



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 18 March, 2020

1. The House met at 11.15 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 *Second Votes and Proceedings* Tuesday, 17 March, 2020.

The Second Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcement**

(a) **Visitors in the Gallery:**

Mr Speaker recognised the presence of the following:

- (i) Staff and Students of *The Fountain School*, Karu, Nasarawa State;
- (ii) Staff and Students of *Excellent Grade International School*, Kubwa, Abuja;
- (iii) Staff and Students of *JDC International Schools*, Karu, Nasarawa State; and
- (iv) Staff and Students of *Rehabiah International School*, Nyanya, Abuja.

(b) **Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Federal Government Abandoned Properties Across the Federation:**

Mr Speaker referred to item 6 in the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 17 March, 2020 "Need to Investigate Federal Government Abandoned Properties Across the Federation" and announced Hon. Lynda Chuba Ikpeazu as additional Member.

5. **Petition**

A petition from Umar Omeiza Ozomata, on the termination of his appointment from the service of Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited, was presented and laid by Hon. Joseph Asuku Bello (*Adavi/Okehi Federal Constituency*).

Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

6. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**(i) ***Need for the Federal Government to Intervene in the Recent Tragic Gas Plant Explosion in Abule-Ado, in Amuwo-Odofin Local Government Area:***

Hon. Dolapo-Badru Enitan Akanni (*Lagos Island I Federal Constituency and 23 others*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Need for the Federal Government to Intervene in the Recent Tragic Gas Plant Explosion in Abule-Ado, in Amuwo-Odofin Local Government Area:

The House:

Notes that on Sunday, 5 March, 2020, Ado Soba of Amuwo-Odofin, Lagos was rocked by Gas Explosion resulting in a catastrophe, the magnitude of which is a national disaster;

Also notes that the unprecedented destruction occasioned by the gas plant explosion killed over thirty (30) people including the Principal of Bethlehem College — Rev. Sr. Henrietta Alokha, and one Mr Obi Iyio, his wife and two children;

Disturbed that the explosion was so horrific that the epic center of the blast created a gory cave and sent tremor and inferno into its immediate and far surrounding which resulted in a lot of destruction of lives and properties;

Worried that about 500 buildings that housed more than five thousand people were destroyed by the gas plant blast and thousands of people have been rendered homeless;

Concerned that besides those that died, more than two hundred people who are injured by the explosion suffered various degrees of injuries and are receiving medical treatment in different hospitals and many people are still trapped underneath wreckage of collapsed buildings;

Conscious that several vehicles parked in the area were destroyed and the pupils of Bethlehem College who were trapped underneath the wreckage of their hostel and chapel were being pulled out of the rubble during which the Principal of the College, Rev. Sr. Henrietta Alokha lost her life as she attempted to rescue the pupils;

Commends the Lagos State Government for setting up a relief fund of ₦2 billion with an initial deposit of 250 million paid into the relief fund by the State Government;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to partner with the Government of Lagos State to:
 - (a) find the root cause of the explosion with a view to averting the reoccurrence in the future;
 - (b) provide financial relief for the victims of the national disaster;

- (ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief material and assistance to the over five thousand people who suffered various degrees of injuries, those whose relatives died and those whose houses and properties were destroyed in the gas plant explosion; and
- (iv) observe a minute silence for the repose of the departed souls (*Hon. Enitan Dolapo Badmus — Lagos Island I Federal Constituency and 23 Others*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on Sunday, 5 March, 2020, Ado Soba of Amuwo-Odofin, Lagos was rocked by Gas Explosion resulting in a catastrophe, the magnitude of which is a national disaster;

Also noted that the unprecedented destruction occasioned by the gas plant explosion killed over thirty (30) people including the Principal of Bethlehem College — Rev. Sr. Henrietta Alokha, and one Mr Obi Iyio, his wife and two children;

Disturbed that the explosion was so horrific that the epic center of the blast created a gory cave and sent tremor and inferno into its immediate and far surrounding which resulted in a lot of destruction of lives and properties;

Worried that about 500 buildings that housed more than five thousand people were destroyed by the gas plant blast and thousands of people have been rendered homeless;

Concerned that besides those that died, more than two hundred people who are injured by the explosion suffered various degrees of injuries and are receiving medical treatment in different hospitals and many people are still trapped underneath wreckage of collapsed buildings;

Conscious that several vehicles parked in the area were destroyed and the pupils of Bethlehem College who were trapped underneath the wreckage of their hostel and chapel were being pulled out of the rubble during which the Principal of the College, Rev. Sr. Henrietta Alokha lost her life as she attempted to rescue the pupils;

Commended the Lagos State Government for setting up a relief fund of ₦2 billion with an initial deposit of 250 million paid into the relief fund by the State Government;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to partner with the Government of Lagos State to:
 - (a) find the root cause of the explosion with a view to averting the reoccurrence in the future;
 - (b) provide financial relief for the victims of the national disaster;
- (ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief material and assistance to the over five thousand people who suffered various degrees of injuries, those whose relatives died and those whose houses and properties were destroyed in the gas plant explosion; and
- (iv) observe a minute silence for the repose of the departed souls (**HR. 114/03/2020**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(ii) **Need for Coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency Travel Regulation and Further Protocols:**
Hon. Mukhtar Zakari Chawai (*Kauru 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 COVID-19 Emergency Travel Regulations and Further Protocols:

The House:

Aware that the World Health Organisation has declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic, a public health emergency of grave International concern;

Recalls that Nigeria's COVID-19 index case patient was reported in February 2020, due to the exceptional work led by Nigerian Centre for Disease Control, Nigeria Immigration Service, Federal and Lagos State Ministries of Health the deadly circle of transmission was contained;

Also aware that Nigerian medical practitioners, Health and Orientation Agencies have performed very well in the face of this pandemic;

Learnt that from America to Europe, North Africa to the Balkans, other countries have gone a step forward by regulating and banning entry for visitors from frontline COVID-19 countries. Setting up emergency regulations not only for Land, Air and Sea borders but internal regulations to cover Institutions such as Schools, agencies and non-essential workers working from home;

Informed that 15 African countries have officially reported their COVID-19 index cases, of note is, 5 West African countries of Ghana, Togo, Senegal, Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast who enjoy free movement through Nigeria land borders;

Further aware that primary responsibility of any Government is protection of life and property;

Alarmed that no travel regulations have been put in place to control entry especially from high risk countries;

Also alarmed that no protocols are being put in place in case there's need to shut down work and business premises;

Resolves to:

(i) urge the Federal Government and Foreign Affairs Ministry to urgently apply an emergency status on all Nigerian Embassies and consular posts. No fresh visas shall be processed from any country with COVID-19 circulation unless on essential grounds;

- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria Immigration Service and Nigerian Centre for Disease Control to urgently develop COVID-19 emergency regulations at every Port of Entry and Border crossings; and
- (iii) further urge the Federal Government to introduce emergency protocols in case there's need to shut down work and business premises (*Hon. Mukhtar Zakari Chawai — Kaura Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:

- (i) “Urge the Federal Government to ban all foreign airlines from entering the country except if properly certified that such airlines has met the safety health standard as stipulated by World Health Organization (WHO) and Federal Ministry of Health” (*Hon. Ndudi Elumelu — Aniocha/Oshimili Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

- (ii) *Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:*
“Urge the Federal Government to direct the Ministry of Aviation to invoke the aviation task force to immediately weed off touts at all airports nationwide” (*Hon. Ndudi Elumelu — Aniocha/Oshimili Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) *Insert a new Prayer (v) as follows:*
“Urge the Federal Government to ban all forms of open gatherings in Churches, Mosques and others till further notice” (*Hon. Ndudi Elumelu — Aniocha/Oshimili Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iv) *Insert a new Prayer (vi) as follows:*
“Direct the National Assembly Management to make adequate preparation within the next two days to do temperature testing for all staff and Members on entering into the National Assembly” (*Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (v) *Insert a new Prayer (vii) as follows:*
“Urge the Federal Government to direct all schools to implement a stay at home order for at least two (2) weeks” (*Hon. Henry Nwawuba — Mbaitolu/Ikeduru Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

- (vi) *Insert a new Prayer (vii) as follows:*
“Urge the Federal Government to urgently sign a most-favoured-nation arrangement with Singapore or other certified countries on the mass production and supply of test kits, vaccines and other relevant infrastructure needed to and its efforts in eradicating the pandemic” (*Hon. Babajimi Benson Adegoke — Ikorodu Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (vii) *Insert a new Prayer (viii) as follows:*
 “Urge the Federal Ministries of Aviation, Interior, and Foreign Affairs to put machinery in place to ensure adequate medical checks at all the International Airports and land borders in Nigeria and to ensure adequate supply of medical gadgets” (*Hon. Adekoya Adesegun Abdu-Majid — Ijebu North/Ijebu East/Ogun Waterside Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (viii) *Insert a new Prayer (ix) as follows:*
 “Direct the Management of the National Assembly to prevent visitors from entering the complex until Nigeria is free from virus” (*Hon. Dachung Bagos Musa — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ix) *Insert a new Prayer (x) as follows:*
 “Urge the Federal Government to place all security agencies manning Nigeria’s border on red alert and encourage border communities to report all unusual cross border movement” (*Hon. Isiaka Ibrahim — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (x) *Insert a new Prayer (xi) as follows:*
 “Urge the Federal Ministry of Health and the National Centre for Disease Control to adequately equip all quarantine facilities and deploy well trained personnel to professionally manage the quarantined persons to avoid psychological trauma” (*Hon. Onyejeocha Nkeiruka — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (xi) *Insert a new Prayer (xii) as follows:*
 “Urge the Federal Government to increase the man-power of staff working at all ports of entries to the country” (*Hon. Abbas Adigun — Ibadan North East/Ibadan South East Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (xii) *Insert a new Prayer (xiii) as follows:*
 “Urge the Federal Government to direct all public institutions to ensure that body temperature checks are carried out in their various place” (*Hon. Olumide Osoba — Abeokuta North/Odeda/Obafemi-Owode Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (xiii) *Insert a new Prayer (xiv) as follows:*
 “Mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services, and Health Institutions to liaise with the Ministry of Health to ensure that the level of preparedness is in tandem with world best practice” (*Hon. Satomi Adamad — Jere Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (xiv) *Insert a new Prayer (xv) as follows:*
 “Urge the Minister of Health to brief the Leadership of the House weekly on the situation report” (*Hon. Taiwo Oluga — Ayedaade/Irewole/Isokan Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(xv) *Insert a new Prayer (xvi) as follows:*

“Urge the Federal Government to ban all flights from countries where the disease epidemic is in proportion” (*Hon. Adejare Samuel Babatunde — Agege Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that the World Health Organisation has declared COVID-19 a worldwide pandemic and a public health emergency of grave International concern;

Recalls that Nigeria's COVID-19 index case patient was reported in February 2020, due to the exceptional work led by Nigerian Centre for Disease Control, Nigeria Immigration Service, Federal and Lagos State Ministries of Health the deadly circle of transmission was contained;

Also aware that Nigerian medical practitioners, Health and Orientation Agencies have performed very well in the face of this pandemic;

Learnt that from America to Europe, North Africa to the Balkans, other countries have gone a step forward by regulating and banning entry for visitors from frontline COVID-19 countries. Setting up emergency regulations not only for Land, Air and Sea borders but internal regulations to cover Institutions such as Schools, agencies and non-essential workers working from home;

Informed that 15 African countries have officially reported their COVID-19 index cases, of note is, 5 West African countries of Ghana, Togo, Senegal, Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast who enjoy free movement through Nigeria land borders;

Further aware that primary responsibility of any Government is protection of life and property;

Alarmed that no travel regulations have been put in place to control entry especially from high risk countries;

Also alarmed that no protocols are being put in place in case there's need to shut down work and business premises;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government and Foreign Affairs Ministry to urgently apply an emergency status on all Nigerian Embassies and consular posts. No fresh visas shall be processed from any country with COVID-19 circulation unless on essential grounds;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria Immigration Service and Nigerian Centre for Disease Control to urgently develop COVID-19 emergency regulations at every Port of Entry and Border crossings;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to:
 - (a) introduce emergency protocols in case there's need to shut down work and business premises,

- (b) direct the Ministry of Aviation to invoke the aviation task force to immediately weed off touts at all airports nationwide.
 - (c) ban all forms of open gatherings in churches, mosques and others till further notice.
 - (d) urgently sign a most-favoured-nation arrangement with Singapore or other certified countries on the mass production and supply of test kits, vaccines and other relevant infrastructure needed to and its efforts in eradicating the pandemic.
 - (e) place all security agencies manning Nigeria's border on red alert and encourage border communities to report all unusual cross border movement.
 - (f) increase the man-power of staff working at all ports of entries to the country.
 - (g) direct all public institutions to ensure that body temperature checks are carried out in their various place;
- (iv) Direct the National Assembly Management to:
- (a) make adequate preparation within the next two days to do temperature testing for all staff and Members on entering into the National Assembly.
 - (b) prevent visitors from entering the complex until Nigeria is free from virus;
- (v) urge the Federal Ministries of Aviation, Interior, and Foreign Affairs to put machinery in place to ensure adequate medical checks at all the International Airports and land borders in Nigeria and to ensure adequate supply of medical gadgets;
- (vi) also urge the Federal Ministry of Health and the National Centre for Disease Control to adequately equip all quarantine facilities and deploy well trained personnel to professionally manage the quarantined persons to avoid psychological trauma;
- (vii) further urge the Minister of Health to brief the Leadership of the House weekly on the situation report; and
- (viii) mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, and Health Institutions to liaise with the Ministry of Health to ensure that the level of preparedness is in tandem with world best practice (HR. 115/03/2020).

