



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA FIRST VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 12 May, 2020

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1. The House met at 11.13 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. **The House recited the National Pledge**
3. **Votes and Proceedings**  
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 5 May, 2020.  
  
*The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.*
4. **Announcement**
  - (a) **International Nurses Day:**  
Mr Speaker informed the House that 12 May, 2020, has been set aside as the International Nurses Day. He called on Members to celebrate and show support to all Nurses working in the front-lines in the fight against COVID-19 in Nigeria.  
  
*A Standing Ovation was offered to all Nurses in Nigeria.*
  - (b) **Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Allegation of Bribery against the House of Representatives:**  
Mr Speaker directed that Hon. Kuye Ademorin Aliu be added as a member of the Committee.
5. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**
  - (i) **Flood and Rainstorm Disaster in Poyali and Kwalakwani Villages in Billiri Local Government Area of Gombe State:**  
Hon. Victor Mela (*Balanga/Billiri 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.*

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

**Flood and Rainstorm Disaster in Poyali and Kwalakwani Villages in Billiri Local Government Area of Gombe State:**

The House:

*Notes* that on 24 April, 2020, residents of Poyali and Kwalakwani villages in Billiri Local Government Area of Gombe State experienced a devastating rainstorm that destroyed houses, schools, clinics, and livestock; and the resultant mudslide also destroyed farm lands in the process, rendering many people homeless and extremely vulnerable;

*Aware* that other villages were affected but the areas more adversely affected were Poyali and Kwalakwani where about 40 houses were damaged and some others completely wiped out, leading to losses worth more than 50 million Naira;

*Also aware* that the rainstorm destroyed social amenities, thereby making it difficult for people to access health services and children to attend schools when they resume;

*Concerned* that if an urgent action is not taken to arrest the situation, the economic and social security of the people will continue to be adversely affected, a situation that could cause outbreak of diseases, including exposing the residents to the COVID-19 pandemic;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently provide building materials, household supplies, food, and other relief materials for the victims;
- (ii) also urge the North-East Development Commission (NEDC) to provide relief materials and support in re-construction and resettlement of those villages; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, and North-East Development Commission (NEDC) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Victor Mela Danzaria — Balanga/Billiri Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**(HR. 138/05/2020).**

*Motion referred to the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, and North-East Development Commission (NEDC), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).*

**(ii) *Need to Support the Use of Alternative Medicine for the Treatment of COVID-19 Cases in Nigeria:***

Hon. Prestige Ossy (*Aba North/Aba South 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 Support the Use of Alternative Medicine for the Treatment of COVID-19 Cases in Nigeria:**

The House:

*Notes* the out-break of coronavirus disease otherwise known as COVID-19 pandemic with more than four million confirmed cases of infection around the world and a global death toll of over two hundred and seventy-seven thousand and still counting;

*Also notes* that Nigeria has over 4,641 confirmed cases and over 150 deaths and that the virus is spreading to virtually all States of the Federation at an alarming rate;

*Aware* that the World Health Organization (WHO) has not approved any vaccine for the treatment of the virus ravaging the world but has however launched an international clinical trial known as "Solidarity" to help find an effective cure for the disease;

*Also aware* that the WHO has cautioned against the use of any drug or treatment that has not undergone clinical trials or administering those unproven treatments to patients with COVID-19;

*Observes* that some countries have jettisoned this caution by the WHO and gone ahead to develop indigenous treatments to combat the ravaging effects of the virus on their citizens;

*Informed* that Israeli Institute for Biological Research has successfully developed a series of antibodies to combat Coronavirus and the Israeli President is considering building a vaccine production plant for the production of vaccines to treat COVID-19 patients;

*Also informed* that Madagascar, an African country took its destiny in its hands and to the consternation of the WHO and the Centre for Disease Control, developed a herbal drink for the treatment of COVID-19 patients from a medicinal plant, Artemisia Annu, which its Herbal Research Institutes have been studying for over 30 years, the country, so far, has not recorded any death from COVID-19 cases;

*Cognizant* that in recognition of this feat by Madagascar, the WHO issued a statement in support of considering Madagascar's herbal drink as a potential treatment for COVID-19 and the President of the country has stated that the factory for the mass production of the herbal drink will be operational in one month;

*Also cognizant* that the Madagascar herbal drink has received recognition and boost from Presidents of other African countries such as Tanzania, Equatorial Guinea, Uganda, Egypt, Senegal, Guinea Bissau and Comoros who have ordered the herbal drink for the treatment of COVID-19 cases in their countries;

*Worried* that various claims of breakthroughs in the development of vaccine for cure of COVID-19 by the nation's scientists and alternative medical practitioners have received virtually no attention from the Federal Government, the Ministry of Health, the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 or the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control;

*Also worried* that the Federal Government and its agencies have instead volunteered for the WHO "Solidarity" programme where, sadly, citizens will be used as "lab rats" for the WHO's untested and unproven vaccines and treatments that are not indigenous to the people;

*Further aware* that Professor Humphrey Nwosu, the Chief Executive Officer of Bioresources Institute of Nigeria, had stated that his team of researchers had found a cure for coronavirus and this information has been conveyed to the Ministers of Health, and Science and Technology, but till date, no action has been taken by the Government to verify the authenticity of the claim;

*Equally aware* that the Traditional Complimentary and Alternative Medicine Department of the Ministry of Health has written to the Director-General of the National Agency for Food, Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) informing her that the Department, through its research, had formulated a possible cure for the management of COVID-19 ailments;

*Again aware* that the Anambra State Traditional Medicine Board headed by Reverend Father Raymond Arazu, a Catholic Priest and foremost traditional medical practitioner, had announced that the Board has developed a cure for COVID-19;

*Further informed* that a Nigerian Pharmaceutical Company headed by Dr Paul Olisah Ojeih had stated that the COVID-19 pandemic has become a money making venture for certain privileged Nigerians, claiming that his company, Iris Medical Foundation Drugs and Pharmaceutical, has developed a drug that can cure COVID-19 in 72 hours;

*Equally informed* that the medical practitioner has challenged the Government to provide him 10 infected patients and allow him to place them on his drug known as Venedi Elixir which has been used in the past 18 years in the treatment of viral infections that are drug resistant, affirming that he is even willing to infect himself first with the virus and cure himself under 72 hours, using the drug;

*Further cognizant* that Nigeria is blessed with medicinal plants which can be exploited for the management of COVID-19 disease and some of them already have documented scientific evidence of long use for the management of respiratory infections with medicinal properties of anti inflammatory and antiviral effects;

*Concerned* that instead of the Federal Government looking inwards and encouraging our scientists and alternative herbal practitioners like other countries are doing, it is rather waiting for the WHO for a cure and expressing willingness to subject its people to be used as experimental guinea pigs for vaccines which are still in their developmental stages;

*Believes* that there is need to encourage local scientists and alternative medical practitioners as some of their claims sound convincing enough to hazard a trial of the drugs developed by them, after all it is still the same trial treatments that the WHO is currently engaged in and they have come out to support the breakthrough from Madagascar;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Government to encourage the use of locally developed remedies for the management and treatment of COVID-19 ailments in Nigeria in order to ascertain their efficacy; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to interface with relevant government agencies to ensure that locally developed remedies for the treatment of COVID-19 are included in the clinical trials by the WHO under its “Solidarity” initiative (*Hon. Prestige Ossy — Aba North/Aba South Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* the out-break of coronavirus disease otherwise known as COVID-19 pandemic with more than four million confirmed cases of infection around the world and a global death toll of over two hundred and seventy-seven thousand and still counting;

*Also noted* that Nigeria has over 4,641 confirmed cases and over 150 deaths and that the virus is spreading to virtually all States of the Federation at an alarming rate;

*Aware* that the World Health Organization (WHO) has not approved any vaccine for the treatment of the virus ravaging the world but has however launched an international clinical trial known as "Solidarity" to help find an effective cure for the disease;

*Also aware* that the WHO has cautioned against the use of any drug or treatment that has not undergone clinical trials or administering those unproven treatments to patients with COVID-19;

