACTITIONERS

Clause 21: Publication of register of membership.

- (1) The Registrar shall cause:
 - (a) the contents of the register of members to be published and put on sale and the publication shall be updated annually; and

- (b) reasonable copies of the publication to be deposited at the principal office of the Institute for the purpose of inspection by members of the public.
- (2) Any edition of the register published under this section by the authority of the Registrar or documents purporting to be prints of an edition so published and of the list of corrections to that edition so published, is, without prejudice to any other mode of proof, admissible in any proceeding as evidence that any person specified in the publication or document as being registered was so registered at the date of the edition or of the list of corrections, as the case may be, and that any person not so specified was not so registered (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 22: Registration as a social worker.

- (1) A person is entitled to be registered as a social worker if he:
 - (a) passes the qualifying examination accepted by the Council and completed the practical training prescribed by the Institute under this Bill;
 - (b) holds any other qualification acceptable by the Institute for the time being; or
 - (c) qualifies for registration as a member in any of the categories specified under section 3 (2) of this Bill.
- (2) An applicant for registration shall, in addition to satisfying stipulated conditions set and approved by the Council:
 - (a) be of good character;
 - (b) be within the age prescribed under this Bill; and
 - (c) not convicted, in Nigeria or elsewhere, of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty.
- (3) The Institute shall, from time to time, publish particulars of qualifications for the time being accepted by the Council for registration as a member.
- (4) The Council may, for the purposes of this Bill approve any:
 - (a) course of training at an approved institution or location intended for persons who are seeking to become or are already members and experts and which the Council considers is designed to confer on any person completing it sufficient knowledge and skills for admission into the Institute;

- (b) qualification, which, as a result of an examination taken in conjunction with a course of training approved by the Council under this section, indicates that the candidate has sufficient knowledge and skills for certification to practise as a social worker (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 23: Instruction and examinations leading to approved qualification.

- (1) The Council is to ensure that its members are kept abreast with nature of the instructions and examinations given at approved institution or location to any person attending approved course of training and may appoint, either from among its own members or otherwise, persons to visit approved institutions or to participate in the invigilation of such examinations.
- (2) A person appointed under this section shall report to the Council on the sufficiency of the:
- (a) instruction given to persons attending approved courses of training at institutions visited by him; and
- (b) examination invigilated by him.
- (3) The Council may, if it deems fit, withdraw any approval given under section 22 of the Act in respect of any course, qualification or institutions, but before withdrawing such an approval the Council shall:
- (a) give a two weeks' notice that it proposes to do so to any person in Nigeria appearing to the Council to be the person by whom the course is conducted, qualification is granted or the institution is controlled, as the case may be; and
- (b) afford each such person an opportunity of making to the Council representations with regard to the proposal under paragraph (a) (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

PART V — PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE

Clause 24: Establishment of Investigating Panel.

- (1) There is established the Chartered Institute of Social Work Practitioners Investigating Panel (in the Act referred to as "the Panel").
- (2) The Panel is responsible for:
- (a) conducting a preliminary investigation into any case to the registry where it is alleged that a member has misbehaved in his capacity as a professional social worker, or should for any other reason be the subject of proceedings before the Disciplinary and Appeals Tribunal; and

- (b) ascertaining the extent of incrimination of the alleged member in the case in reference and make recommendations to the Disciplinary Tribunal.
- (3) An alleged member shall be given registry query on the matter at stake before his case is referred to the Panel.
- (4) The Panel shall be constituted by the Council and shall consist of:
 - (a) a reputed Fellow Member of a high level of integrity and objectivity as chairman;
 - (b) any member of the Institute, not below five years of post-induction experience; and
 - (c) one legal practitioner who shall act as the Secretary;
 - (d) three registered members of the Institute who are not members of the Council (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words in Clause 24 (3) (Hon. Mohammad Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question that Clause 24 as amended, stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 25: Establishment of Disciplinary Tribunal.

- (1) There is established the Chartered Institute of Social Work practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal (in this Bill referred to as "the Tribunal").
- (2) The Tribunal is charged with considering and ratifying cases, inter alia, referred to it by the Panel, and any other case of which the Tribunal has cognisance under the provisions of this Bill.
- (3) The Tribunal shall consist of:
 - (a) a Council member as Chairman;
 - (b) a fellow of the Institute;
 - (c) a Member of the Institute, not below five years of post-induction experience;
 - (d) a Legal Adviser of the Institute; and
 - (e) the Registrar of the Institute as Secretary.

Schedule.

- (4) The provisions of the Schedule to the Act shall, so far as applicable to the Tribunal and Panel respectively, have effects with respects to those bodies.