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. Bamidele Salam — Ede North/Ede South/Egbedore/Ejigbo Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

- (iii) **Need to Investigate the Inconsistency in the Payment of Legislative Aides' Salaries and Allowances:**
Hon. Bamidele Salam (Ede North/Ede South/Egbedore/Ejigbo 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 the Inconsistency in the Payment of Legislative Aides' Salaries and Allowances:

The House:

Notes that Legislative Aides of Honorable Members are entitled to their salaries and allowances as approved and to this effect, budgetary provisions are made;

Also notes that the House being on first line charge receives its budgetary allocation in full as approved;

Worried that despite adequate provision for the payment of salaries of Legislative Aides, payment of same has been subjected to the whims and caprices of the Management of the National Assembly, resulting in refusal to pay necessary arrears and other inconsistencies in the computation and eventual payments of such salaries and allowances;

Also worried that some of the approved allowances of these Aides which ought to have been paid since their assumption of office have also been withheld by Management without any reasonable justification;

Considering the importance of Legislative Aides to the Legislator, late payment of their salaries or withholding any part of it will surely demoralize them which will in turn affect the legislative performance of the Legislator;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on House Services to investigate the irregularities in the payment of the salaries and allowances of Legislative Aides and report back in two (2) weeks (*Hon. Bamidele Salam — Ede North/Ede South/Egbedore/Ejigbo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Legislative Aides of Honorable Members are entitled to their salaries and allowances as approved and to this effect, budgetary provisions are made;

Also noted that the House being on first line charge receives its budgetary allocation in full as approved;

Worried that despite adequate provision for the payment of salaries of Legislative Aides, payment of same has been subjected to the whims and caprices of the Management of the National Assembly, resulting in refusal to pay necessary arrears and other inconsistencies in the computation and eventual payments of such salaries and allowances;

Also worried that some of the approved allowances of these Aides which ought to have been paid since their assumption of office have also been withheld by Management without any reasonable justification;

Considering the importance of Legislative Aides to the Legislator, late payment of their salaries or withholding any part of it will surely demoralize them which will in turn affect the legislative performance of the Legislator:

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on House Services to investigate the irregularities in the payment of the salaries and allowances of Legislative Aides and report back in two (2) weeks (**HR. 116/03/2020**).

7. **Presentation of Bills**

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Finance Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 825).
- (2) Federal College of Health Technology, Itebunmi, Ondo State (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 826).
- (3) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (HB. 827).
- (4) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (HB. 828).
- (5) National Waste Management and Recycling Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB.829).

8. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Civil Aviation Act, Cap. C13, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Civil Aviation Bill for the Regulation of Civil Aviation in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 460) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Civil Aviation Act, Cap. C13, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Civil Aviation Bill for the Regulation of Civil Aviation in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 460) be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Aviation.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria Act, Cap. F5, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria Bill to Provide for the effective Management of Airports in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 461) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria Act, Cap. F5, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria Bill to Provide for the effective Management of Airports in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 461) be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Alhassan Ado-Garba — House Leader*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Aviation.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Federal College of Education (Technical) Ako, Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State; and for Related Matters (HB. 430) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Federal College of Education (Technical) Ako, Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State; and for Related Matters (HB. 430) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Adekoya Adesegun Abdu-Majid — Ijebu North/Ijebu East/Ogun Waterside Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Postal Service Act, Cap. N127, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for the payment of all monies received by the Service into the Federation Account in accordance with Section 162 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999; and for Related Matters (HB. 200) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Postal Service Act, Cap. N127, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for the payment of all monies received by the Service into the Federation Account in accordance with Section 162 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999; and for Related Matters (HB. 200) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Dachung Musa Bagos — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committees on Communication, and Finance .

12. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Nigerian Road Infrastructure Intervention; and for Related Matters (HB. 619) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

13. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Births, Deaths, etc. (Compulsory Registration) Act, Cap. B9, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Related Matters (HB. 74 and HB. 385) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Births, Deaths, Etc. (Compulsory Registration) Act, Cap. B9, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Related Matters (HB. 74 and HB. 385) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Sergius Oseasochie Ogun — Esan North East/Esan South East 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 Populations.

14. **Outstanding Bills from the Preceding Assembly**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

15. **Need for Banking Infrastructure at Yana in Shira Local Government Area and Giade in Giade Local Government Area, Bauchi State**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

16. **Need to Build, Equip and Upgrade the Lassa Fever and Other Viral Haemorrhagic Fevers Center in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital (ATBUTH), Bauchi**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that sometime in 2014, the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital (ATBUTH) was made one of the frontier Centers for managing lassa fever and other viral haemorrhagic fevers, covering the North East Zone with some referrals from the North West Zone;

Also notes that since the designation of ATBUTH as a Center to manage Lassa fever patients, no specific building/structure has been erected for managing patients, no diagnostic machines/equipment have been procured and no safety materials have been provided for the medical personnel in the Center;

Aware that the contagious nature of lassa fever and other viral haemorrhagic fevers makes it imperative for extreme caution to be exercised in handling infected persons and to also ensure that the Center is in an isolated part of the hospital;

Concerned that despite support from the French Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), "Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF)" also known as "Doctors Without Borders" who have built tents and camps within the hospital which have helped in isolating and treating cases of lassa fever, there is insufficient funding to equip the Center;

Worried that due to inadequate facilities at the Center, about ten (10) doctors were recently confirmed to have been infected with lassa fever within a space of five (5) days and two of them have died while many are undergoing screening;

Cognizant that with the recent outbreak of lassa fever, the lives of doctors, other medical personnel and their family members are at high risk due to inadequate safety kits and safe environment for handling patients at the Center;

Also cognizant of the urgent need to equip and upgrade the Center with purpose built structures, adequate safety kits and appropriate facilities to efficiently manage patients;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Federal Ministry of Health to immediately equip the ATBUTH Lassa Fever Center with purpose built structures and adequate facilities to ensure the safe management of the Center;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, Health Institutions to interface with the Chief Medical Director of ATBUTH on ways to ensure efficient management of the Centre after it has been equipped;

- (iii) also mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, Health Institutions and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and report back within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Yumusa Ahmad Abubakar — Yamaltu/Deba Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:

"urge the Federal Ministry of Health and the National Center for Diseases Control (NCDC) to immediately upgrade and increase the number of lassa fever and other viral haemorrhagic fever centres across the Federation and strengthen their research departments" (*Hon. Karu Simon Elisha — Kaltungo/Shongom Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that sometime in 2014, the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital (ATBUTH) was made one of the frontier Centers for managing lassa fever and other viral haemorrhagic fevers, covering the North East Zone with some referrals from the North West Zone:

Also noted that since the designation of ATBUTH as a Center to manage Lassa fever patients, no specific building/structure has been erected for managing patients, no diagnostic machines/equipment have been procured and no safety materials have been provided for the medical personnel in the Center:

Aware that the contagious nature of lassa fever and other viral haemorrhagic fevers makes it imperative for extreme caution to be exercised in handling infected persons and to also ensure that the Center is in an isolated part of the hospital:

Concerned that despite support from the French Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), "Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF)" also known as "Doctors Without Borders" who have built tents and camps within the hospital which have helped in isolating and treating cases of lassa fever, there is insufficient funding to equip the Center:

Worried that due to inadequate facilities at the Center, about ten (10) doctors were recently confirmed to have been infected with lassa fever within a space of five (5) days and two of them have died while many are undergoing screening;

Cognizant that with the recent outbreak of lassa fever, the lives of doctors, other medical personnel and their family members are at high risk due to inadequate safety kits and safe environment for handling patients at the Center;

Also cognizant of the urgent need to equip and upgrade the Center with purpose built structures, adequate safety kits and appropriate facilities to efficiently manage patients;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Federal Ministry of Health to immediately equip the ATBUTH Lassa Fever Center with purpose built structures and adequate facilities to ensure the safe management of the Center;

- (ii) mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, Health Institutions to interface with the Chief Medical Director of ATBUTH on ways to ensure efficient management of the Centre after it has been equipped;
- (iii) also mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, Health Institutions and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and report back within four (4) weeks (HR. 117/03/2020).

17. Need to Enforce Truck Integrity Tests on Articulated Vehicles Plying Nigeria's Highways

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

18. Need to Mediate in the Ongoing Rift between the Operators of Premier Lotto and Western Lotto

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Nigeria has one of the largest markets in Africa for gambling activities and is known for its long standing involvement in gambling of all sorts like sports betting, pools and land casino games;

Also notes that gaming and lottery activities are an apex at the moment owing largely to an ever growing youth population and increased internet availability and accessibility;

Further notes that despite being a huge and thriving venture with unlimited prospects and largely responsible for creation of credible employment for the youths, it is still far from achieving its optimum potentials;

Aware that there has been a tug of war between the operators of Premier Lotto and Western Lotto which is causing a stir in the industry;

Also aware that several other sports betting companies are currently being investigated by operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission owing to allegations of sharp practices, tax evasion and economic sabotage against the companies;

Further aware that a general controversy has ensued with the lottery operator, Western Lotto, owing to a claim that gives the company sole rights to a particular kind of game;

Concerned that the discord in the Industry, if not promptly and properly tackled, could scald the Industry in more ways than one, particularly in terms of loss of revenues by the government and also loss of jobs by several individuals;

Also concerned that a prolonged neglect of disputes like this can only result in nothing but Industry instability which also encourages continued upsurge in illegal activities of unlicensed operators;

Further concerned that the Industry remains at risk of personal and political interests coming to play if the controversies are not investigated and dealt with; as the law must be dispensed fairly and equally to every operator within the industry;

Worried that the authority of the National Lottery Regulatory Commission which has responsibility to regulate the activities of operators in the Industry is already being undermined by Western Lotto which is claiming to have obtained sole rights of a game without consultation, directive or approval of the Commission;

Cognizant that Section 7 (b) of the National Lottery Act empowers the Commission to, in collaboration with the licensee, set standards, guidelines and rules for the operation of lottery in Nigeria;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Governmental Affairs to interface with relevant stakeholders, including the National Lottery Regulatory Commission, the Minister of Special Duties and Intergovernmental Affairs and other key operators towards resolving the controversies raging the industry and report back within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Akinola Alabi Adekunle — Egbeda/Ona-Ara Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Nigeria has one of the largest markets in Africa for gambling activities and is known for its long standing involvement in gambling of all sorts like sports betting, pools and land casino games;

Also noted that gaming and lottery activities are an apex at the moment owing largely to an ever growing youth population and increased internet availability and accessibility;

Further noted that despite being a huge and thriving venture with unlimited prospects and largely responsible for creation of credible employment for the youths, it is still far from achieving its optimum potentials;

Aware that there has been a tug of war between the operators of Premier Lotto and Western Lotto which is causing a stir in the industry;

Also aware that several other sports betting companies are currently being investigated by operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission owing to allegations of sharp practices, tax evasion and economic sabotage against the companies;

Further aware that a general controversy has ensued with the lottery operator, Western Lotto, owing to a claim that gives the company sole rights to a particular kind of game;

Concerned that the discord in the Industry, if not promptly and properly tackled, could scald the Industry in more ways than one, particularly in terms of loss of revenues by the government and also loss of jobs by several individuals;

Also concerned that a prolonged neglect of disputes like this can only result in nothing but Industry instability which also encourages continued upsurge in illegal activities of unlicensed operators;

Further concerned that the Industry remains at risk of personal and political interests coming to play if the controversies are not investigated and dealt with; as the law must be dispensed fairly and equally to every operator within the industry;

Worried that the authority of the National Lottery Regulatory Commission which has responsibility to regulate the activities of operators in the Industry is already being undermined by Western Lotto which is claiming to have obtained sole rights of a game without consultation, directive or approval of the Commission;

Cognizant that Section 7 (b) of the National Lottery Act empowers the Commission to, in collaboration with the licensee, set standards, guidelines and rules for the operation of lottery in Nigeria;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Governmental Affairs to interface with relevant stakeholders, including the National Lottery Regulatory Commission, the Minister of Special Duties and Intergovernmental Affairs and other key operators towards resolving the controversies raging the industry and report back within four (4) weeks (**HR. 118/3/2020**).