*Observed* that some countries have jettisoned this caution by the WHO and gone ahead to develop indigenous treatments to combat the ravaging effects of the virus on their citizens;

*Informed* that Israeli Institute for Biological Research has successfully developed a series of antibodies to combat Coronavirus and the Israeli President is considering building a vaccine production plant for the production of vaccines to treat COVID-19 patients;

*Also informed* that Madagascar, an African country took its destiny in its hands and to the consternation of the WHO and the Centre for Disease Control, developed a herbal drink for the treatment of COVID-19 patients from a medicinal plant, Artemisia Annu, which its Herbal Research Institutes have been studying for over 30 years, the country, so far, has not recorded any death from COVID-19 cases;

*Cognizant* that in recognition of this feat by Madagascar, the WHO issued a statement in support of considering Madagascar's herbal drink as a potential treatment for COVID-19 and the President of the country has stated that the factory for the mass production of the herbal drink will be operational in one month;

*Also cognizant* that the Madagascar herbal drink has received recognition and boost from Presidents of other African countries such as Tanzania, Equatorial Guinea, Uganda, Egypt, Senegal, Guinea Bissau and Comoros who have ordered the herbal drink for the treatment of COVID-19 cases in their countries;

*Worried* that various claims of breakthroughs in the development of vaccine for cure of COVID-19 by the nation's scientists and alternative medical practitioners have received virtually no attention from the Federal Government, the Ministry of Health, the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 or the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control;

*Also worried* that the Federal Government and its agencies have instead volunteered for the WHO "Solidarity" programme where, sadly, citizens will be used as "lab rats" for the WHO's untested and unproven vaccines and treatments that are not indigenous to the people;

*Further aware* that Professor Humphrey Nwosu, the Chief Executive Officer of Bioresources Institute of Nigeria, had stated that his team of researchers had found a cure for coronavirus and this information has been conveyed to the Ministers of Health, and Science and Technology, but till date, no action has been taken by the Government to verify the authenticity of the claim;

*Equally aware* that the Traditional Complimentary and Alternative Medicine Department of the Ministry of Health has written to the Director-General of the National Agency for Food, Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) informing her that the Department, through its research, had formulated a possible cure for the management of COVID-19 ailments;

*Again aware* that the Anambra State Traditional Medicine Board headed by Reverend Father Raymond Arazu, a Catholic Priest and foremost traditional medical practitioner, had announced that the Board has developed a cure for COVID-19;

*Further informed* that a Nigerian Pharmaceutical Company headed by Dr Paul Olisah Ojeih had stated that the COVID-19 pandemic has become a money making venture for certain privileged Nigerians, claiming that his company, Iris Medical Foundation Drugs and Pharmaceutical, has developed a drug that can cure COVID-19 in 72 hours;

*Equally informed* that the medical practitioner has challenged the Government to provide him 10 infected patients and allow him to place them on his drug known as Venedi Elixir which has been used in the past 18 years in the treatment of viral infections that are drug resistant, affirming that he is even willing to infect himself first with the virus and cure himself under 72 hours, using the drug;

*Further cognizant* that Nigeria is blessed with medicinal plants which can be exploited for the management of COVID-19 disease and some of them already have documented scientific evidence of long use for the management of respiratory infections with medicinal properties of anti inflammatory and antiviral effects;

*Concerned* that instead of the Federal Government looking inwards and encouraging our scientists and alternative herbal practitioners like other countries are doing, it is rather waiting for the WHO for a cure and expressing willingness to subject its people to be used as experimental guinea pigs for vaccines which are still in their developmental stages;

*Believed* that there is need to encourage local scientists and alternative medical practitioners as some of their claims sound convincing enough to hazard a trial of the drugs developed by them, after all it is still the same trial treatments that the WHO is currently engaged in and they have come out to support the breakthrough from Madagascar;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Government to encourage the use of locally developed remedies for the management and treatment of COVID-19 ailments in Nigeria in order to ascertain their efficacy; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to interface with relevant government agencies to ensure that locally developed remedies for the treatment of COVID-19 are included in the clinical trials by the WHO under its “Solidarity” initiative (**HR. 139/05/2020**).

***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. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

***Agreed to.***

(iii) ***Need to Investigate and Review the Activities of the Nigerian Power Sector:***

Hon. Ifeanyi Chudy Momah (*Ihiala 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 and Review the Activities of the Nigerian Power Sector:**

The House:

*Notes* that before 1998, the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) was almost exclusively responsible for electricity generation, transmission, and distribution in Nigeria, and that the Federal Government birthed the Electricity (Amendment) Decree 1998, and the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) (Amendment) Act 1998, which terminated the monopoly status of NEPA and invited private sector participation in the electricity sector, led to the National Electric Power Policy of 2001 and kick started the power sector and several other reforms in Nigeria;

*Also notes* that this reform process led to the National Assembly passing into law, the Electric Power Sector Reform (EPSR) Act, 2005:

*to provide for the formation of companies to take over the functions, assets, liabilities and staff of the National Electric Power Authority, to develop competitive electricity markets, to establish the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission; to provide for the licensing and regulation of the generation, transmission, distribution and supply of electricity; to enforce such matters as performance standards, consumer rights and obligations; to provide for the determination of tariffs; and to provide for matters connected with or incidental to the foregoing;*

and saw the change of name from National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) to Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), a development which removed the monopoly of electricity generation, transmission, distribution, and sales from the former NEPA;

*Concerned* that despite government regulatory framework, huge expenditure and private sector participation/investment to meet the long term reform objectives, to "deliver quality, reliable, and efficient electricity to consumers at reasonable prices", constant supply of adequate electricity is still a challenge in Nigeria; indicating a failure to achieve the gains of the power sector reform and therefore necessitating a review;

*Also concerned* that in the light of unstable gas and power supply, and due to critical requirement of power as a major catalyst for the industrialization of Nigeria, job creation, fiscal revenue generation and economic diversification, there is a need to identify the root causes of the continued moribund nature of the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI) and recommend a road map for the revitalization of the sector;

*Resolves to:*

Mandate the Committees on Power, and Privatization and Commercialisation to:

- (a) review the extant laws, regulations, policies, and contractual arrangement guiding the Power Sector Reform;
- (b) investigate and review the activities of the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry and report back within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Ifeanyi Chudy Momah — Ihiala Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

***Agreed to.***

The House:

*Noted* that before 1998, the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) was almost exclusively responsible for electricity generation, transmission, and distribution in Nigeria, and that the Federal Government birthed the Electricity (Amendment) Decree 1998, and the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) (Amendment) Act 1998, which terminated the monopoly status of NEPA and invited private sector participation in the electricity sector, led to the National Electric Power Policy of 2001 and kick started the power sector and several other reforms in Nigeria;

*Also noted* that this reform process led to the National Assembly passing into law, the Electric Power Sector Reform (EPSR) Act, 2005:

*to provide for the formation of companies to take over the functions, assets, liabilities and staff of the National Electric Power Authority, to develop competitive electricity markets, to establish the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission; to provide for the licensing and regulation of the generation, transmission, distribution and supply of electricity; to enforce such matters as performance standards, consumer rights and obligations; to provide for the determination of tariffs; and to provide for matters connected with or incidental to the foregoing;*

and saw the change of name from National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) to Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), a development which removed the monopoly of electricity generation, transmission, distribution, and sales from the former NEPA;

*Concerned* that despite government regulatory framework, huge expenditure and private sector participation/investment to meet the long term reform objectives, to "deliver quality, reliable, and efficient electricity to consumers at reasonable prices", constant supply of adequate electricity is still a challenge in Nigeria; indicating a failure to achieve the gains of the power sector reform and therefore necessitating a review;

*Also concerned* that in the light of unstable gas and power supply, and due to critical requirement of power as a major catalyst for the industrialization of Nigeria, job creation, fiscal revenue generation and economic diversification, there is a need to identify the root causes of the continued moribund nature of the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI) and recommend a road map for the revitalization of the sector;



*Resolved to:*

Mandate the Committees on Power, and Privatization and Commercialisation to:

- (a) review the extant laws, regulations, policies, and contractual arrangement guiding the Power Sector Reform;
- (b) investigate and review the activities of the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry and report back within four (4) weeks (**HR. 140/05/2020**).