- (5) The Council may make rules, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Bill which constitute professional misconduct for social work practitioners (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 26: Penalties for unprofessional conduct.

- (1) Where:

- (a) a member is adjudged by the Tribunal to be guilty of infamous conduct in any professional respect;
- (b) a member is convicted in any court of law having power to award imprisonment for an offence (whether or not punishable with imprisonment) which, in the opinion of the Tribunal, is incompatible with the status of a member of the Institute;
- (c) the Tribunal is satisfied that the name of any person has been fraudulently enrolled or registered,

the Tribunal may, if it deems fit, give a direction, reprimanding that person or ordering the Registrar to strike his name off the relevant part of the register.

- (2) The Tribunal may, if it deems fit, defer its decision as to the giving of a direction under subsection (1) until a subsequent meeting of the Tribunal:

Provided that no:

- (a) decision shall be deferred under this subsection for any period exceeding two years in the aggregate; and
- (b) person shall be a member of the Disciplinary and Appeals Tribunal for the purposes of reaching a decision which has been deferred, or further deferred, unless he was present as a member of the Tribunal when the decision was deferred.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1) (b), a person shall not be treated as convicted unless there is no appeal pending or may, without extension of time, be brought in connection with the conviction.
- (4) When the Tribunal gives a direction under subsection (1), the Tribunal shall cause notice of the direction to be served on the person to whom it relates.
- (5) The person to whom a direction given under subsection (1) relates may, at any time within 30 days from the date of service on him of notice of the direction, appeal against the direction to the Federal High Court, and the Tribunal may appear as respondent to the appeal and for the purpose of enabling directions to be given as to the costs of the appeal and proceedings before the Federal High Court, the Tribunal is deemed to be a party whether or not it appears on the hearing of the appeal.

- (6) A direction of the Tribunal under section (1) takes effect where:
- (a) no appeal under this section is brought against the direction within the time limited for such an appeal, on the expiration of that time;
 - (b) an appeal is brought and is withdrawn or struck out for want of prosecution, on the withdrawal or striking out of the appeal; and
 - (c) an appeal is brought and is not withdrawn or struck out, if and when the appeal is dismissed, and shall not take effect except in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.
- (7) A person whose name is struck off the under a direction of the Tribunal under this section, is not entitled to be enrolled or registered again, except in pursuance of a direction in that behalf given by the Tribunal on the application of that person and a direction under this section for the striking off of a person's name from the register may prohibit an application under this subsection by that person until the expiration of such period from the date of the direction, and where he has duly made such an application, from the date of his last application, as may be specified in the direction (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

PART VI — OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

Clause 27: Penalties and offences.

Any person, who for the purposes of procuring the registration of any name, qualification or other matter:

- (a) makes a statement which he believes to be false; or
- (b) recklessly makes a statement, which is false, commits an offence (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 28: Practising as a Social worker.

As from the commencement of this Bill, any person, not being a member of the Institute of certified by the Institute as a social worker or any other recognised institution, who practises as a social worker for or in expectation of reward, or takes or uses any name, title, addition or description implying that he is in practice as a registered member of the profession of social work, commits an offence (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 29: Falsification of register.

Any person, including the Registrar or any other employee of the Institute, who willfully makes any falsification in any matter relating to the register or, with intent to defraud, alters any entry in the register, commits an offence (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 30: Penalties.

- (1) A person who commits an offence under section 27 of this Bill is liable:
 - (a) on summary conviction to pay a fine not exceeding ₦250,000;
 - (b) on conviction or indictment to a fine not exceeding ₦250,000 or imprisonment for at least two years, or both.
- (2) Where an offence under this Bill is committed by a body corporate, the chief executive officer, director, manager or secretary is liable to pay a fine of ₦200,000 each unless, having regard to the nature of his functions in that capacity and to all the surrounding circumstances, he proves that:
 - (a) the offence was committed without his knowledge, consent or connivance; and
 - (b) he had taken all reasonable precautions and exercised due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

PART VII — MISCELLANEOUS

Clause 31: Regulations, rules and guidelines.