19. **Need to Investigate the Contentious Delay in Contracting the Export Processing Zone (EPZ), Ogidigben and the Deep Sea Port at Gbaramatu**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that in 2015, the Federal Government carried out the ground breaking ceremony for the construction of Export Processing Zone (EPZ) Ogidigben in Warri South-West Local Government Area of Delta State which is to comprise an Industrial Gas hub and a Deep Sea Port at Gbaramatu;

Also notes that over 400 hectares of land was acquired and cleared for the purpose of the Export Processing Zone (EPZ), to accommodate a major Industrial Gas hub, Petrochemical, Methanol as well as Fertilizer within the industrial park;

Aware that the project was to contribute to the diversification of the Nation's economy and boost the agricultural, manufacturing and solid minerals sectors through proper harnessing and exploitation of the abundant gas reserves available in the area and attract foreign direct investments, open up a lot of opportunities for industrial growth and attract huge foreign earnings for the economy;

Worried that since the ground breaking ceremony, the construction of the Industrial Gas Project which will be the biggest gas producer in sub-Saharan Africa capable of providing over 100,000 direct jobs at the construction stage and over 450,000 jobs at the completion stage for the teeming youths in the Niger Delta and Nigeria in general is yet to commence;

Disturbed that the huge local and foreign direct investment potentials that the project ought to have attracted to the region, coupled with the much-needed technological transfer benefits that would have accrued to the country are all stalled;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Export Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA) to present a blue print for the workability of the Export Processing Zone, Ogidigben to the House within 3 weeks;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Gas Resources to investigate and unravel the reasons why the construction of the Ogidigben Export Processing Zone Project is yet to commence and report back within three (3) weeks (*Hon. Thomas Ereyitomi — Warri South/Warri West/Warri North Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that in 2015, the Federal Government carried out the ground breaking ceremony for the construction of Export Processing Zone (EPZ) Ogidigben in Warri South-West Local Government Area of Delta State which is to comprise an Industrial Gas hub and a Deep Sea Port at Gbaramatu:

Also noted that over 400 hectares of land was acquired and cleared for the purpose of the Export Processing Zone (EPZ), to accommodate a major Industrial Gas hub, Petrochemical, Methanol as well as Fertilizer within the industrial park;

Aware that the project was to contribute to the diversification of the Nation's economy and boost the agricultural, manufacturing and solid minerals sectors through proper harnessing and exploitation of the abundant gas reserves available in the area and attract foreign direct investments, open up a lot of opportunities for industrial growth and attract huge foreign earnings for the economy;

Worried that since the ground breaking ceremony, the construction of the Industrial Gas Project which will be the biggest gas producer in sub-Saharan Africa capable of providing over 100,000 direct jobs at the construction stage and over 450,000 jobs at the completion stage for the teeming youths in the Niger Delta and Nigeria in general is yet to commence;

Disturbed that the huge local and foreign direct investment potentials that the project ought to have attracted to the region, coupled with the much-needed technological transfer benefits that would have accrued to the country are all stalled;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Export Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA) to present a blue print for the workability of the Export Processing Zone, Ogidigben to the House within 3 weeks;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Gas Resources to investigate and unravel the reasons why the construction of the Ogidigben Export Processing Zone Project is yet to commence and report back within three (3) weeks (HR. 119/03/2020).

20. Need to Declare a State of Emergency on the Challenges of Youth Development in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the population of Nigeria, as reported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF), has risen to about 201 million in 2019 with 60% of the population being made up of youths between ages 15-35;

Also notes that for Nigeria to attain meaningful economic development and for the youths to be part of the global system, the Federal Government must address the socio-economic factors bedeviling the youths;

Concerned that if the current socio-economic challenges of unemployment, poverty, drug abuse, insecurity, access to quality educational and economic opportunities, corruption and greed in Nigeria are not addressed, it could undermine the stability and sustainable economic development of the country;

Aware that the resultant effects of those challenges on youths are the increasing crime rate such as kidnapping, insurgency, banditry, armed robbery, cybercrimes, prostitution and other vices;

Worried that some of the youths are being manipulated by politicians to either serve as political thugs during elections or to engage in senseless anti-government protests as a result of their vulnerable conditions;

Cognizant that youths occupy a strategic position in any country's developmental process as their productive capacities and income generating activities contribute to the economic development of any nation;

Believes that declaring a state of emergency on the challenges facing Nigerian youths have become imperative given the current circumstances;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to declare a state of emergency on the challenges facing Nigerian youths and devise measures to tackle them;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Muda Lawal Umar — Toro Federal Constituency and 3 others*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the population of Nigeria, as reported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF), has risen to about 201 million in 2019 with 60% of the population being made up of youths between ages 15-35;

Also noted that for Nigeria to attain meaningful economic development and for the youths to be part of the global system, the Federal Government must address the socio-economic factors bedevilling the youths;

Concerned that if the current socio-economic challenges of unemployment, poverty, drug abuse, insecurity, access to quality educational and economic opportunities, corruption and greed in Nigeria are not addressed, it could undermine the stability and sustainable economic development of the country;

Aware that the resultant effects of those challenges on youths are the increasing crime rate such as kidnapping, insurgency, banditry, armed robbery, cybercrimes, prostitution and other vices;

Worried that some of the youths are being manipulated by politicians to either serve as political thugs during elections or to engage in senseless anti-government protests as a result of their vulnerable conditions;

Cognizant that youths occupy a strategic position in any country's developmental process as their productive capacities and income generating activities contribute to the economic development of any nation;

Believed that declaring a state of emergency on the challenges facing Nigerian youths have become imperative given the current circumstances;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to declare a state of emergency on the challenges facing Nigerian youths and devise measures to tackle them;

(ii) mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (HR. 120/03/2020).

21. **Fire Incidents in Biaghini, Ondo State and Abganestan, Gombe State**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Biaghini is a thickly populated riverine fishing community largely occupied by Ijaw people in Ese-Odo Local Government Area of Ondo State;

Also notes that a fire incident occurred in the community on 6 July, 2019 and claimed the lives of 70 years old Mrs Moyo Jide and her four grandchildren, Jennifer, 3 years, Bigdaddy, 5 years, Gbana, 7 years and Wisdom, 9 years;

Further notes that the fire incident, which caused the unfortunate deaths, started around 12 midnight and the rescue efforts to save the victims were hindered by dearth of social infrastructure like wooden footbridges connecting homes, health facilities, potable water, electricity etc;

Aware of reports in the Punch Newspaper of 13 July, 2019 where lack of infrastructure in Biaghini community was specifically captured as well as avoidable deaths in the agrarian Abganestan Community, in Akko Local Government Area of Gombe State owing to non-provision of Primary Health Facility in the Community and lack of a linking bridge to Kwari community;

Further aware that when it rains, the community is completely flooded and movement is almost impossible, thereby making life very difficult for the residents of those communities;

Cognizant of the provision of Section 4 of the 1999 Constitution which empowers the National Assembly to make laws for good governance of the Federation or any part thereof with respect to any matter included in the Exclusive Legislative List;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence for the victims of fire incident in Biaghini and Abganestan communities;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs and the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to address the infrastructural challenges of Biaghini, a Niger Delta community of Ondo State;
- (iii) also urge the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency to provide Primary Health Care Centres at Biaghini in Ondo State and Abganestan in Gombe State;
- (iv) further urge the Federal Ministry of Environment, and the Ecological Fund Office to intervene in the infrastructural challenges of the communities;
- (v) mandate the Committees on Niger Delta Development Commission, Niger Delta Affairs, Healthcare Services, Environment, and Ecological Fund to ensure compliance (*Hon. Kolade Victor Akinjo — Ilaje/Ese-Odo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 121/03/2020).

Motion referred to the Committees on Niger Delta Development Commission, Niger Delta Affairs, Healthcare Services, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

22. **Consideration of Reports**

(i) ***A Bill for an Act to Regulate the Profession of Agriculture and to make Provisions for the Establishment, Function and Administration of Nigerian Institute of Agriculturists; and for Related Matters (HB.104) (Committee of the Whole):***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Regulate the Profession of Agriculture and to make Provisions for the Establishment, Function and Administration of Nigerian Institute of Agriculturists; and for Related Matters (HB.104)" (Hon. Munir Babba Dan-Agundi — 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 REGULATE THE PROFESSION OF AGRICULTURE
AND TO MAKE PROVISIONS FOR ESTABLISHMENT, FUNCTIONS AND
ADMINISTRATION OF NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURISTS;
AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB.104)**

**PART I — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF
AGRICULTURISTS AND ITS GOVERNING COUNCIL**

Clause 1: Establishment of the Nigerian Institute of Agriculturists and Its Governing Council.

- (1) There is established for the Profession of Agriculture, an Institute to be known as the Nigerian Institute of Agriculturists (in this Bill referred to as "the Institute").
- (2) The Institute shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and shall have power to sue and be sued in its corporate name and to own, hold and dispose of property whether moveable or immovable to be situate in Abuja, Federal Capital Territory (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 2: Objects of the Institute.

The objects of the Institute are:

- (a) to prescribe and regulate the standards of academic qualifications and practical skills to be attained by persons seeking to become registered as members, associates or fellows of the Institute, as the case may be;
- (b) to prescribe the code of conduct for agriculturists;
- (c) to regulate the practice of the profession of agriculture at its various specialised disciplines in relation to each other without contravening the principal legislation establishing those of other disciplines within the profession or related professions;

- (d) to regulate the formal training in agriculture at educational institutions in the manner that will harmonize the admission and curricula policies of the various disciplines to the exclusion of animal science and soil science courses and programmes;
- (e) to promote the farming system, production types and technological innovations as well as food security, agricultural services and agro-processing activities for the advancement of all the aspects and branches of agriculture;
- (f) to encourage and promote among farmers the utilization and application of the findings of agricultural research and other studies for increased food production and food security in Nigeria
- (g) to establish a National net-work for the dissemination of information relating to packages on Agricultural production and methodologies arising from new discoveries and modern agriculture.
- (h) to ensure that the curricula and courses of studies in agriculture in the faculties, colleges and Universities of agriculture are of the theoretical and practical relevance to the development and growth of agricultural science and technology;
- (i) to ensure that the curricula and courses of studies in agriculture excluding soil science and animal science courses and programmes within the faculties, colleges and Universities of agriculture are of the theoretical and practical relevance to the development and growth of agricultural science and technology in collaboration with National Universities Commission (NUC) and the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE);
- (j) to advise the Ministry and other relevant agencies on safety standards for the use of agricultural chemicals and new biotechnological products;
- (k) to publish journals, magazines, newsletters and other publications of professional standard in agricultural business and industry
- (l) to publish journals, magazines, newsletters and other publications of professional standards in agricultural business and industry to the exclusion of the profession and practice of animal science and soil science.
- (m) to establish, update and maintain a Register of Professional Agriculturists under this Bill according to their various ranks and to regulate the prerogatives and privileges pertaining to those ranks to the exclusion of the profession and practice of animal science and soil science; and
- (n) to do such other acts as may be conducive to attainment of the functions of the Institute (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 3: Establishment and composition of the Council of the Nigerian Institute of Agriculturists.