**(iv) *Evacuation of Almajirai Children Amidst the Corona Virus Pandemic:***

Hon. Aishatu Jiril Dukku (*Dukku/Nafada 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.*

**Evacuation of Almajirai Children Amidst the Coronavirus Pandemic:**

The House:

*Recalls* that the Northern States Governors, under the aegis of Northern Governors Forum had, on Tuesday, 21 April, 2020, issued a statement banning the Almajiri system of education and decided to evacuate the children back to their parents or to their States of origin;

*Also recalls* that the decisions were hinged on the risks that the children are exposed to due to the Corona Virus Pandemic;

*Notes* that about 10 million children attend the Almajirai Schools in Northern Nigeria with over 500,000 Almajirai children living in Kano State alone, where majority of the children are being evacuated from;

*Worried* that the evacuation of the Almajirai children is jeopardizing the fight against COVID-19 due to the high level of movement of the children from different places and its attendant high risk of further spread of the infection;

*Concerned* that the evacuation of the children is also against their fundamental rights to reside anywhere in Nigeria as guaranteed in Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999;

*Also concerned* that the evacuation of the children is in violation of the ban on inter-State travel currently being enforced by the government;

*Also worried* that the nature and manner in which the children are being transported is dehumanizing and is bringing them pains and untold hardships;

*Disturbed* that in some cases, the children, after travelling for so many hours under harsh weather, were rejected and turned back by officials of their States of origin or at best, were kept in isolation under dehumanizing and demeaning conditions;

*Believes* that such actions are capable of putting Nigeria on the spotlight of human rights violations and at the same time, jeopardizing the fight against COVID-19;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 to enforce the ban on inter-State travel and call on the Governors of the States concerned to immediately halt the evacuation of Almajirai children;
- (ii) also urge the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to counsel the Governors concerned on the threat posed by the evacuation of the children at this critical period;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management to include the Almajirai children among the beneficiaries of palliatives being distributed by the Federal Government to the less privileged;
- (iv) equally urge the Federal Ministry of Health to examine the Health conditions of the Almajirai Children; and
- (v) again urge the Northern Governors Forum to rescind its decision to ban the Almajirai System of Education until those already in the system are provided for in the Universal Basic and Technical Education System (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency and 1 Other*).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

*Leave out* Prayer (v) and *insert* as follows:

“Urge the Northern Governors Forum to provide the almajirais the requisite tools for Universal Basic Education and Technical Education” (*Hon. Toby Okechukwu — Aninri/Awgu/Orji-River Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.*

*Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.*

The House:

*Recalls* that the Northern States Governors, under the aegis of Northern Governors Forum had, on Tuesday, 21 April, 2020, issued a statement banning the Almajiri system of education and decided to evacuate the children back to their parents or to their States of origin;

*Also recalls* that the decisions were hinged on the risks that the children are exposed to due to the Corona Virus Pandemic;

*Notes* that about 10 million children attend the Almajirai Schools in Northern Nigeria with over 500,000 Almajirai children living in Kano State alone, where majority of the children are being evacuated from;

*Worried* that the evacuation of the Almajirai children is jeopardizing the fight against COVID-19 due to the high level of movement of the children from different places and its attendant high risk of further spread of the infection;

*Concerned* that the evacuation of the children is also against their fundamental rights to reside anywhere in Nigeria as guaranteed in Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999;

*Also concerned* that the evacuation of the children is in violation of the ban on inter-State travel currently being enforced by the government;

*Also worried* that the nature and manner in which the children are being transported is dehumanizing and is bringing them pains and untold hardships;

*Disturbed* that in some cases, the children, after travelling for so many hours under harsh weather, were rejected and turned back by officials of their States of origin or at best, were kept in isolation under dehumanizing and demeaning conditions;

*Believes* that such actions are capable of putting Nigeria on the spotlight of human rights violations and at the same time, jeopardizing the fight against COVID-19;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 to enforce the ban on inter-State travel and call on the Governors of the States concerned to immediately halt the evacuation of Almajirai children;
  - (ii) also urge the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to counsel the Governors concerned on the threat posed by the evacuation of the children at this critical period;
  - (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management to include the Almajirai children among the beneficiaries of palliatives being distributed by the Federal Government to the less privileged;
  - (iv) equally urge the Federal Ministry of Health to examine the Health conditions of the Almajirai Children; and
  - (v) urge the Northern Governors Forum to provide the almajirais the requisite tools for Universal Basic Education and Technical Education (**HR. 141/05/2020**).
- (v) ***Need to Look into the Release of Mrs Susan Idoko-Okpe, who was Quarantined by the Government Following Misinformation and Diagnoses:***  
Hon. Onuh Onyeche Blessing (*Ohimini/Otukpo 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 Look into the Release of Mrs Susan Idoko-Okpe, who was Quarantined by the Government Following Misinformation and Diagnoses:**

The House:

*Informed* that one Mrs Susan Idoko-Okpe, a 56 year old woman and an indigene of Benue State with a dual citizenship based in the United Kingdom flew into the country for her mother's funeral on 22 March, 2020, and got quarantined by the Government for the COVID-19 virus;

*Aware* that Mrs Susan Idoko-Okpe, had a long flight from the United Kingdom and must have suffered jet-lag, a common occurrence, which necessitated her presentation to the Cottage hospital where she was primarily managed;

*Disturbed* that the details of Mrs Susan Idoko-Okpe are inconsistent with those of a certain lady who was purportedly referred from Benue State Teaching Hospital, Makurdi to Gwagwalada Specialist Hospital, Abuja, and the personal information in the laboratory result from the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) did not also tally with her personal details;

*Cognizant* that although COVID -19 is real, it is neither a death sentence nor a yardstick for discrimination and human rights infringement or violation and her case should not be different;

*Concerned* that the bereaved Mrs Susan Idoko-Okpe is beginning to deteriorate psychologically and already having suicidal thoughts worsened by the fact that the test result given to her was questionable after she had spent about fifty days in isolation;

Urge the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) through the Federal Ministry of Health to:

- (i) critically evaluate Mrs Susan Idoko-Okpe for COVID-19 and if proven otherwise, should be discharged;
- (ii) carry out quality contact tracing and encourage persons who are symptomatic to go for proper clinical evaluation and management with prompt release when they return to their premorbid state; and
- (iii) discourage stigmatization, inhumane treatment, and violation of human rights (*Hon. Blessing Onyeche Onuh — Ohimini/Otukpo Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Informed* that one Mrs Susan Idoko-Okpe, a 56 year old woman and an indigene of Benue State with a dual citizenship based in the United Kingdom flew into the country for her mother's funeral on 22 March, 2020, and got quarantined by the Government for the COVID-19 virus;

*Aware* that Mrs Susan Idoko-Okpe, had a long flight from the United Kingdom and must have suffered jet-lag, a common occurrence, which necessitated her presentation to the Cottage hospital where she was primarily managed;

*Disturbed* that the details of Mrs Susan Idoko-Okpe are inconsistent with those of a certain lady who was purportedly referred from Benue State Teaching Hospital, Makurdi to Gwagwalada Specialist Hospital, Abuja, and the personal information in the laboratory result from the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) did not also tally with her personal details;

*Cognizant* that although COVID -19 is real, it is neither a death sentence nor a yardstick for discrimination and human rights infringement or violation and her case should not be different;

*Concerned* that the bereaved Mrs Susan Idoko-Okpe is beginning to deteriorate psychologically and already having suicidal thoughts worsened by the fact that the test result given to her was questionable after she had spent about fifty days in isolation;

*Resolved to:*

Urge the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) through the Federal Ministry of Health to:

- (i) critically evaluate Mrs Susan Idoko-Okpe for COVID-19 and if proven otherwise, should be discharged;
  - (ii) carry out quality contact tracing and encourage persons who are symptomatic to go for proper clinical evaluation and management with prompt release when they return to their premorbid state; and
  - (iii) discourage stigmatization, inhumane treatment, and violation of human rights (**HR. 142/05/2020**).
- (vi) ***Need for Special Intervention to Curtail the Impact of Coronavirus COVID-19 on IDPs Health and Livelihoods:***  
Hon. Muhammad Umar Jega (*Aliero/Gwandu/Jega 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 Special Intervention to Curtail the Impact of COVID-19 on IDPs Health and Livelihoods:**

The House:

*Notes* that there are about 2.5 million internally displaced persons living in over 290 crowded camps and host communities in Nigeria;

*Informed* that the displacement in the country are caused by the Boko Haram insurgency in the North East, the conflict between herders and farmers, the activities of the Armed bandits and cattle rustlers, communal clashes, and natural disasters such as flooding and fire outbreak;

*Also informed* that the IDPs live in densely populated camps, resulting in overcrowding and making social distancing impossible, and also making the containment of the pandemic difficult;

*Aware* that the IDPs are the most vulnerable and most of them are with strained and fragile Health conditions;

*Worried* that the because of the current situation with regards to COVID-19, there is an apparent need for urgent Federal Government special intervention in the provision of food, and essential items such as medicine, Face masks, hand sanitisers, Soap, and buckets;

*Concerned* that sensitization programme across the camps in the country to educate the IDPs on basic hygiene has become necessary;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Government to urgently intervene and make special grant of five Billion Naira to National Commission for refugees, Migrants and internally Displaced person to curtail the impact of COVID-19 pandemic in the Nation IDPs camp; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on IDPs to monitor compliance (*Hon. Muhammad Umar Jega — Aliero/Gwandu/Jega Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House

*Noted* that there are about 2.5 million internally displaced persons living in over 290 crowded camps and host communities in Nigeria;

*Informed* that the displacement in the country are caused by the Boko Haram insurgency in the North East, the conflict between herders and farmers, the activities of the Armed bandits and cattle rustlers, communal clashes, and natural disasters such as flooding and fire outbreak;

*Also informed* that the IDPs live in densely populated camps, resulting in overcrowding and making social distancing impossible, and also making the containment of the pandemic difficult;

*Aware* that the IDPs are the most vulnerable and most of them are with strained and fragile Health conditions;

*Worried* that the because of the current situation with regards to COVID-19, there is an apparent need for urgent Federal Government special intervention in the provision of food, and essential items such as medicine, Face masks, hand sanitisers, Soap, and buckets;

*Concerned* that sensitization programme across the camps in the country to educate the IDPs on basic hygiene has become necessary;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Government to urgently intervene and make special grant of five Billion Naira to National Commission for refugees, Migrants and internally Displaced person to curtail the impact of COVID-19 pandemic in the Nation IDPs camp; and
  - (ii) mandate the Committee on IDPs to monitor compliance (**HR. 143/05/2020**).
- (vii) ***Need to Review and Renegotiate Existing China/Nigeria Loan Agreements:***  
Hon. Ben Rollands Igbakpa (*Ethiopia East/Ethiopia West Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
  - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

**Need to Review and Renegotiate Existing China/Nigeria Loan Agreements:**

The House:

*Notes* the widespread global concern about the fraudulent, irregular and underhand characteristics of Chinese loan agreements with African countries which has resulted into a new form of economic colonialism foisted by China, hence the urgent need to subject all subsisting Nigeria/China contractual loan agreements to forensic fiscal scrutiny and review;

*Also notes* that records from the Debt Management Office (DMO) show that the People's Republic of China emerged as Nigeria's major creditor under the bilateral deals, with \$2.3 billion, out of \$3.3 billion, and also that the EXIM Bank of China is Nigeria's biggest bilateral creditor for nearly 2 decades now, having lent Africa's largest economy \$6.5 billion (or ₦1.9 trillion) since 2002;

*Informed* that based on replies on requests to the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Debt Management Office (DMO) under the Freedom of Information Act, which were published in the Guardian Sunday Magazine of 3 November, 2019, Nigeria has obtained 17 Chinese loans to fund projects across various sectors since 2002, including the Transportation and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sectors, which have six projects each, while energy, agriculture and water sectors, respectively, have three and two projects tied to Chinese loans;

*Further notes* report in the Daily Post of 5 September, 2018, showing that the first Chinese loan to Nigeria was agreed on 27 March, 2002 as follows: \$114.89 million each for constructing two 335 MW gas power plants, namely Omotosho and Papalanto (Olorunshoga) in Ondo and Ogun States, respectively and both plants were completed in 2007 and the loan which was obtained at six per cent interest rate, covered 65 per cent of the costs of the project, while Nigeria, then funded the 35 per cent balance;

*Also informed* that four months after, two other loans totalling \$159.83 million for rural telephony were offered at a 3.5 per cent interest rate, then from 2006 to September 2018, the country obtained 13 more loans, at between 2.50 per cent and 3 per cent interest rates and

the last loan obtained was \$328 million which was used for the National ICT Infrastructure Backbone II Project and Nigeria would still be servicing the loans till around 2038, which is the maturity date for the last loans obtained in 2018;

*Further informed* that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as reported in the Guardian of 3 November, 2019, had raised an alarm that most of the Chinese deals are not Paris Club compliant, and for which the World Bank has blacklisted six Chinese companies currently operating in Nigeria over alleged fraudulent corrupt practices, including deceptive tactics, illicit trade, extortion, Greek gifts and neo-colonial proclivities;

*Again informed* that the companies, according to an announcement published on the World Bank's website, are CCECC Nigeria Railway Company Limited, CRCC Petroleum and Gas Company Limited, CCECC Nigeria Company Limited, China Railway Construction (International) Nigeria Company Limited, China Railway 18th Bureau Nigeria Engineering Company Limited and CCECC Nigeria Lekki (FTA) Company Limited;

*Concerned* that one of the blacklisted companies, China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC), is the major vehicle through which Chinese projects in Nigeria are financed, which was corroborated by Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi, who stated that since China was financing the projects through the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC), the contractors had 100 per cent execution right on them, meaning that materials and skills are imported from China, thus undermining local industries and jobs;

*Cognizant* that some of the latest loans tied to the said CCECC, as reported in the Guardian Newspaper of 3 March, 2020 are as follows: On railway alone, this administration has recently signed loans mainly categorised under Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)'s government to government agreements of approximately \$17 billion with China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation, a subsidiary of the State-owned China Railway Construction Corporation;

*Also cognizant* that the Federal Government, in 2016, signed a \$5.1 billion Kano-Kaduna and Port Harcourt-Calabar rail contracts; in 2018, the country signed a \$6.7 billion for Ibadan-Kano rail project in 2019, it signed a deal worth \$1.488 billion for Lagos - Ibadan rail project and again in 2019, signed another loan for construction of \$3.9 billion Abuja - Warri rail project;

*Worried* about widespread allegations of heavily inflated Chinese contracts and fears being expressed by stakeholders that most of the projects allegedly did not follow extant regulations, particularly the Public Procurement Act, which enforces tendering or competitive biddings;

*Further cognizant* that industry watchers have also raised fears over why the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP), the National Assembly and the Debt Management Office were bypassed in the approval and execution of those loan regimes, knowing full well that 70 per cent of the corruption in the country is being fuelled by contracts;

*Again cognizant* that Nigeria is the most vulnerable in the bilateral loan pacts with China because it is susceptible to currency volatility risks, which most often are transferred to the country with a weaker economy, hence the need for the nation to heed the warning of the IMF Director of Monetary and Capital Markets Department, Tobias Andrian, who said in the Guardian Magazine of Sunday, 3 November, 2019, that because those Chinese loans do not conform to the Paris Club standards, if there is any debt restructuring down the road one day, that can be very unfavourable to those debtor countries;