- (1) The Institute may, subject to the approval of the Council, make rules and regulations or issue guidelines with respect to:
 - (a) the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Bill;
 - (b) regulating membership registration and keeping of register;
 - (c) specifying the fees, including any annual subscription to be paid to the Institute in respect of the entry of names on the register and authorising the Registrar to refuse to enter a name on the register until any fee specified for the entry has been paid; and
 - (d) regulating the making of applications for enrolment or registration, as the case may be, and providing for the evidence to be produced in support of the applications.
- (2) The Council may, in consultation with the principal officers of the Institute and the Committee of Fellows, make rules for:
 - (a) the training of suitable persons in management;
 - (b) the licensing of people to be employed in management positions;
 - (c) the fees to be paid by social worker; and

- (d) restrictions on the right to practise when all prescribed conditions have not been met.
- (3) The Council may also make rules prescribing the amount and due date for payment of the annual subscriptions and for such purposes, different amounts may be prescribed by the rules according to the grades of membership.
- (4) Rules when made shall, if the Chairman of the Council so directs, be published in the print media and in the Federal Government Gazette (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 32: Award of honorary membership of the Institute.

The Council is free to award honorary membership of the Institute to persons whom it considers worthy of such honour, on terms and conditions prescribed by the Council and approved by the Institute in the general meeting (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 33: Provision of library facilities.

The Institute shall:

- (a) provide and maintain a library, physical and online, comprising books and publications for the advancement of knowledge in social work, and such other books and publications as the Council may deem necessary, for the purpose;
- (b) encourage research into social work theories and methods and allied subjects to the extent that the Council may consider necessary;
- (c) undertake regular study of the existing social work, its information services including the library system, internet and electronic mail services and related operations and evolve a state of the art technology driven research, publication and social work; and
- (d) engage in the production and sale of materials, books and journals arising from its research and consultancy activities (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 34: Limitation of suits against the Council.

- (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any other enactment, no suit against the Institute, a member or any employee of the Institute, for any act done in pursuance or execution of any enactment or law, or any public duty or authority, or in respect of an alleged negligence or default in the execution of such enactment or law, duty or authority, shall lie or be instituted in any court unless it is commenced within 12 months next after the act or, neglect complained of or in the case of a continuing damage or injury, within 12 months next after the cessation of the act.

- (2) No suit shall be commenced against the Institute before the expiration of one month notice of intention to commence the suit is served upon the Institute by the intending plaintiff or his authorised agent, and the notice shall clearly state:
- (a) the cause of action;
 - (b) the particulars of the claim;
 - (c) the name and place of abode of the intending plaintiff; and
 - (d) the relief which he claims.
- (3) The notice referred to in subsections (1) and (2) and any summons or other document required or authorised to be served upon the Institute under the provisions of this Bill or any other enactment or law may be served by delivering the same to the President, Chairman of the Council or the Registrar of the Institute and by sending it by registered post to the principal office of the Institute (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 34 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 35: Transition and savings.

- (1) All assets, funds, resources, movable or immovable property which immediately before the commencement of this Bill held on behalf of the Institute shall, by virtue of this Bill, be vested in the Institute.
- (2) Any person immediately before the commencement of this Bill being a holder of an office in the Institute of Social Work Practitioners is, on the commencement of this Bill, deemed to have been appointed to his office by the Institute (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 35 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 36: Interpretation.

In this Bill:

"Council" means the Council established as the governing body of the Institute under section 6 of this Bill (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

"enrolled" in relation to a fellow, a member, an associate member means registered in the part of the register to fellow, member, associate member as the case may be (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

"fees" includes annual subscriptions and other levies (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

"Institute" means the Chartered Institute of Social Work Practitioners established under section 1 of the Bill (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

"Member" means enrolled Fellow, Associate Member, Graduate Member, Student Member or a registered Special or Corporate Member, as the case may be, and "membership of the Institute" shall be construed accordingly (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

"Minister" means the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

"Panel" means the Institute of Social Work Practitioners Investigating Panel established under section 23 (1) of this Bill (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

"President" and "Vice-President" means respectively the office holder under those names in the Institute (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "President" and "Vice-President" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Register" means the register and prepared maintained in under Part IV of this Bill (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

"Registrar" means the Registrar of the Institute appointed under section 13 of this Bill (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

"social worker" a person is deemed to be a professional social worker if, for consideration for remuneration received or to be received, and whether by himself or in partnership with any other person:

- (a) he engages himself in the practice of social work,
- (b) he renders professional services or assistance in or about matters of social work (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

"Tribunal" means the Institute of Social Work Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal established under section 23 of this Bill (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Question that Clause 35 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 35: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Chartered Institute of Social Work Practitioners (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 35 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

SCHEDULE

Sections 5 (2) (a), 6 (2) and 23 (6)

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE COUNCIL

Qualification and Tenure of Office of Members

1. A person under section 6 of this Bill shall not be a member of the Council unless he is a citizen of Nigeria.
2. A member of the Council, other than a public office holder, may resign his appointment by a letter under his hand addressed to the President of the Institute or in the case of the President addressed to the Registrar, and the resignation takes effect from the date of the receipt.
3. Where a member of the Council ceases to hold office before the date when his term of office would have expired by effluxion of time, the body or person by whom he was appointed or elected shall, as soon as practicable, appoint or, as the case may be, elect another person to fill the vacancy for the residue of the term and the provision of this paragraph shall not apply where a person holding office as a member of the Council ceases to hold office at the time when the residue of his term does not exceed six months.