- (1) There is established for the Institute a Governing Council to be known as the Council of the Nigeria Institute of Agriculturists (in this Bill referred to as

"the Council") which shall have overall control of the Institute as specified under this Bill.

- (2) The council shall consist of —
- (a) a President who shall be the head of the Institute and preside over all Council meetings;
 - (b) a Vice President who shall act for the President in his/her absence;
 - (c) the President Agricultural Society of Nigeria;
 - (d) ten persons shall be elected by the Institute, to represent each of the following disciplines/group of disciplines of agriculture:
 - (i) Agricultural business and Agricultural Economics Society;
 - (ii) Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology Society,
 - (iii) Agronomy and agricultural technology,
 - (iv) Institute of Food Science and Technology, and Home Economics,
 - (v) Agricultural Bio-Technology, Genetics and Breeding excluding animal genetics and breeding,
 - (vi) Crop Science Society of Nigeria,
 - (vii) Plant Protection Society of Nigeria,
 - (viii) Horticultural Society of Nigeria,
 - (ix) Forestry and Wildlife,
 - (x) Fisheries and Aquaculture,
 - (xi) Institute Agricultural Engineering;
 - (e) the following shall be ex-officio members —
 - (i) the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development or his representative,
 - (ii) the Minister of Water Resources or his representative,
 - (iii) one representative of Nigerian Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture to be elected by the Chamber,
 - (iv) one person to be elected by the organized Agro-Allied Industries,
 - (v) the Executive Secretary, Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (ARCN),

- (vi) the Chairman, Association of Deans of Faculties of Agriculture in Nigerian Universities (ADAN).
- (vii) the Chairman, National Association of Heads of Colleges of Agriculture (NACHCARD),
- (viii) the Chairman, Committee of Executive Directors of Research Institutes (CODRI),
- (ix) the Chairman, Committee of Deans of Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Universities in Nigeria,
- (x) the Executive Director, National Food Reserve Agency,
- (xi) the Executive Director, National Seed Council of Nigeria,
- (xii) one person to be elected by the organized Agro-Technological and Technical workers and Labour Union.

- (3) The Council shall have power to recommend the amendment of the provision of the schedule to the national assembly as it may deem necessary (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

Amendment:

Insert a new Subclause (2) (d) (xii) as follows:

“representatives of private organization” (*Hon. Babangida Ibrahim — Malumfashi /Kafur 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: Election of members of Council.

The President, Vice president and other members of the Council other than *ex-officio* members, shall be elected by the Institute from amongst the members, at an annual general meeting of the Institute:

PROVIDED that, the first of such general meeting convened by the Agricultural Society of Nigeria and Association of Deans of Agriculture of Nigerian Universities immediately after the Commencement of this Bill, for the purpose of electing such members (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 5: Tenure of office.

The President and the Members of the council, other than *ex-officio* members shall each hold office —

- (a) for a period of three years in the first instance and may be eligible for another term of three years and no more; and
- (b) on such terms and condition as may be specified in the letter of appointment (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 6: Removal from office.

Notwithstanding the provision of section 5 of this Bill, a member of the Council, including the President and Vice President, shall cease to hold office as a member of the Council if —

- (a) he/she is relieved of his/her position by the Council pursuant to any regulation made under section 42 of this Bill, on the ground of ill health, misconduct or if it is interest of the Institute or of the public that the member, the president or the vice president should be removed from office;
- (b) in writing under his/her hand resigns his/her appointment by communicating notice of his intension to the council through the body which he represents and on receipt and approval of the notice by the Council. The resignation shall be deemed to have taken effect and the body shall then elect another representative to complete the tenure of the resigning member of the Council; and
- (c) he/she absents him/herself from three consecutive meetings of the Council, without leave of the Council (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 7: Emolument etc of members.

The president and members of the Council shall be paid such emoluments, allowances and benefits as the Council, in consultation with the general assembly may from time to time approve (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

PART II — POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND THE INSTITUTE

Clause 8: Powers of Council.

The Council shall have power to :

- (a) provide the general policy guidelines relating to the functions of the institute;
- (b) approve the acquisition of offices and other premises for the use of the institute
- (c) review and approve the strategic plans for the manpower development.
- (d) appoint officers, employees, agents and consultants which in the opinion of the Council are required for carrying out the objectives of the institute.
- (e) fix the remuneration, allowances and benefits of the staff and employee of the institute.
- (f) make regulations relating generally to appointment, promotion and discipline, control (including dismissal) of employees of the institute; and
- (g) do such other things and enter into such transactions which the opinion of the Council are necessary to ensure the efficient performance of the institute's objective (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 9: Functions of the Institute.

The Institute shall have following functions:

- (a) carry into effect the powers of the institute;
- (b) govern the affairs of the institute;
- (c) effect proper management of the institute and
- (d) do such other acts and things as the Council may consider necessary for carrying out the functions and powers of the institute (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

PART III — STAFF OF THE INSTITUTE

Appointment of the Registrar and the Assistant Registrar of the institute

Clause 10: Functions of the Registrar.

- (1) There shall be appointed a Registrar for the institute who shall -
 - (a) be appointed by the Council and shall be the Chief Executive Officer and he/she shall discharge his duties according to the terms of his/her employment and be paid a determined remuneration;
 - (b) head the day- to -day administration of his office and any other assignment that may be given to him by the council and the President of the Council;
 - (c) be responsible for the implementation of all functions of the general secretariat and be responsible to the Council for the employment of the staff who work within and see to the management of the secretariat;
 - (d) keep custody of the register and the common seal of the institute and make sure entries in the register, and affix the common seal to such documents, as the Council may direct from time to time.

Appointment of Assistant Registrar.

- (2) The Institute shall appoint an Assistant Registrar who shall from time to time assist the Registrar in the exercise of his functions under this Bill and shall —
 - (a) attend the meeting of the Council and other Committee meetings and participate in discussion but shall not have the right to vote;
 - (b) in the absence of the Registrar summon meetings of the Council upon the directives of the President of the Council.

Tenure of office of Registrar and conditions of service of staff.

- (3) (a) The tenure of the office of the Registrar shall be for a term of five years renewable once and no more.

- (b) Employment and conditions of service of all other staff in the institute shall be the same with that of the Federal Public Service. (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 11: Removal of the Registrar of the Institute.

The Registrar may at any time be relieved of his office by the President of the Council acting on an address supported by a two-third majority of the Council praying that he/she be removed for his inability to discharge the function of the office (whether arising from infirmity of mind or body or any other cause or for misconduct (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*)).

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

Clause 12: Pensions Reforms Act, 2014.

Employment in the institute shall be subject to the provisions of the Pensions Reform Act, 2014 and accordingly, officers and employees of the institute shall be entitled to pension and other retirement benefits as are prescribed under the Pensions Reform Act, 2014 (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 13: Condition of service.

Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Council may issue staff regulations relating generally to the conditions of service of the staff and , in particular, such regulations may provide for -

- (a) the appointment, promotion, terminations, dismissal and disciplinary control of staff or employees of the Institute;
- (b) appeals by staff or employees against dismissal or other disciplinary measure and until such regulations are made, any instrument relating to the conditions of service in the public service of the Federation shall be applicable, with such modification as may be necessary, to the employees of the institute (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

PART IV — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Clause 14: Funds of the Institute.

The Institute shall establish and maintain a fund which consist of:

- (a) contributions, levies, subscriptions, fees and other dues paid by the members;
- (b) revenue accruing to the institute from its investments, activities and service;
- (c) grants, endowments and donations from Government and other donors; and
- (d) revenue accruing to the Institute from any other source approved by the Council (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 15: Expenditure of the Institute.

- (1) The Institute shall defray from the fund established pursuant to section 12 of this Bill all amounts payable under or in pursuance of this Bill being sums representing —
- (a) amount payable to the President and other members of the Council (including allowances);
 - (b) reimbursement to members of the Council or any other Committee set up by the Council for such expenses as may be expressly authorized by the Council;
 - (c) remunerations and other cost of employment of the staff of the Institute;
 - (d) cost of acquisition and up-keep of premises belonging to the institute and any other capital expenditure of the Institute;
 - (e) amounts payable as pensions and other retiring benefits under or pursuant to this Bill or any other enactment;
 - (f) maintenance of utilities, staff promotion, training, research and similar activities;
 - (g) costs necessary for day-to-day operations of the Institute;
 - (h) any other payment for anything incidental to the foregoing provisions or in connection with or incidental to any other function of the Institute under this Bill.
- (2) The Institute may invest such surplus funds as it may have, from time to time from its day-to-day operation in treasury bill or other government securities (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 16: Estimates.

The Registrar of the Institute shall cause to be prepared and submitted to the Council not later than 30th day of September of each year, an estimate of its income and expenditure for the succeeding year (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 17: Accounts and audits.

The Institute shall cause to be kept proper account and records, and such account shall not later than 6 months after the end of each year, be audited by auditors appointed by the Council from the list and in accordance with the guideline supplied by the Auditor-General of the Federation (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 18: Annual report, etc.

The Institute shall prepare and submit to the Council every year a report of the preceding year in such form as the Council may direct on the activities of the Institute. Such Report shall include a copy of audited accounts of the Institute for the year and of the Auditor's Report (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 19: Power to accept gift.

The Institute may accept gift of land, money or other property on such terms and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the person or organization making the gift (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 20: Power to borrow.

The Institute may, with the approval of the Council, borrow by way of loan, or overdraft from any source such sum as it may require for the performance of its function and meeting its obligation under this Bill (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 21: Accountability.

The Registrar as the Chief Administrative/Accountant Officer of the Institute shall:

- (a) keep proper accounting records, in a manner as may be determined, from time to time by the President in respect of —
 - (i) all revenues and expenditure of the Institute, and
 - (ii) all its assets, liabilities and other financial transactions;
- (b) all other revenues collected by the Institute, including income on investments;
- (c) prepare an annual report, including financial statements, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and practices;
- (d) ensure that the available accounting resources of the Institute are adequate and used economically in the most effect and efficient manner, and that other financial records properly safe-guarded;
- (e) provide replies to Freedom of Information requests; and
- (f) any other duties that may be assigned by the Council (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

PART V — REGISTRATION OF MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE**Clause 22: Register of the Institute.**

The Institute shall keep and maintain a Register of all members (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 23: Categories of membership.

The Institute may subject to the provisions of this Bill, and such rules as the Council may make in that regard, admit and Register the following categories of members:

- (a) regular members; or
- (b) Associate Member; or
- (c) Fellows; or
- (d) Honorary fellows; or
- (e) Corporate member (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words in Subclause (e)" (Hon. Babangida Ibrahim — Malumfashi/Kafar Local Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

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

Eligibility of membership

Clause 24: Regular Membership.