*Also concerned* that according to Business Day Newspaper of 14 May, 2019, countries like Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Djibouti, Zambia, Namibia, Kenya and Angola, among others, are at the verge of forfeiting their infrastructure to China over unpaid debts, and industry watchers such as Obadiah Mailafiya, a former Deputy Governor of Nigeria's Central Bank, who played a key role in Nigeria's debt relief negotiations with the Paris Club of public creditors in 2005, and Dr Oby Ezekwesili, who also participated in Nigeria's debt forgiveness drive during her time as Director at the World Bank have warned that the assistance from China will come with a price of economic takeover if Nigeria is unable to repay her loan as Chinese attitude to indebtedness is the hardest in the world given that they don't offer debt relief or cancellation;

*Also worried* by the startling revelation in an online article by Mma Ama Ekeruche in Stears Business: Economy of 26 October, 2018, that Chinese companies generate their highest revenue from Nigeria as between 2000 and 2016, those companies earned \$34.2 billion from implementing projects in Nigeria, some of which were tied to loan agreements and on employment, about 64,500 Chinese workers were employed locally, making the countries to forgo alternative streams of income and jobs;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) set up an Ad-hoc Committee to examine all extant China/Nigeria loan agreements since 2000 with a view to ascertaining their viability, regularising and renegotiating them; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Treaties, Protocols and Agreements, Finance, and Aids, Loans and Debt Management to liaise with the Ministry of Finance, and the Debt Management Office to seek for the review or outright cancellation of the latest China loans to Nigeria, on the principle of force majeure in the light of the COVID-19 (*Hon. Ben Rollands Igbakpa — Ethiope East/Ethiope West Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* the widespread global concern about the fraudulent, irregular and underhand characteristics of Chinese loan agreements with African countries which has resulted into a new form of economic colonialism foisted by China, hence the urgent need to subject all subsisting Nigeria/China contractual loan agreements to forensic fiscal scrutiny and review;

*Also noted* that records from the Debt Management Office (DMO) show that the People's Republic of China emerged as Nigeria's major creditor under the bilateral deals, with \$2.3 billion, out of \$3.3 billion, and also that the EXIM Bank of China is Nigeria's biggest bilateral creditor for nearly 2 decades now, having lent Africa's largest economy \$6.5 billion (or ₦1.9 trillion) since 2002;

*Informed* that based on replies on requests to the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Debt Management Office (DMO) under the Freedom of Information Act, which were published in the Guardian Sunday Magazine of 3 November, 2019, Nigeria has obtained 17 Chinese loans to fund projects across various sectors since 2002, including the Transportation and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sectors, which have six projects each, while energy, agriculture and water sectors, respectively, have three and two projects tied to Chinese loans;

*Further noted* report in the Daily Post of 5 September, 2018, showing that the first Chinese loan to Nigeria was agreed on 27 March, 2002 as follows: \$114.89 million each for constructing two 335 MW gas power plants, namely Omotosho and Papalanto (Olorunshoga) in Ondo and Ogun States, respectively and both plants were completed in 2007 and the loan which was obtained at six per cent interest rate, covered 65 per cent of the costs of the project, while Nigeria, then funded the 35 per cent balance;

*Also informed* that four months after, two other loans totalling \$159.83 million for rural telephony were offered at a 3.5 per cent interest rate, then from 2006 to September 2018, the country obtained 13 more loans, at between 2.50 per cent and 3 per cent interest rates and the last loan obtained was \$328 million which was used for the National ICT Infrastructure Backbone II Project and Nigeria would still be servicing the loans till around 2038, which is the maturity date for the last loans obtained in 2018;

*Further informed* that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as reported in the Guardian of 3 November, 2019, had raised an alarm that most of the Chinese deals are not Paris Club compliant, and for which the World Bank has blacklisted six Chinese companies currently operating in Nigeria over alleged fraudulent corrupt practices, including deceptive tactics, illicit trade, extortion, Greek gifts and neo-colonial proclivities;

*Again informed* that the companies, according to an announcement published on the World Bank's website, are CCECC Nigeria Railway Company Limited, CRCC Petroleum and Gas Company Limited, CCECC Nigeria Company Limited, China Railway Construction (International) Nigeria Company Limited, China Railway 18th Bureau Nigeria Engineering Company Limited and CCECC Nigeria Lekki (FTA) Company Limited;

*Concerned* that one of the blacklisted companies, China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC), is the major vehicle through which Chinese projects in Nigeria are financed, which was corroborated by Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi, who stated that since China was financing the projects through the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC), the contractors had 100 per cent execution right on them, meaning that materials and skills are imported from China, thus undermining local industries and jobs;

*Cognizant* that some of the latest loans tied to the said CCECC, as reported in the Guardian Newspaper of 3 March, 2020 are as follows: On railway alone, this administration has recently signed loans mainly categorised under Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)'s government to government agreements of approximately \$17 billion with China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation, a subsidiary of the State-owned China Railway Construction Corporation;

*Also cognizant* that the Federal Government, in 2016, signed a \$5.1 billion Kano-Kaduna and Port Harcourt-Calabar rail contracts; in 2018, the country signed a \$6.7 billion for Ibadan-Kano rail project in 2019, it signed a deal worth \$1.488 billion for Lagos - Ibadan rail project and again in 2019, signed another loan for construction of \$3.9 billion Abuja - Warri rail project;

*Worried* about widespread allegations of heavily inflated Chinese contracts and fears being expressed by stakeholders that most of the projects allegedly did not follow extant regulations, particularly the Public Procurement Act, which enforces tendering or competitive biddings;

*Further cognizant* that industry watchers have also raised fears over why the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP), the National Assembly and the Debt Management Office were bypassed in the approval and execution of those loan regimes, knowing full well that 70 per cent of the corruption in the country is being fuelled by contracts;

*Again cognizant* that Nigeria is the most vulnerable in the bilateral loan pacts with China because it is susceptible to currency volatility risks, which most often are transferred to the country with a weaker economy, hence the need for the nation to heed the warning of the IMF Director of Monetary and Capital Markets Department, Tobias Andrian, who said in the Guardian Magazine of Sunday, 3 November, 2019, that because those Chinese loans do not conform to the Paris Club standards, if there is any debt restructuring down the road one day, that can be very unfavourable to those debtor countries;

*Also concerned* that according to Business Day Newspaper of 14 May, 2019, countries like Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Djibouti, Zambia, Namibia, Kenya and Angola, among others, are at the verge of forfeiting their infrastructure to China over unpaid debts, and industry watchers such as Obadiah Mailafiya, a former Deputy Governor of Nigeria's Central Bank, who played a key role in Nigeria's debt relief negotiations with the Paris Club of public creditors in 2005, and Dr Oby Ezekwesili, who also participated in Nigeria's debt forgiveness drive during her time as Director at the World Bank have warned that the assistance from China will come with a price of economic takeover if Nigeria is unable to repay her loan as Chinese attitude to indebtedness is the hardest in the world given that they don't offer debt relief or cancellation;

*Also worried* by the startling revelation in an online article by Mma Ama Ekeruche in Stears Business: Economy of 26 October, 2018, that Chinese companies generate their highest revenue from Nigeria as between 2000 and 2016, those companies earned \$34.2 billion from implementing projects in Nigeria, some of which were tied to loan agreements and on employment, about 64,500 Chinese workers were employed locally, making the countries to forgo alternative streams of income and jobs;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) set up an Ad-hoc Committee to examine all extant China/Nigeria loan agreements since 2000 with a view to ascertaining their viability, regularising and renegotiating them; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Treaties, Protocols and Agreements, Finance, and Aids, Loans and Debt Management to liaise with the Ministry of Finance, and the Debt Management Office to seek for the review or outright cancellation of the latest China loans to Nigeria, on the principle of force majeure in the light of the COVID-19 (**HR. 144/05/2020**).

## 6. **Privilege (Order Six, Rule 1 and 2)**

Hon. Onofiok Akpan Luke (*Etinan/Nsit Ibom/Nsit Ubium Federal Constituency*), drew the attention of the House to lateness in sending the Notice, and Order Papers to his email, to enable him ample time to prepare for the Day's Sitting. He noted that he received the Order Paper of Tuesday, 12 May, 2020 at 10.00 a.m. and therefore viewed that as a breach of his privilege.