Cap. 123, LFN, 2004

4. The provisions of this Schedule shall be without prejudice to the provisions of Section 11 of the Interpretation Act which relates to appointment.

5. Any accredited member of a profession who ceases to be such accredited member shall, if he is also a member of the Council, cease to hold his position on the Council.
6. A person who is a member by virtue of his office shall cease to be a member if he ceases to occupy the particular office.

Proceedings of the Council

7. Subject to the provisions of this Bill and section 27 of the Interpretation Act (providing for decisions of a body to be taken by a majority of the members of the body and for the Chairman to have a second or casting vote), the Council may make standing orders regulating the proceedings of the Council or any of its committees.
8. The Council shall meet at least two times in a year and at such other times as the Chairman may determine and in any case, shall not meet more than four times in a year.
9. Every meeting of the Council shall be presided over by the Chairman, and if the Chairman is unable to attend, a member may be appointed by the members present to act as Chairman for that particular meeting.
10. The quorum for the meeting of the Council shall be any number above one-third of the total number of members of the Council and in the case of any of its committees shall at least half of the members of such committee.
11. Where standing orders made under paragraph I of this Schedule provide for the Council to co-opt persons who are not members of the Council, such persons may advise the Council on any matter referred to them by the Council but are not be entitled to vote at a meeting of the Council or count towards a quorum.
12. Subject to its standing orders, the Council may appoint such number of standing and ad-hoc committees as it deems fit to consider and report on any matter with which the Council is concerned.
13. Every committee set up under paragraph 12 of this Schedule shall be:
 - (a) presided over by a member of the Council; and
 - (b) made up of such number of persons, not necessarily members of the Council, as the Council may determine in each case.
14. A decision of a committee is of no effect until it is confirmed by the Council.

Miscellaneous

15. The affixing of the seal of the Council shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman and Council Secretary.
16. Any contract or instrument which, if made or executed by any person not being a body corporate would not be required to be under seal, may be made or executed on behalf of the Council by any person, generally or specially authorised to act for that purpose by the Council.

17. Any document purporting to be a contract, instrument or other document duly signed or sealed on behalf of the Council shall be received in evidence and shall unless the contrary is proved, be presumed to have been so signed and sealed.
18. The validity of any proceeding of the Council or any of its committees is not affected by:
 - (a) any vacancy in the membership of the Council or any of its committees;
 - (b) any defect in the appointment of any member; or
 - (c) reason of the fact that any person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings.
19. Any member of the Council and any person holding a position on a committee of the Council who has a personal interest in any contract or arrangement entered into or proposed to be considered by the Council or its committee shall not be present at any deliberation relating to the contract arrangement (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to establish the Institute of Social Work Practitioners to be charged with the responsibility for registration of person aspiring to become Social Work Practitioners in Nigeria (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Social Work Practitioners and to Make Provisions, Among Other Things, for Membership and Control of the Profession of Social Work, and for Related Matters (HB. 358) (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish Chartered Institute of Social Work Practitioners and to make Provisions, among other things, for Membership and Control of the Profession of Social Work; and for Related Matters (HB. 358) and approved Clauses 1 - 2, approved Clause 3 as amended, approved Clauses 4 - 23, approved Clause 24 as amended, approved Clauses 25 - 35, the Schedule, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

(ii) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

Petition by International Recruitment Service:

Motion made and Question proposed. “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by International Recruitment Services against the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) on the unlawful Arrest, Detention, Maltreatment and Death Threats by NAPTIP.

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

(iii) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

Petition by Chidi Henry Onyiuke and Co.:

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Chidi Henry Onyiuke and Co against the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) on the unexplained, deliberate, oppressive and continued withholding of Master Akachukwu Matthew Onyiuke's 2019 JAMB result.

Order deferred by leave of the House.

19. **Adjournment of First Sitting**

That the House do adjourn the First Sitting till 3.35 p.m. (Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 3.28 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabamila
Speaker

CORRIGENDUM

In the *Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 12 March, 2020, item 5, page 2183, Prayer (vi), immediately after the word “social” *leave out* the word “recreation” and *insert* the word “reorientation”.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabamila
Speaker