A person shall be eligible to be admitted and registered as a member if that person is:

- (a) a holder of a degree or equivalent qualification in agriculture or agricultural sciences or related science to the exclusion of a holder of a first degree in animal and soil sciences from any accredited institution and holds in addition 3 years post graduate or post qualification working experience;
- (b) a member of any equivalent professional agricultural body or Institute recognised by the Council;
- (c) a holder of a postgraduate degree or postgraduate diploma in any agricultural discipline, from an institution accredited by the Council and has in addition had 2 years working experience to the exclusion of holders of a first degree in animal and soil sciences;
- (d) a holder of a Higher National Diploma or equivalent qualification in agriculture and related disciplines and in addition has had 3 years of such relevant experience as the Council may approve to the exclusion of a holder of a Higher National Diploma or equivalent qualification in animal and soil sciences;
- (e) a holder of a National Diploma or equivalent qualification in agriculture and related disciplines mentioned in section 3 (2) (c) of this Bill has in addition had 5 years of such relevant experience as the Council may approve the exclusion of a holder of a Higher National Diploma or equivalent qualification in animal and soil sciences (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 25: Corporate member.

A Company or Corporate Institution shall be eligible to be registered as a corporate member if such organisation is :

- (a) holding a current registration of the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), contributing to Agricultural growth and development in Nigeria to the satisfaction of the Council;
- (b) found fit and proper to be registered as determined by the Council (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 26: Associates.

A member shall be eligible to be registered as an Associate if —

- (a) that person has contributed significantly by research efforts, publications and experience, to the growth and development of progress of agriculture or related areas: and
- (b) the council has satisfied that, the member is a fit and proper person to be elevated to the rank of an associate (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 27: Fellow.

A person who is a member shall be eligible to be registered as an fellow if —

- (a) that person has by research effort, publication and experience in any area of agriculture, contributed significantly to the growth and development of agriculture or related areas, and
- (b) the Council is satisfied that, that person is a fit and proper person to be elevated to the rank of a fellow (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 28: Honorary Fellows.

A person may be registered as a honorary fellow if —

- (a) the person is distinguished in any area of agriculture or related industry: and
- (b) the Council is satisfied that, that person is fit and proper person to be elevated to the rank of the Honorary Fellow (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 29: Certificates and honours.

The Council may be subject to its rules in that regard, awards distinctive certificates and other honours to any person, member, Associate, Fellow or Honorary Fellow as the case may be, for any distinctive achievement in any discipline or areas of agriculture (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

PART VI — APPROVAL OF CURRICULA AND COURSES
OF AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Clause 30: Accreditation on Institutions.

- (1) Every Faculty, College or University of Agriculture in Nigeria shall on demand by the Council, submit to the Council, details of its curricula, courses of study in agriculture and related programmes for the consideration and approval of the Council to the exclusion of courses and programmes in animal and soil sciences.
- (2) The Council shall there upon, delegate a Committee of the Council to evaluate the contents of such curricula and courses and ensure that they sufficiently endow any person pursuing them with the requisite knowledge, skill and working experience for the practice or agricultural profession the exclusion of courses and programmes in animal and soil sciences.
- (3) The Council shall where such curricula and courses are proved, thereafter by instrument, accredit such faculty, college or university as the case may be, as a fit and proper institution for the training of prospective members.
- (4) The Council shall monitor the academic programmes in agriculture and related disciplines to maintain an acceptable standards to the exclusion of courses and programmes in animal and soil sciences.
- (5) Subject to this Bill, the person who has obtained his first degree or other academic qualification from unaccredited institutions shall not be eligible to be registered a member of the institution (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

PART VII — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE
OF AGRICULTURISTS DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL

Clause 31: Establishment of the Nigerian Institute of Agriculturists disciplinary tribunal.

- (1) There shall be disciplinary established for the institute, a disciplinary tribunal to be known as the Nigerian Institute of Agriculturist Disciplinary Tribunal (in this Bill referred to as "the tribunal")
- (2) The duty of the tribunal is to hear and determine any case of professional misconduct against any member in the discharge of his duties as Agriculturist.
- (3) The tribunal shall consist of the President and six other members appointed by the Council.

- (4) There shall be in attendance a legal adviser to be nominated by the Attorney-General of the Federation (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 32: Rules of proceeding of the tribunal and investigating panel. Second Schedule.

- (1) There shall, for purpose of the President before the tribunal, be known as the Investigating Panel of the Nigerian Institute of Agriculturist.
- (2) The duties of the panel are:
- (a) to conduct preliminary investigations into any allegation or complaints of professional member or fellow of the institute; and
- (b) to determine, whether or not there is a prima, facie case against the person and to refer such case to the tribunal for hearing and determination.
- (3) The Panel shall consist of a Chairman and four members appointed by the Council (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 33: Rules.

The Council may make rules to regulate the proceedings of the tribunal and investigating panel:

Until such rules are made, the rules contained in the second schedule to this Bill are applicable (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 34: Penalty.

- (1) Where:
- (a) a member is adjudged by the tribunal to be guilty of a professional misconduct;
- (b) a member is convicted of an offence by any court in Nigeria or elsewhere, having power to sentence an offender to imprisonment (whether or not the offence is punishable with imprisonment) and the offence in the opinion of the tribunal derogates his membership of the institute; or
- (c) the tribunal is satisfied that any person has been fraudulently registered in the register of members.
- (2) The tribunal shall give directives to the registrar either to reprimand that member or to strike his name off the register and the registrar shall comply with such directives (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 35: Right of appeal.

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 24 of this Bill, or any other Act, a member who is found guilty by the Tribunal shall have right of appeal to the Court of Appeal against any pronouncement made by the Tribunal (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 36: Professional misconduct.

In this part, "professional misconduct" means any action or behaviour considered by the Council to be unprofessional conduct and include acts unbecoming of agriculturists which may include but not limited to unjust enrichment by any person, abuse of office or corrupt practices in the conduct of a member (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 36 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART VIII — LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Clause 37: Limitation of suit against the Institute, etc. Cap. P41, LFN, 2004.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this act, the provisions of this Public Officers Protection Act shall apply in relation to any suit instituted against any member officer or employee of the Institute.
- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law or enactment, no suit against a member of the Council, the President or any other officer or employee of the institute for any act done in pursuance or execution of this Bill or any other law or enactment, or any other public duties or authority or in respect of any alleged neglect or default in the neglect in the execution of this Bill or any other law or enactment, duties or authority shall lie or be instituted in any Court unless it is commenced —
 - (a) within three months next after the act, neglect or default complained of, or
 - (b) in the case of a continuation of damage or injury, within six months next the ceasing thereof
- (3) No suit shall be commenced against a member of the Council, the President or any other officer or employee of the Institute before the expiration of a period of one month after written notice of the intention to commence the suit shall have been served on the Institute by the intending plaintiff or his agent
- (4) The notice referred to in subsection (3) of this section shall clearly and explicitly state —
 - (a) the cause of action;
 - (b) the particulars of the claims;
 - (c) the name and place of abode of the intended plaintiff, and
 - (d) the relief which he/she claims (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 37 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 38: Service of document.

A notice, summons or other document required authorized to be served on the Institute under the provision of this Bill or any other law or enactment may be served by delivering it to the President or by sending it by registered post addressed to the President at the principal office of the institute (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 38 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 39: Restriction on execution against property of the institute.

- (1) In any action or suit against the Institute, No execution or attachment of process in the nature thereof shall be issued against the institute unless not less than three months' notice of the intention to execute or attach has been given to the institute.
- (2) Any sum of money which by the judgment of any court has been awarded against the institute shall, subject to any direction given by the court, where no notice of appeal against the Judgment has been given, be paid from the fund of institute (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 39 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 40: Indemnity.

A member of the council, the president or any officer or employee of the institutes shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Institute against any Liability incurred by him in defending any proceeding, whether civil or criminal, if the proceeding is brought against him/her in his/her capacity as a member, president, officer or employee of the Institute (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 40 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART IX — MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Clause 41: Directives by the Minister.

The Minister may jointly or severally give to the Institute or the President such directives of a general nature or relating generally to matters of the policy with regards to the exercise of its or his/her functions as they may consider necessary and it shall be the duty of the Institute or the President to comply with the directives or cause them to be complied with (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 41 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 42: Power to make regulations the President signs the regulations after getting approval from the Minister.

The Council may, with the approval of the ministers, make rules and regulations as in its opinion are necessary or expedient for giving full effect to the provisions of this Bill and for the due administration of its provisions and may in particular, make regulations (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 42 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 43: Interpretation.

In this Bill —

"Council" means Council established by section 3 (1) (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

"Ex-officio" members in this Bill means the Ministers of Agriculture, Environment, etc. (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Ex-officio" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Institute" means Nigerian Institute of Agriculturists established by section 1 of the Bill (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

"Member" means members of the institute and includes a regular or Associate member of the institute (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

"Minister" means Minister charged with the responsibilities referred to section 3 (2) (d) to (g) of this Bill (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

"President" means president of the institute (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

"Rank" means status of members (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

"register" means register created and maintained under section 22 (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

"tribunal" means tribunal established under section 23 (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

"Vice President" means vice president of the institute (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

Question that Clause 43 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 44: Short Title.

This Bill may be cited as the Nigerian Institute of Agriculturists Bill, 2020 (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 44 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

SCHEDULES

Section 3 (3)

FIRST SCHEDULE

Proceedings of the Council

1. The Council may make standing orders regulating its proceedings of the council or of any Committee thereof and shall meet at least once in every quarter in a year.
2. The Quorum of the council shall be seven which shall include at least three elected members, representatives of the Ministers and one elected from one of the tertiary Institutions mentions in this Bill.
3. (1) Subject to the provisions of paragraph 1 above and the applicable standing order, the Council shall meet whenever summoned by the President, and if the President is required so to do by the notice given to him in writing by not less than five elected members, shall summon a meeting of the Council to be held within fourteen days from the date on which the notice is given.
- (2) At any meeting of the Council, the President shall preside or in his absence the Vice President shall preside.
- (3) Where the Council wishes to obtain the advice of any person on a particular matter, the Council may co-opt such a person as a member for such period as it thinks fit, but a person who is a member by virtue of this sub-paragraph shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Council and shall not count toward a quorum.
4. (1) The Council may appoint one or more committees to carry out on its behalf, such functions as it may determine.
- (2) A committee appointed under this paragraph shall consist of the number of persons determined by the Council and not more than one-third of those persons may be person who are not members of the Council and a person other than member of the Council shall hold office on the committee in accordance with the terms of the instrument by which he is appointed.

- (3) A decision of a committee of the Council shall be of no effect until it is ratified by the Council.

Miscellaneous

5. (1) The fixing of the seal of the Council shall be authenticated by the signature of the President or the Vice President and the Secretary of the Council.
- (2) Any contract or Instrument which is made or executed by a person not being a body corporate, would not be required to under seal but may be or executed on behalf of the Council by any person generally or specially authorized to act for that purpose by the Council.

Notice of Hearing

6. (1) When a complaint is referred by the Panel of the tribunal, the Registrar shall, after consultation with the Chairman, appoint a time and place for the hearing, and shall in the third Schedule hereto: give notice to all interested parties (including members of the tribunal and the assessor)
- (2) If directions are for any reason not so given, it shall be sufficient compliance with this rule if the notice is —
- (a) handed to the party concerned or affected, personally; or
- (b) sent by registered post to the last known place of abode of the party.

Hearing in absence of party

7. (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this rule, the Tribunal may hear and determine a case in the absence of any party.
- (2) Any party to any proceedings before a Tribunal who fails to appear or be presented may apply within one month after the date when the pronouncement of the findings and directions of the tribunal were given, for a re-hearing on the ground of want of notice or other good and sufficient reason, and the Tribunal, in appropriate cases may grant the application upon such terms as to cost or otherwise as it thinks fit.

Hearing of witnesses

8. The Tribunal may in the course of its proceedings hear witnesses and receive any documentary evidence necessary in its opinion to assist it in arriving at a conclusion as to the truth or otherwise of the allegation of misconduct in the complainant referred to it by the panel, and in application of this rule, the provisions of the Evidence Act shall apply to any such proceedings.

Amendment of complaint

9. If in the cause of the proceedings it appears to the Tribunal that the complaint before it requires to be amended in any respect, the Tribunal may, on such term as it thinks fit allow the amendment to be made and the complaint as amended shall there upon be dealt with accordingly.