*Mr Speaker noted the matter of privilege.*

## 7. **Presentation of Bills**

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Nigerian Local Content Development and Enforcement Bill, 2020 (HB.837).
- (2) Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB.838).
- (3) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (HB. 839).
- (4) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (HB.840).

**8. Presentation of Report*****Committee on Police Affairs:***

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Police Affairs on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Police Act, Cap. P19, Law of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact Nigeria Police Act, 2020 to Provide for the Framework for the Police Force and ensure Cooperation and Partnership between the Police and Host Communities in Maintaining Peace, protecting life and Properties; and for Related Matters (HB.685)” (*Hon Bello Usman Kumo — Akko Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

**9. 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) — Third Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That 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) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third Time and passed.*

**10. A Bill for an Act to Regulate the Profession of Agriculture and to make Provisions for Establishment, Function and Administration of Nigerian Institute of Agriculturists; and for Related Matters (HB.104) — Third Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Regulate the Profession of Agriculture and to make Provisions for Establishment, Function and Administration of Nigerian Institute of Agriculturists; and for Related Matters (HB.104) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third Time and passed.*

**11. A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency Act, Cap. N90, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency Bill for the purposes of Providing Efficient Air Navigation Services in Nigeria, ensuring Safety and Regulation of Air Navigation in Nigeria and to any other place which Nigeria has Responsibility of Providing Air Navigation Services; and for Related Matters (HB. 462) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency Act, Cap. N90, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency Bill for the purposes of Providing Efficient Air Navigation Services in Nigeria, ensuring Safety and Regulation of Air Navigation in Nigeria and to any other place which Nigeria has Responsibility of Providing Air Navigation Services; and for Related Matters (HB. 462) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — 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.*

12. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology Act, Cap. N96, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology Bill to Provide for its Organisation, Council and Operation; and for Related Matters (HB. 463) — *Second Reading***

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology Act, Cap. N96, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology Bill to Provide for its Organisation, Council and Operation; and for Related Matters (HB. 463) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — 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.*

13. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigerian Meteorological Agency Act, 2003 and Enact the Nigerian Meteorological Agency Bill to Provide for the Regulation of Meteorology; and for Related Matters (HB.464) — *Second Reading***

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigerian Meteorological Agency Act, 2003 and Enact the Nigerian Meteorological Agency Bill to Provide for the Regulation of Meteorology; and for Related Matters (HB.464) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — 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.*

14. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau for the Regulation, Prevention and Providing Effective Administration for Safety Investigation in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB.465) — *Second Reading***

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau for the Regulation, Prevention and Providing Effective Administration for Safety Investigation in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB.465) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — 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.*

15. **A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999; to allow for Independent Candidacy to any Elective Office in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 754) — *Second Reading***

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999; to allow for Independent Candidacy to any Elective Office in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 754) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

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

*Bill read the Second Time.*

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

**16. Rescission of the Resolution of the House on Quarantine Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2020 (HB.836) pursuant to Order Nine, Rule 1 (6) of the Standing Orders of the House of the Representatives**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that on Tuesday, 28 April, 2020, a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Quarantine Act, Cap. Q2, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Control of Infectious Diseases Bill, make provisions Relating to Quarantine and make Regulations for Preventing the introduction into and Spread in Nigeria of Dangerous Infectious Diseases; and for Related Matters was Read a Second time and referred to the Committee of the Whole;

*Realizes* the need to engage members of the Public and relevant Stakeholders to make contributions to the Bill;

*Resolves to:*

Rescind the initial referral on the Quarantine Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2020 and refer same to Committees on Healthcare Service, Health Institutions, and Justice for further legislative action (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**17. Call for Immediate Stoppage of Human Rights Abuses and Extra-Judicial Killings of Innocent Nigerians by Security Operatives in the Course of Enforcement of COVID-19 Lockdown**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Recalls* that on 29 March, 2020, the Federal and some State Governments declared a 14-day lockdown in Abuja, Lagos and Ogun States to stem the spread of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic in the country;

*Also recalls* that security agencies including the Nigeria Police Force, the military and para-military agencies are saddled with the responsibility of enforcing compliance with the lockdown within the limits of their rules of engagement having regard for human rights of the citizens;

*Regrets* that within the initial period of the lockdown, security operatives had, according to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), extra-judicially killed 18 innocent Nigerians in Abia, Delta, Ebonyi, Kaduna, Katsina and Niger States;

*Also regrets* that as at April 13, 2020 when the lockdown was extended for another two weeks, that figure was more than the total number of Nigerians killed by the virus;

*Informed* that of the 18 deaths, the Nigeria Correctional Service was responsible for eight, Nigeria Police Force was responsible for seven, the Nigerian Army was responsible for two, while the Ebonyi State Task Force on COVID-19, Afikpo South LGA was responsible for one;

*Notes* that in the second phase of the lockdown, precisely between April 15 and 23, 2020, officers of the Nigeria Police Force and the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps killed seven more persons in Abia, Anambra and Rivers States;

*Worried* that the case of Abia State has assumed a more worrisome dimension with the brutalisation of the people and killing of five innocent persons namely; Onyemazu Chibueze of Isuochi Umunneochi LGA on April 4, 2020; a petrol station attendant in Ogbor Hill, Aba on Monday 6 April 2020; Amobi Igwe, a commercial motorist in Umuikwa, Isiala Ngwa South LGA on Wednesday 15 April 2020; Ifeanyi Arunsi of Ebem Ohafia on Friday 17 April 2020; and one other person in Uratta Junction, Aba also on Friday 17 April 2020;

*Also notes* that beside the killings, security operatives have also assaulted innocent Nigerians in the name of enforcing COVID-19 lockdown directive, as evident in the case of one Ms. Tola Azeez who was assaulted by Inspector Ikuesan Taiwo and Constable Abass Ibrahim in Iwo, Osun State in early April and some Security operatives had also intimidated and extorted money from innocent Nigerians as in the case of Mrs. Nwabuabo Obiajulu and her son Chukwunweiki from whom officers of the Nigerian Police extorted the sum of N120,000 on Friday 17 April, 2020 for flouting the lockdown directive in Delta State;

*Aware* that Sections 34, 40, 41 and 42 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), guarantee the rights to life, the dignity of human person and freedom from abuse;

*Worried* that the actions of the security operatives amount to abuse of the rights of Nigerians and gross violations of the provisions of the above Sections of the Constitution;

*Further notes* that while authorities of the Nigeria Police Force may have acted swiftly in some of the cases of abuse such as the trial and dismissal of Inspector Ikuesan Taiwo and Constable Abass Ibrahim for assaulting Ms. Tola Azeez, that has not been the case with the killings, especially in Abia and other States, despite several petitions to the heads of the security agencies;

*Also worried* that the response of the police authorities has neither been replicated by the other security agencies whose personnel implicated in the killings nor has been severe enough to serve as deterrents in an environment of gross human rights abuses by security operatives;

*Again worried* that the continued killing of innocent Nigerians by security operatives is undermining the genuine intentions and casting negative aspersions on the efforts of the Federal and State Governments in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic;

*Believes* that the House of Representatives and indeed the National Assembly can do a lot to safeguard and enforce the protection of the fundamental rights of innocent Nigerians including their rights to life and the dignity of the human person from abuse by security institutions of the state.