Public Hearing

10. (1) The proceedings of the Tribunal shall be held and its findings and directions shall be delivered, in public unless otherwise directed by the Tribunal
- (2) The Tribunal may, on its own motion, or upon the application of any party, adjourn the hearing on such terms as to costs or otherwise as the Tribunal deems fit.

False evidence

11. If any person willfully gives false evidence on oath before the Tribunal during the course of any proceedings, or willfully make a false statement in any affidavit sworn for the purpose of such proceedings, the Tribunal may refer the matter to the Attorney-General of the Federation for such action as the Attorney-General may deem fit.

Findings and costs in certain cases

12. If after the hearing, the Tribunal adjudges that the charge of professional misconduct has not been proved, the Tribunal —
 - (a) shall record the findings that the respondent is not guilty of such misconduct in respect of which the charge was preferred; and
 - (b) may, nevertheless order any party (except the complainant) to pay the costs of the proceedings, having regard to his conduct and to all the circumstances of the case.

Publication of findings

13. Any findings made or direction given by the tribunal shall be published in the Federal Government Gazette immediately after such finding or direction, as the case may be.

Record of proceedings

14. The Chairman shall during the hearing, take the minutes of the proceedings which shall be open to inspection by the parties and shall be made available to any party upon the payment of such charges as the Registrar may be instructed to publish in the Federal Government Gazette.

Power of Tribunal

15. The Tribunal may dispense with any requirements of these rules regarding notices, affidavit, documents, service or time for doing or omitting anything, in any case where it appears to the Tribunal to be just or expedite so to do: and the tribunal may in any particular case extend the time for doing anything under these rules.

Power to retain exhibits pending appeal

16. Books and other exhibits whatever produced or used at the hearing shall, unless the tribunal otherwise directs, be retained by the Registrar until the expiry of the time for filing an appeal against any finding or direction of the Tribunal or, if notice of any such appeal is given until the hearing and disposal of the appeal.

*Assessors**Appointment and duties of assessors*

17. (1) An assessor shall be appointed by the Council by instrument, and the assessor shall hold and vacate office as provided in his instrument of appointment, and where the appointment is not general, it shall have effect only in respect of the particular proceedings of the Tribunal.
- (2) Subject to the terms of his appointment, assessors shall attend the proceedings of the Tribunal whenever required so to do by notice in writing given to him by the Registrar not later than 3 days before the date fixed for the hearing of such proceedings, and he/she shall therefore advise the Tribunal on question of law only.

*Miscellaneous**Interpretation*

18. In these rules —

"Complainant" means a person or body alleging before the Tribunal, professional misconduct against a member of the Institute;

"Respondent" means the person required to answer to any charge of professional misconduct.

Short Title

19. These rules may be cited as the Nigerian Institute of Agriculturist (Disciplinary tribunal) Rules (*Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

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

SECOND SCHEDULE

Rules 2 (1)

HEARING NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURISTS TRIBUNAL

IN THE MATTERS OF A CHARGE OF PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT AGAINST

..... OF

a member/Associate/Fellow of the Institute Take Notice that the Nigerian Institute of Agriculturist Disciplinary Tribunal sitting at at on 20.....

Will commence its hearing of charges(s) to be there preferred against aforesaid of Professional Misconduct in his office as a Professional Agriculturist and the Tribunal shall thereafter deliver its finding and give its directions accordingly.

This notice is given to as a (here state whether a party or a member, etc) and a copy of the charge(s) to be preferred is to hereto annexed

DATED this day of, 20.....

Registrar

(Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso Federal Constituency).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to establish the Nigerian Institute of Agriculturist as a body responsible for regulating the practice of the Profession of Agriculture in Nigeria and with power to prescribe a code of conduct of agriculturists.

The Bill also seeks to ensure that agriculturists in Nigeria assume the same relevance and responsibility for the Systematic growth of the agricultural sector as their counterparts in any advanced country.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Regulate the Profession of Agriculture and to Make Provisions for Establishment, Functions and Administration of Nigerian Institute of Agriculturists; and for Related Matters (HB. 104) (Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi — Kumbotso 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 Regulate the Profession of Agriculture and to make Provisions for the Establishment, Function and Administration of Nigerian Institute of Agriculturists; and for Related Matters (HB. 104) and approved Clauses 1 - 2, approved Clause 3 as amended, approved Clauses 4 - 44, the Schedules, 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) *A Bill for an Act to Establish the Counselling Practitioners Council of Nigeria charged with Responsibility of Advancing the Study, Training and Practice of Counselling Profession; and for Related Matters (HB. 409) (Committee of the Whole):*
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Counselling Practitioners Council of Nigeria charged with Responsibility of Advancing the Study, Training and Practice of Counselling Profession; and for Related Matters (HB. 409)" (Hon. Ali Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko 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 COUNSELLING PRACTITIONERS
COUNCIL OF NIGERIA CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY OF ADVANCING
THE STUDY, TRAINING AND PRACTICE OF COUNSELLING
PROFESSION AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 409)****PART I — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNSELLING
PRACTITIONERS COUNCIL OF NIGERIA****Clause 1: Establishment of the Council.**

- (1) There is established the Counselling Practitioners Council of Nigeria (in this Bill referred to as "the Council").
- (2) The Council:
 - (a) is a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal kept in its custody;
 - (b) may sue or be sued in its corporate name;
 - (c) may acquire, hold or dispose of any movable or immovable
 - (d) property for the purpose of its functions under this Bill (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 2: Functions of the Council.

The Council shall:

- (a) determine the standard of knowledge and skill, to be attained by persons seeking to become registered members of the counselling profession (in this Bill referred to as "the Profession") and review the standard as circumstances may require;
- (b) establish and maintain in accordance with the provisions of this Bill, a register of certified members of the Profession and the publication of the list of such members from time to time;
- (c) promote the highest standard of competence, practice and conduct among members of the Profession;
- (d) organize and conduct seminars, workshops, conferences and research in all aspects of counselling management and administration; and also provide professional training for persons aspiring to qualify and practice as chartered Counsellors in Nigeria.
- (e) secure the professional status and do all such things as may be necessary to promote the interest of its members and the advancement of the art and science of Counselling, knowledge and efficiency in Counselling management and administration in the public and private sectors of the Nigerian economy.

- (f) perform such other functions as may be required of the Council under this Bill (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 3: Establishment of Governing Board.

- (1) There is established for the Council, a Governing Board (in this Bill referred to as "the Board") which shall be charged with the responsibility for Policy making, administration and general management of the Council.
- (2) The Board shall consist of:
- (a) the President and Vice-President of the Council;
 - (b) the Registrar;
 - (c) one person to be nominated by the Minister for education charged with the responsibility of matters relating to counselling to represent the Ministry;
 - (d) six persons with professional background in counselling to be appointed by the Minister to represent each geopolitical zone of Nigeria, no two of them shall come from the same State;
 - (e) six persons appointed by the Counselling Association of Nigeria (CASSON); and
 - (f) two persons to represent the universities offering courses leading to approved qualification in Guidance and Counselling and a university shall not have more than one representative at a time.
- (3) The provisions of the First Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the qualification, tenure of office of members of the Council, powers and procedure of the Council and other matters (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

PART II — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Clause 4: Funds of the Institute.

- (1) There is established for the Council a fund (in this Bill referred to as "the Fund") which shall be controlled by the Board.
- (2) The Fund shall consist of:
- (a) all fees and other moneys payable to the Council under this Bill; and
 - (b) money as may be payable to the Council whether in the course of the performance of its functions or not.
- (3) There shall be paid out of the Fund:
- (a) the remuneration and allowances of the Registrar and other employees of the Council;

- (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 approve;
 - (c) any other expenses approved and incurred by the Council in the discharge of its functions under this Bill.
- (4) The Council may invest money in the Fund in any security created or issued by or on behalf of the Government of the Federation or in any other securities in Nigeria approved by the Board.
- (5) The Council shall keep proper accounts on behalf of the Board in respect of each financial year and proper records in relation to those accounts, and the Board shall cause the accounts to be audited by an Auditor, approved for that purpose and when the accounts is audited, the Auditor's report shall be submitted to the Members of the Board, for approval at a meeting of the Board (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

PART III — THE REGISTRAR AND THE REGISTER

Clause 5: Appointment of the Registrar, etc, and Preparation of Register.

- (1) The Board shall appoint a person to be Registrar of the Council for the purpose of this Bill, the person appointed shall hold at least a degree certificate and must have possessed at least ten years cognate experience in the required field.
- (2) The Registrar shall:
- (a) hold office for four years; and
 - (b) subject to satisfactory performance, be eligible for re-appointment for another four years and no more.
- (3) The Registrar shall prepare and maintain in accordance with the rules made by the Council under this section, a Register of Professional Counsellors (in this Bill referred to as "the Register").
- (4) The Register shall contain the names, addresses, approved qualifications and other particulars as may be specified by the Council, of all persons who are entitled, in accordance with the provisions of the Act, to be registered as Professional Counsellors and who apply in the specified manner, to be so registered.
- (5) The Register shall consist of:
- (a) fully registered persons; and
 - (b) provisionally registered persons.
- (6) Subject to the provision of this section, the Council shall make rules with respect to the formal keeping of the register and the making of entries in the Register, and in particular:

- (a) making of applications for registration and provide for the evidence to be produced in support of an application;
 - (b) providing for the notification to the Registrar, by the person to whom the registered particulars relate, of any change in those particulars;
 - (c) authorising a registered person to have any qualification which is registered in relation to his name in addition to or, as he may elect in substitution for any other qualification so registered as either a corrected edition of the register or a list of alteration made to the Register since it was last printed; and
 - (d) specifying anything failing to be specified under the provisions of this section.
- (7) The Registrar shall:
- (a) correct, in accordance with the Council's direction, any entry in the register, which the Council directs him to correct as being in the Council's entry, which was incorrectly made;
 - (b) make any necessary alteration to the registered particulars of registered persons; and
 - (c) remove from the relevant part of the Register, the name of any registered person who has died, or ceased to be entitled to be registered.
- (8) If the Registrar:
- (a) sends by post to any registered person a letter addressed to him at his address on the Register enquiring whether the registered particulars relating to him are correct and receives no reply to the letter within the period of six months from the date of posting the letter; and
 - (b) upon the expiration of the six months, sends in like manner to the person in question, a second letter and receives no reply to that letter within three months from the date of posting the letter, the Registrar may remove the particulars relating to the person in question from the relevant part of the register.
- (9) The Council may, for any reason which seems to be sufficient, direct the Registrar to restore to the appropriate part of the Register any particulars removed under this section (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 6: Publication of the Register.

- (1) The Registrar shall:

- (a) cause a list of persons whose name and qualifications are indicated in the register to be printed, published and put on sale to members of the public not later than two years from the beginning of the year in this Bill comes into effect;
 - (b) in each year, after the Register is first published under paragraph (a), cause to be printed, published and put on sale as either a corrected edition of the register or a list of alterations made to the register since it was last printed; and
 - (c) cause a print of a copy of each edition of the Register and list of correction to be deposited at the principal office of the Council and the Council shall keep the Register and list so deposited at all reasonable times for inspection by members of the public.
- (2) A document purporting to be a print of an edition of a Register published:
- (a) under this section by authority of the Registrar in the current year; or
 - (b) in a previous year and a list of corrections to that edition so published in the current year.

shall, without prejudice to any other mode of proof, be admissible in any proceeding as evidence that a person specified in the document, as being fully or provisionally registered, is so registered, and that any person not so specified is not so registered (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

PART IV — REGISTRATION

Clause 7: Registration.

- (1) Subject to the provision of this Bill and to rules made under section 6, a person shall not be entitled to be fully registered under this Bill as a Professional Counsellor, unless:
 - (a) he has attended a course of training approved by the Council under section 9;
 - (b) he has passed the Professional practice competence examination conducted by the Association and moderated by the Council; and
 - (c) he is a certified member of the Association;
 - (d) he renders professional service or assistance in or about matters of principles or details relating to counselling management and administration; or
 - (e) he renders other service which may by rules or Bye-Laws made by the Council be designated as service constituting practice as a professional counseling Administration practitioner.
- (2) An Applicant for registration under this Bill shall, in addition to the evidence of qualification, satisfy the Council that:

- (a) he is of good character;
 - (b) he has attained the age of 18 years;
 - (c) he has not been convicted in Nigeria or elsewhere of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty.
- (3) A fully registered Professional Counsellor is entitled to a seal from the Council but any seal presented under this subsection may be withdrawn by the Council from a member on:
- (a) his ceasing to become a registered member;
 - (b) being convicted of an offence under this Bill; or
 - (c) disciplinary grounds, and his ceasing to become a member of the Association.
- (4) The Council may in its discretion, provisionally accept a qualification produced in respect of an application for registration under this section, or direct that the application be renewed within such period as may be specified in the direction.
- (5) The Council shall publish in the Federal Government Gazette, particulars of the qualification accepted for registration under this Bill.
- (6) The Council may impose further conditions for the purpose of any registration under this Bill but such conditions shall not come into force until published in the Federal Government Gazette (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words in Subclause (2) (b) (Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question that Clause 7 as amended, stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 8: Approval of qualifications and training institutions.

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), the Council may approve for the purpose of section 7:
- (a) any course of training which is intended for persons who are seeking to become, or are already qualified as, Professional Counsellors;
 - (b) any institution, either in Nigeria or elsewhere which the Council, on the recommendations of the Association, considers properly organised and equipped for conducting the whole or any part of a course of training approved by the Council under this section; and
 - (c) any qualification which, as a result of examination taken in conjunction with a course of training approved by the Council under this section, is granted to candidates reaching a standard at the examination, indicating, in the opinion of the Council that they have

sufficient knowledge and skills to practise counselling as a profession.

- (2) The Council shall publish in the Federal Government Gazette a list of qualifications in the Profession of Professional Counsellors approved by it and the Council shall not approve, for the purposes of subsection (1), qualifications granted by an institution unless the qualifications have been so published by the Council.
- (3) The Council shall, on the recommendation of the Association, withdraw any approval given under this section in respect of any course, qualifications or institution, but before withdrawing the approval the Council shall:
 - (a) give notice that it proposes to do so to each person in Nigeria appearing to the Council to be a person by whom the course is conducted, the qualification is granted or the institution is controlled, as the case may be; and
 - (b) give such a person an opportunity of making to the Council, representations with regard to the proposal under paragraph (b).
- (4) A period during which the approval of the Council under this section for a course qualification or institution is withdrawn, the course qualification or institution shall not be treated as approved under this section but the withdrawal of such an approval shall not prejudice the registration or eligibility for registration of any person who by virtue of the approval was registered or eligible for registration immediately before the approval was withdrawn.
- (5) The giving or withdrawal of an approval under this section, shall have the effect from the date, before or after the execution of the instrument signifying the giving or withdrawal of the approval, as the Council may specify in the instrument, and the Council shall:
 - (a) immediately publish a copy of every such instrument in the Federal Government Gazette and supervise instructions and examination leading to approved qualifications; and
 - (b) not later than seven days before its publication, send a copy of the instrument to the Minister (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 9: Supervision.

- (1) The Board shall keep itself informed of the nature of the instruction given at the certified institutions to persons sent for approved course of training and the examinations as a result of which approved qualification is granted.
- (2) The Board shall appoint persons, either from its own members or from outside, to visit the approved institutions, monitor their examinations and make recommendations to the Board.
- (3) The Board shall determine and make recommendations to the Council on:
 - (a) the competence of the instructors;

- (b) the adequacy of the instruction given to persons attending approved courses at the institutions visited.
 - (c) the adequacy and quality of the examination conducted; and
 - (d) any other matter relating to the institution or examination on which the Board may request the persons appointed under subsection (2) to report.
- (4) Any person appointed by the Board under this section, shall not interface with the giving of any instruction or the holding of any examination.
- (5) On receiving a report made under this section, the Board shall, immediately send a copy of the report to the person appearing to the Board to be in charge of the institution or responsible for the examinations to which the report relates, requesting that person to make observations on the report to the Council within such period as may be specified in the request, at least one month beginning with the date of the request (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 10: Persons deemed to practice as professional Counsellors.

- (1) Any person who:
- (a) has been approved and endorsed by the Council as a "Foundation Member", this includes all persons present at the preliminary inaugural meetings of the Association held on 15 November, 1975, 17-18 June, 1976, and all persons who though absent, expressed the desire to be members at those times; or
 - (b) holds the accepted qualification or its equivalent, obtained 10 years before the commencement of this Bill and satisfies the conditions mentioned in section 7 (2),
- may be exempted from taking the professional practice competence examination, but issued the certificate of professional competence after payment of the prescribed fees to enable him register fully as a Professional Counsellor, if the Council is satisfied that he has acquired adequate professional practice experience as a Professional Counsellor to deserve the exemption.
- (2) A person shall be issued a Certificate of Professional Competence if:
- (a) during his employment after qualification, he has acquired practical experience under the personal supervision and guidance of one or more fully registered Counsellors for the period of two years; and
 - (b) the manner in which he carried out the duties of his employment and his conduct during the period of his employment, are satisfactory.
- (3) The employer, being a fully registered Counsellor supervising the work of persons employed with a view to obtaining a certificate of professional competence, shall ensure that the person is given opportunity of acquiring the practical experience for the purposes of subsection (2) (a).

- (4) The Registrar shall, immediately after the entry in the Register of any person's name, or removal of such name from the register, give notice in writing to the institution of the entry or removal together with all the relevant particulars (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

PART V — PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE

Clause 11: Establishment of Disciplinary Tribunal and Investigative Panel.

- (1) There is established the Counsellors Investigating Panel (in this Bill referred to as "the Panel") charged with the duties of:
- (a) conducting a preliminary investigation into any case where it is alleged that a person registered has misbehaved in his capacity as a Professional Counsellor, or should for any other reason be the subject of proceedings before the Tribunal; and
 - (b) deciding whether the case shall be referred to the Tribunal.
- (2) The Panel shall be constituted by the Council and shall consist of seven members.
- (3) There is established the Counsellors Disciplinary Tribunal (in this Bill referred to as "the Tribunal") charged with the duty of considering and determining any case referred to it by the Panel.
- (4) The Tribunal shall consist of:
- (a) the President of the Council; and
 - (b) 10 other members, appointed by the Council of which:
 - (i) at least, four shall be members of the Council, holding office by virtue of section 3 (2) (e), or
 - (ii) all members holding office by virtue section where the number of those members is for the time being less than four of those members (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 12: Professional Misconduct.

- (1) The provisions of the Second Schedule to this Bill shall, be applicable to the Tribunal and the Panel respectively.
- (2) Where:
- (a) a person fully registered or provisionally registered under this Bill is judged by the Tribunal to be guilty of infamous misconduct in any professional respect;
 - (b) such a person is convicted of any offence in Nigeria or elsewhere by any Court having power to impose imprisonment (whether or not such offence is punishable with imprisonment), which in the opinion

- of the Tribunal is incompatible with the status of the Professional Counsellor; or
- (c) the Tribunal is satisfied that the name of any person has been fraudulently 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.
- (3) The Tribunal may, if it deems fit, defer its decision as to the giving of a direction under subsection (2), until a subsequent meeting of the Tribunal, but:
- (a) no decision shall be deferred under this subsection for a period exceeding two years in the aggregate; and
- (b) no person shall be a member of the Tribunal for the purpose or reaching a decision which has been deferred, unless he was present as member of the Tribunal when the decision was deferred.
- (4) For the purpose of subsection (2), a person shall not be treated as convicted, unless the conviction stands at a time when no appeal or further appeal is pending or may (without extension of time) be brought in connection with the conviction.
- (5) When the Tribunal gives a direction under subsection (2), it shall cause notice of the direction to be served on the person to whom it relates.
- (6) A person to whom a direction relates may, at any time within 28 days from the date of service on him of the notice of the direction, appeal against the direction to the Court of Appeal, and the Tribunal may appear as respondent to the appeal and for the purpose of enabling directions to be given as to the cost of the appeal and of proceedings before the Tribunal, shall be deemed to be a party thereto whether or not it appears to the hearing of the appeal.
- (7) A direction of the Tribunal under subsection (2) shall take effect:
- (a) where no appeal under this section is brought against the direction within the time for the appeal, on the expiration of that time;
- (b) where an appeal is brought and is withdrawn or struck out for want of diligent prosecution, on the withdrawal or striking out of the appeal; and
- (c) where an appeal is brought and is not withdrawn or struck out if and when the appeal is dismissed.
- (8) A person whose name is removed from the Register in pursuance of a direction of the Tribunal under this section, shall not be entitled to be 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 of the removal of a person's name from the Register may prohibit an application under this subsection by that person until the expiration of period from the date of the direction, and where he has duly made an application, from the date of his last application, as may be specified in the direction (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

PART VI — MISCELLANEOUS

Clause 13: Registration of Temporary Practitioners.

- (1) Where a person satisfies the Council that he:
 - (a) has been selected for employment for a specified period in a capacity in which a person registered as a Counsellor under this Bill is qualified to be employed and that he is or intends to be in Nigeria temporarily for the purpose of serving for that period in the employment in question;
 - (b) holds a qualification or has passed the necessary examination;
 - (c) obtained some qualification granted outside Nigeria which is for the time being accepted by the Council as respects the capacity in which if employed, he is to serve, the Council may, if it deems fit, give a direction that the person shall be temporarily registered as a Counsellor.
- (2) The temporary registration of a person shall continue while the person is in employment as is mentioned in subsection (1) (a) and shall cease at the end of the period of the employment specified to the Council under this section or the prior determination of the employment whichever occurs.
- (3) Nothing in subsection (2) shall preclude the Council from giving a further direction under subsection (1) in respect of specified period, whose commencement coincides with the termination or prior determination of another employment.
- (4) A person who is temporarily registered shall, in relation to his employment and to things done or omitted to be done in the course of that employment, be deemed to be fully registered, but in relation to all matters, he shall be treated as not so registered.
- (5) In determining whether a person's employment has been terminated, the decision of the Council shall be conclusive for the purpose of subsection (2).
- (6) The Registrar, as directed by the Council, shall remove from the Register, the name of any person ceasing to be entitled to the benefit of this section
(*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 14: Offences and penalties.

- (1) A person, not being a registered Professional Counsellor, who:
 - (a) for or in expectation of reward, practices or holds himself out to practice as such; or
 - (b) without reasonable excuse takes or uses any name, title addition or description, implying that he is authorised by law to practice as a registered Counsellor, Commits an offence under this Bill.

- (2) A person who, for the purpose 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 under this Bill.
- (3) A Registrar or any other person employed by the Council who, willfully makes any falsification in any matter relating to the register, commits an offence under this Bill.
- (4) Any person who commits an offence under subsections (1) - (3) or any section for which no punishment is provided under this Bill is liable on conviction:
 - (a) to a fine of at least ₦500,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of two years or both; and
 - (b) where the offence is a continuous one, to a further fine, of at least ₦50,000 for each day the offence continues.
- (5) Where an offence under this section is committed by a body corporate and is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of or is attributable to any neglect on the part of any director, manager, secretary or any person purporting to act in any such capacity, he, as well as the body corporate, commits an offence under this Bill (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 15: Proof of validity of certificate.

- (1) A certificate required by any written law from any class of persons for whom a Register is maintained under this Bill, shall not be valid unless the person signing it is registered in accordance with this Bill.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this section, a person not exempted, shall not hold an appointment requiring status of a Professional Counsellor under this Bill in the Public and Civil Service of the Federation, State or in the Armed Forces of the Federation or public or private limited or unlimited liability organisations, unless he is a Counsellor, registered under this Bill.
- (3) A Counsellor shall, to the extent only of his particular qualification, be entitled to practice as a registered Counsellor throughout the Federation.
- (4) A person in charge of any university in the Federation, offering courses leading to an approved qualification intended for persons who are seeking to become registered as Professional Counsellors under this Bill shall furnish the Registrar, not later than 31 March in every year, with a list of the names and or such other particulars as the Council may specify, of all persons who attended any course at the university in question at any time during the preceding year.
- (5) In this section, "public service" includes services as a registered Professional Counsellor in or with any educational institution, Commission, Corporation or State (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 16: Powers of the Minister to give directives.

- (1) The Minister may give to the Council directions of a general character relating generally to particular matters with regard to the exercise by the Council of its functions and the Council shall comply with the directions:

Provided the direction does not infringe on the ethics and codes of conduct of the Profession.

- (2) Before giving a direction under subsection (1), the Minister shall serve a copy of the proposed direction on the Council, which shall afford the Council an opportunity of making representations to him with respect to the direction, and after considering any representation made to him under this subsection, the Minister may give the direction, either without modification or with such modifications as appear to him to be appropriate having regard to the representations (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 17: Regulations.

- (1) The Council shall have power to make regulations, which in its opinion, is necessary or expedient for giving full effect to the provisions of this Bill

- (2) Any power to make regulations, rules and orders under this section shall include power to make:

(a) provision for such incidental or supplemental provision, as the person or authority making the instrument considers expedient for the purpose of the instrument; and

(b) different provisions for different circumstances (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 18: Interpretation.

In this Bill:

"Counselling" means to assist individual and corporate bodies to explore their environments, Discover their strength, weakness, talents and skills, so as to determine their needs, set personal realistic goals, and adjust suitably to achieve them in harmony with their environments (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

"approved qualification" means qualification which is approved for the time being by the Council (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

"Association" means the Counselling Association of Nigeria (CASSON) (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

"Board" means Governing Board of the Council (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

"Council" means the Counselling Practitioners Council of Nigeria established under section 1 of this Bill (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

"Counsellor" means a professionally trained Guidance and Counselling personnel, which also includes professionals from therapeutic counselling, etc. (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

"Minister" means the Minister of Education charged with the responsibility of matters relating to counselling: "Education and Allied Profession" (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

"Professional Counsellor" means any person fully registered as such under this Bill (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

"Register" means the Register maintained under this Bill and "Registered" shall be constructed accordingly; and ("Registrar" means the Registrar appointed under section 6 of this Bill) (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

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

Clause 19: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Counselling Practitioners Council of Nigeria Bill, 2020 (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

SCHEDULES

FIRST SCHEDULE

Section 3 (3)

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE BOARD

1. (1) A person shall not be appointed as a member of the Board unless he is a citizen of Nigeria and he is registered as a Professional Counsellor under this Bill.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this paragraph, a person who is a member of the Board other than by virtue of section 3 (3) (d) of this Bill shall hold office for a period not exceeding five years beginning with the date of his appointment or election as the case may be:

Provided that a person shall not hold office, whether appointed or elected, for five years unless the Minister after consultation with the Board otherwise directs.
- (3) Any member of the Board holding office other than as mentioned in subparagraph (2) may, with notice to the Board, resign his office.
- (4) Subject to this Bill, a person who has ceased to be a member of the Council may be eligible again to become a member of the Board.
- (5) When a member of the Board ceases to hold office before his term of office expires by effluxion of time, the body or person by whom he was appointed or elected shall, immediately appoint or elect a person to fill the vacancy for the residue of the term, but the provisions of this subparagraph shall not apply where a person holding office as a member of the Board ceases to hold office at a time when the residue of his term does not exceed one year.
- (6) The power of appointing a person as President of the Council shall:
 - (a) during the period beginning with the date when this Bill comes into effect, be exercisable by the Minister on the recommendations of the Association; and
 - (b) after the expiration of that period, be exercisable by the Board and where an existing member of the Board is appointed President, his office as an existing member shall become vacant and his term of office as President shall begin on the date of his appointment as President.
- (7) Notwithstanding that the term of office of a member of the Board has expired by effluxion of time, a person appointed as President, Vice President and one other member shall continue in that office until a fresh appointment is made to the office.
- (8) The quorum of the Board shall be seven and at least two of the persons elected by the Association and two of the representatives of the States of the Federation are present at the particular meeting, and the quorum of any committee of the Board shall be determined by the Council.

Power of Board

2. (1) The Board shall have power to do anything, which in its opinion is calculated to facilitate the carrying on of its activities.

- (2) The Board shall have power to borrow money, dispose off any property and pay remuneration (including pensions) allowances, or expenses to any member, officer or servant of the Board or any person.

Proceedings of the Board

3. Subject to the provision of this Bill and of section 27 of the Interpretation Act (which provides for decisions of a body to be taken by a majority of the members of the body and for the President of the Board to have a second or casting vote), the Board may make standing orders regulating the proceedings of the Council or of any of its committee.

Vice-President of the Board

4. (1) The Board shall appoint one of its members to be the Vice-President of the Board for such period as the Board may determine and the Vice-President who ceases to be a member shall cease to be a Vice-President.
- (2) At any time while the office of the President is vacant or the President is, in the opinion of the Board permanently or temporarily unable to perform the function of his office, the Vice-President shall perform those functions, and references in this schedules to the President shall be constructed accordingly.

Meetings of the Board

5. (1) Subject to the provisions of any standing orders of the Board, the Board shall meet whenever it is summoned by the President and if the President is required so to do, by notice given to him by not less than six other members, he shall summon a meeting of the Board to be held within seven days from the date of which the notice is given.
- (2) At any meeting of the Board, the President or in his absence the Vice-President shall preside, but if both are absent, the members present at the meeting shall appoint one of them to preside at that meeting.
- (3) Where the Board desires to obtain the advice of any person on a particular matter, the Board may co-opt him as a member for such period as it deems fit, but a person who is a member by virtue of this subparagraph shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Board and shall not count towards a quorum.
- (4) Notwithstanding anything in this paragraph, the first meeting of the Board shall be summoned by the Minister who may give such directions as he thinks fit as to the member who shall preside and as to the procedure which shall be followed at the meeting.

Committee

6. (1) The Board may appoint one or more Committees to carry out on its behalf such functions as the Board may determine.
- (2) A Committee appointed under this paragraph shall consist of such number of persons to be determined by the Board, and not more than one-third of those persons may be persons who are not members of the Board and a person other than a member of the Board shall hold office on the committee in accordance with the terms of the instrument by which he is appointed.

- (3) A decision of a committee of the Board shall be of no effect until it is confirmed by the Board.

Miscellaneous

7. (1) The fixing of the seal of the Council shall be authenticated by the signature of the President or of some other member authorised generally or specifically to act for that purpose by the Board.
- (2) Any contract or instrument which, if made or executed by a person not being a body corporate would not be required to be under seal, may be made or executed on behalf of the Board by any person authorized to act for that purpose by the Board.
- (3) Any document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal of the Council shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be so executed.
8. The validity of any proceeding of the Council or its Committee shall not be affected by any vacancy in the membership of the Council or its Committee, defect in the appointment of a member of the Board or its committee, or by reason that a person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings.
9. A member of the Board or any person holding office on a committee of the Board who has a personal interest in any contractual arrangement entered into or proposed to be considered by the Board or its committee, shall immediately disclose his interest to the Board and shall not vote on any question relating to the contractual arrangement (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

SECOND SCHEDULE

Section 12 (1)

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE
DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL AND INVESTIGATIVE PANEL

The Tribunal

The Quorum of the Tribunal

1. The quorum of the Tribunal shall be four of whom at least two shall be members of Council.
2. (1) The Attorney-General of the Federation may make rules with regard to the procedure to be followed by the Tribunal and the Panel and on the rules of evidence in such proceedings.
- (2) Until the rules are made, the Tribunal and the Panel shall conduct their proceedings in such manner as to provide:
- (a) that notice of the proceedings is given in good time and shall clearly specify the complaint, to the person who is the subject of the proceedings;
- (b) for determining who, in addition to the person under subparagraph (a), shall be a party to the proceedings;

- (c) that any party to the proceedings shall, if so required, be entitled to be heard by the Tribunal;
 - (d) that any party to the proceedings may be represented by a legal practitioner;
 - (e) subject to the provisions of section 12 (5) of this Bill, as to the costs of proceedings before the Tribunal;
 - (f) for requiring, in a case where it is alleged that the person who is the subject of the proceedings is guilty of infamous conduct in any professional respect, that where the Tribunal adjudges that the allegation has not been proved, it shall record a finding that the person is not guilty of such conduct in respect of the matters to which the allegation relates; and
 - (g) for publishing in the Federal Government Gazette, notice of any direction of the Tribunal, which has taken effect, providing that a person's name shall be struck off a register.
3. For the purposes of any proceedings before the Tribunal, any member of the Tribunal may administer oath and any party to the proceedings may issue out of the Registry of the High Court, writs of subpoena ad testificandum and ducestecum but no person appearing before the Tribunal shall be compelled to:
- (a) make any statement before the Tribunal tending to incriminate himself; or
 - (b) produce any document under such a writ, which he can could not be compelled to produce at the trial.
4. (1) For the purpose of advising the Tribunal on questions of law arising in proceedings before it, there may in all proceedings be an assessor to the Tribunal (who may be the legal adviser to the Council or may be appointed by the Board) and who shall be a legal practitioner of not less than ten years standing.
- (2) The Attorney-General of the Federation may make rules as to the functions of assessors appointed under this paragraph and in particular, such rules shall contain provisions for securing:
- (a) that where an assessor advises the Tribunal on any question of law as to evidence, procedure or any other matter specified by the rules, he shall do so in the presence of every party or person representing a party to the proceeding who appear thereat or, if the advice is tendered while the Tribunal is deliberating in private, that every such party or person shall be informed, what advice the assessor has tendered; and
 - (b) that every party or person shall be informed, if in any case, the Tribunal does not accept the advice of the assessor on such a question.
- (3) An assessor may be appointed under this paragraph, either generally or for any particular proceeding or class of proceedings, and shall hold and vacate office in accordance with the terms of his appointed.

The Investigative Panel

5. The quorum of the Panel shall be three.

6. (1) The Panel may, at any of its meeting attended by all the members of the Panel, make standing orders with respect to its proceedings.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of any standing orders, the Panel may regulate its own procedure.

Miscellaneous

7. A person may, if eligible, be a member of both the Tribunal and the Panel but no person who acted as a member of the Panel with respect to any case shall act as a member of the Tribunal with respect to that case.
8. The Tribunal or the Panel may act notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership, and the proceedings of either body shall not be invalidated by any irregularity in the appointment of a member of that body or subject to paragraph 7 of this Schedule, by reason of the fact that any person who was not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings of that body.
9. Any document authorised or required by virtue of this Bill to be served on the Tribunal or the Panel shall be served on the Secretary to the Council.
10. All expenses of the Disciplinary Tribunal or the Investigative Panel shall be defrayed by the Council.
11. A person shall not, by reason only of his appointment as an assessor to the Tribunal or as a member of the Panel, be treated as holding an office in the public service of the Federation or of any State (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to establish the Counselling Practitioners Council of Nigeria charged with responsibility of advancing the study, training and practice of counselling profession (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Counselling Practitioners Council of Nigeria Charged with Responsibility of Advancing the Study, Training and Practice of Counselling Profession and for Related Matters (HB. 409) (*Hon. Muhammad Wudil — Wudil/Garko 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 the Counselling Practitioners Council of Nigeria charged with Responsibility of Advancing the Study, Training and Practice of Counselling Profession; and for Related Matters (HB. 409) and approved Clauses 1 - 6, approved Clause 7 as amended, approved Clauses 8 - 19, the Schedules, 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.

23. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 19 March, 2020 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 3.57 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabamila
Speaker

CORRIGENDUM

In the *Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 5 December, 2019, item 12, page 951 — on the Referral for a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Blood Service Commission to Coordinate, Regulate and ensure the Provision of Quality Blood and Blood Products; and for Related Matters (HB.181), *leave out* the words “Committee on Healthcare Services”, and *insert* the words “Committee on Health Institutions”.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabamila
Speaker