*Resolves to:*

- (i) condemn in its entirety the abuse of the fundamental rights, especially brutalisation, extortion and the killing of innocent Nigerians by security operatives enforcing the COVID-19 lockdown across the country in general and Abia State in particular;
- (ii) urge the President to direct heads of security agencies implicated in the human rights abuses and killing of innocent Nigerians to immediately fish out the perpetrators for prosecution and punishment according to law;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, Defence, Interior, and Human Rights to investigate the abuses and killings and to ensure the implementation of Resolution (ii) above (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency and 1 other*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Recalled* that on 29 March, 2020, the Federal and some State Governments declared a 14-day lockdown in Abuja, Lagos and Ogun States to stem the spread of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic in the country;

*Also recalled* that security agencies including the Nigeria Police Force, the military and para-military agencies are saddled with the responsibility of enforcing compliance with the lockdown within the limits of their rules of engagement having regard for human rights of the citizens;

*Regretted* that within the initial period of the lockdown, security operatives had, according to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), extra-judicially killed 18 innocent Nigerians in Abia, Delta, Ebonyi, Kaduna, Katsina and Niger States;

*Also regrets* that as at April 13, 2020 when the lockdown was extended for another two weeks, that figure was more than the total number of Nigerians killed by the virus;

*Informed* that of the 18 deaths, the Nigeria Correctional Service was responsible for eight, Nigeria Police Force was responsible for seven, the Nigerian Army was responsible for two, while the Ebonyi State Task Force on COVID-19, Afikpo South LGA was responsible for one;

*Noted* that in the second phase of the lockdown, precisely between April 15 and 23, 2020, officers of the Nigeria Police Force and the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps killed seven more persons in Abia, Anambra and Rivers States;

*Worried* that the case of Abia State has assumed a more worrisome dimension with the brutalisation of the people and killing of five innocent persons namely; Onyemazu Chibueze of Isuochi Umunneochi LGA on April 4, 2020; a petrol station attendant in Ogbor Hill, Aba on Monday 6 April 2020; Amobi Igwe, a commercial motorist in Umuikwa, Isiala Ngwa South LGA on Wednesday 15 April 2020; Ifeanyi Arunsi of Ebem Ohafia on Friday 17 April 2020; and one other person in Uratta Junction, Aba also on Friday 17 April 2020;

*Also noted* that beside the killings, security operatives have also assaulted innocent Nigerians in the name of enforcing COVID-19 lockdown directive, as evident in the case of one Ms Tola Azeez who was assaulted by Inspector Ikuesan Taiwo and Constable Abass Ibrahim in Iwo, Osun State in early April and some Security operatives had also intimidated and extorted money from innocent Nigerians as in the case of Mrs Nwabuabo Obiajulu and her son Chukwunweiki from whom officers of the Nigerian Police extorted the sum of ₦120,000 on Friday 17 April, 2020 for flouting the lockdown directive in Delta State;

*Aware* that Sections 34, 40, 41 and 42 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), guarantee the rights to life, the dignity of human person and freedom from abuse;

*Worried* that the actions of the security operatives amount to abuse of the rights of Nigerians and gross violations of the provisions of the above Sections of the Constitution;

*Further noted* that while authorities of the Nigeria Police Force may have acted swiftly in some of the cases of abuse such as the trial and dismissal of Inspector Ikuesan Taiwo and Constable Abass Ibrahim for assaulting Ms. Tola Azeez, that has not been the case with the killings, especially in Abia and other States, despite several petitions to the heads of the security agencies;



*Also worried* that the response of the police authorities has neither been replicated by the other security agencies whose personnel implicated in the killings nor has been severe enough to serve as deterrents in an environment of gross human rights abuses by security operatives;

*Again worried* that the continued killing of innocent Nigerians by security operatives is undermining the genuine intentions and casting negative aspersions on the efforts of the Federal and State Governments in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic;

*Believed* that the House of Representatives and indeed the National Assembly can do a lot to safeguard and enforce the protection of the fundamental rights of innocent Nigerians including their rights to life and the dignity of the human person from abuse by security institutions of the state.

*Resolved to:*

- (i) condemn in its entirety the abuse of the fundamental rights, especially brutalisation and extortion and the killing of innocent Nigerians by security operatives enforcing the COVID-19 lockdown across the country in general and Abia State in particular;
- (ii) urge the President Muhammad Buhari to direct heads of security agencies implicated in the human rights abuses and killing of innocent Nigerians to immediately fish out the perpetrators for prosecution and punishment according to law;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, Defence, Interior, and Human Rights to investigate the abuses and killings and to ensure the implementation of Resolution (ii) above (**HR. 145/05/2020**).

*A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.*

#### **18. Need to Address the Incidence of Mysterious Deaths in Jigawa State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that since the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic in Nigeria three months ago, Jigawa State is one of the States that was completely insulated from the ravages of the deadly disease until the index case was transferred from the custody of the Kano State government to the State;

*Worried* that most Jigawa State indigenes who were infected in neighbouring states are being transported back to their communities in Jigawa State;

*Disturbed* that 40% of the Almajiris who were returned to Jigawa State from Kano State tested positive to the virus;

*Concerned* about the alarming rate of community transmission which has started claiming lives as was the case in Hadeja, Dutse, Birinn Kudu, Gumel, Mallam Madori and many other local governments;

*Aware* that Jigawa State has no single testing centre and most of the hospitals and health institutions are not equipped in terms of facilities, drugs and personnel;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal government to urgently establish at least five testing centres in the State and equip them with the necessary facilities and drugs;
- (ii) commend the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 for their prompt actions on the situation in Hadeja;

- (iii) discourage State Governments from returning infected persons to their States of origin;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, and Health Institutions to ensure compliance (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency and 10 others*).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

*Leave out Prayer (ii) (Hon. Toby Okechukwu — Aninri/Awgu/Oji-River Federal Constituency).*

*Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.*

*Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that since the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic in Nigeria three months ago, Jigawa State is one of the States that was completely insulated from the ravages of the deadly disease until the index case was transferred from the custody of the Kano State government to the State;

*Worried* that most Jigawa State indigenes who were infected in neighbouring states are being transported back to their communities in Jigawa State;

*Disturbed* that 40% of the Almajiris who were returned to Jigawa State from Kano State tested positive to the virus;

*Concerned* about the alarming rate of community transmission which has started claiming lives as was the case in Hadeja, Dutse, Birinn Kudu, Gumel, Mallam Madori and many other local governments;

*Aware* that Jigawa State has no single testing centre and most of the hospitals and health institutions are not equipped in terms of facilities, drugs and personnel;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Federal government to urgently establish at least five testing centres in the State and equip them with the necessary facilities and drugs;
- (ii) discourage State governments from returning infected persons to their States of origin;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, and Health Institutions to ensure compliance (**HR. 146/05/2020**).

**19. Need to Protect Nigerian Workers from Compulsory Leave and Massive Job Losses**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the COVID-19 pandemic which is significantly challenging the stability of corporate organizations and governments and ravaging the world and has no doubt distorted global socio economic ecosystems;

*Also notes* that protection and support for the organized and informal private sector workers under this unfortunate lockdown is very necessary for both continued economic and social development of Nigeria;

*Aware* that a large number of Nigerian workers are being employed by both the organized private sector and big corporate organizations as well as the informal sector and medium scale industries

with little or no job security and those workers have no other benefits like the regular civil servants, as provided in the Labour Act;

*Also aware* that most of the workers have been working from home since the lockdown without asking for extra pay or gratuity, however some banks and institutions have started asking their staff to proceed on compulsory leave;

*Worried* that there are indications that most employers of labour, after the Corona Virus crisis, may not be willing or able when it comes to taking the decision to terminate a large number of their employees judging by perception from economic and corporate data, largely due to the unforeseen and unexpected COVID-19 outbreak;

*Disturbed* by the unusual circumstance of negative threat of mass sack of workers which definitely will be devastating to citizens; and this will be consequent on several weeks of economic and business paralysis occasioned by the lockdown which has stretched the limits of some organizations and corporate businesses which are beginning to buckle under the weight of the wage burden they may be carrying without corresponding productivity and necessary support from government;

*Concerned* that if the needful is not done as quickly as possible to bolster key sectors through Federal Government economic packages in terms of income support, tax credits or tax deferrals, short-term work schemes, wage subsidies and tax moratoriums on loan payments for those organizations, unimaginable mass job losses loom in Nigeria and this could lead to a great distortion in the economic growth graph of the nation;

*Also concerned* that if policy actions are not taken to reduce the socio-economic impact of the pandemic through the establishment of a Job Retention Scheme for COVID-19 Pandemic where governments commit to saving jobs by ensuring that workers are not laid off, as obtainable in other climes;

*Resolves to:*

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate, monitor and liaise with Corporate Institutions with a view to possible interventions to reduce the wage burden on such organizations (*Hon. Henry Nwawuba — Mbaitoli/Ikeduru Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

In the Prayer, *leave out* the words “Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee”, and *insert* the words “Mandate the Committees on Labour, Employment and Productivity, and *Ad-hoc* Committee on COVID-19”(Hon. Henry Nwawuba — Mbaitoli/Ikeduru Federal Constituency).

*Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.*

*Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the COVID-19 pandemic which is significantly challenging the stability of corporate organizations and governments and ravaging the world and has no doubt distorted global socio economic ecosystems;

*Also noted* that protection and support for the organized and informal private sector workers under this unfortunate lockdown is very necessary for both continued economic and social development of Nigeria;

*Aware* that a large number of Nigerian workers are being employed by both the organized private sector and big corporate organizations as well as the informal sector and medium scale industries with little or no job security and those workers have no other benefits like the regular civil servants, as provided in the Labour Act;

*Also aware* that most of the workers have been working from home since the lockdown without asking for extra pay or gratuity, however some banks and institutions have started asking their staff to proceed on compulsory leave;

*Worried* that there are indications that most employers of labour, after the Corona Virus crisis, may not be willing or able when it comes to taking the decision to terminate a large number of their employees judging by perception from economic and corporate data, largely due to the unforeseen and unexpected COVID-19 outbreak;

*Disturbed* by the unusual circumstance of negative threat of mass sack of workers which definitely will be devastating to citizens; and this will be consequent on several weeks of economic and business paralysis occasioned by the lockdown which has stretched the limits of some organizations and corporate businesses which are beginning to buckle under the weight of the wage burden they may be carrying without corresponding productivity and necessary support from government;

*Concerned* that if the needful is not done as quickly as possible to bolster key sectors through Federal Government economic packages in terms of income support, tax credits or tax deferrals, short-term work schemes, wage subsidies and tax moratoriums on loan payments for those organizations, unimaginable mass job losses loom in Nigeria and this could lead to a great distortion in the economic growth of the nation;

*Also concerned* that if policy actions are not taken to reduce the socio-economic impact of the pandemic through the establishment of a Job Retention Scheme for COVID-19 Pandemic where governments commit to saving jobs by ensuring that workers are not laid off, as obtainable in other climes;

*Resolved to:*

Mandate the Committees on Labour, Employment and Productivity, and Ad-hoc Committee on COVID-19 to investigate, monitor and liaise with Corporate Institutions with a view to possible interventions to reduce the wage burden on such organizations (**HR. 147/05/2020**).

**20. Gross Misconduct and Insubordination of Ms. Marilyn Amobi, Managing Director of the Nigeria Bulk Electricity Trading Company (NBET)**

*Order read; deferred by leave of the House.*

**21. Need for Urgent Investigation and Intervention in the Attempt by Access Bank Plc to Lay-Off Seventy-Five Percent of Its Workforce and Cut Forty Percent of the Salary of its Workforce**

*Order read; deferred by leave of the House.*

**22. Need to Harness Local Discoveries in the Fight against COVID-19 Pandemic and Other Related Diseases in Nigeria**

*Order deferred by leave of the House.*

**23. Need to Stop the Use of Foreign Airlines in Evacuating Nigerians Stranded Abroad**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the Federal Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Aviation and the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 have engaged Foreign airlines such as Ethiopian Airlines, British Airways and Emirates to evacuate Nigerians stranded in Dubai, London and America, due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic ravaging the world;

*Also notes* that the economic objective of the Federal Republic of Nigerian under the Fundamental Objective and Directive Principles of State Policy in Section 16 (a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 provides that the state shall harness the resources of the nation and promote national prosperity and an efficient, a dynamic and self-reliant economy for every citizen of on the basis of social justice and equity of status and opportunity;

*Worried* that the actions of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nigerians in the Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM), Federal Ministry of Aviation and the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 negates the economic objective enshrined in Chapter II of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 when there are competent local airlines with expert to render the same services instead of Foreign Airlines, short-changing economic well-being of the country;

*Aware* that local airlines such as Air Peace, Max Air and Azman Air contributes immensely to National income and employment of Nigerians, thereby enhancing welfare and national productivity;

*Informed* that Air Peace and Max Air have three Boeing 777, and Azman Air recently acquired Airbus A340-600 series which can be deployed for such flight operations;

*Also aware* that Air Peace handled the evacuation of Nigerians from South African during the xenophobic attacks in 2019 free of charge and Max Air has been participating in uplifting of pilgrims during Hajji without hitches;

*Regrets* that the failure of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nigerians in the Diaspora Commission, The Federal Ministry of Aviation, and the Presidential Task Forces on COVID-19 to patronize Nigerian airlines has further put the country in economic disadvantage;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) mandate the Committee on Aviation to investigate the reasons for patronizing Foreign Airlines instead of competent Local Airlines to evacuate Nigerians stranded in Foreign nations;
- (ii) urge the President to forthwith direct the Federal Ministries of Foreign and Aviation, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 and all relevant Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to ensure that Nigerian airlines enjoy the right of first refusal in all circumstances where Nigerians need to be evacuated from other countries;
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Aviation to ensure that Nigerian Airlines have sufficient patronage from state and non-state actors in the sector;
- (iv) further mandate the Committees on Aviation, and Foreign Affairs to work with the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure implementation and report back within two (2) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Mohammed Shamsudeen Bello — Sumaila/Takai Federal Constituency and 8 others*).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

*Leave out Prayers (iii) and (iv) (Hon. Ndudi Elumelu — Aniocha/Oshimili Federal Constituency).*

*Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.*

*Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the Federal Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Aviation and the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 have engaged Foreign airlines such as Ethiopian Airlines, British Airways and Emirates to evacuate Nigerians stranded in Dubai, London and America, due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic ravaging the world;

*Also noted* that the economic objective of the Federal Republic of Nigerian under the Fundamental Objective and Directive Principles of State Policy in Section 16(a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 provides that the state shall harness the resources of the nation and promote national prosperity and an efficient, a dynamic and self-reliant economy for every citizen of on the basis of social justice and equity of status and opportunity;

*Worried* that the actions of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nigerians in the Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM), Federal Ministry of Aviation and the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 negates the economic objective enshrined in Chapter II of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 when there are competent local airlines with expert to render the same services instead of Foreign Airlines, short-changing economic well-being of the country;

*Aware* that local airlines such as Air Peace, Max Air and Azman Air contributes immensely to National income and employment of Nigerians, thereby enhancing welfare and national productivity;

*Informed* that Air Peace and Max Air have three Boeing 777, and Azman Air recently acquired Airbus A340-600 series which can be deployed for such flight operations;

*Also aware* that Air Peace handled the evacuation of Nigerians from South African during the xenophobic attacks in 2019 free of charge and Max Air has been participating in uplifting of pilgrims during Hajji without hitches;

*Regretted* that the failure of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nigerians in the Diaspora Commission, The Federal Ministry of Aviation, and the Presidential Task Forces on COVID-19 to patronize Nigerian airlines has further put the country in economic disadvantage;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the President to forthwith direct the Federal Ministries of Foreign and Aviation, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 and all relevant Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to ensure that Nigerian airlines enjoy the right of first refusal in all circumstances where Nigerians need to be evacuated from other countries; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Aviation to investigate the reasons for patronizing Foreign Airlines instead of competent Local Airlines to evacuate Nigerians stranded in Foreign nations (**HR. 148/05/2020**).

**24. Consideration of Report****2020 External Borrowing Plan of the Federal Government:**

*Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report of the Request to Raise ₦850 Billion in the New External Borrowing Plan of the Federal Government in the 2020 Appropriations” (Committee of Supply) (Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader).*

*Agreed to.*

*Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of Supply to consider the Report — Agreed to.*

**(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY)**

*(Mr Speaker in the Chair)*

**Recommendation:**

Approve the Request to Raise ₦850 Billion in the New External Borrowing Plan in the 2020 Appropriations Act in Naira from the Domestic Capital Market *(Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader).*

*Agreed to.*

*Chairman to report proceedings.*

**(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of Supply considered the Report on the Request to Raise ₦850 Billion in the New External Borrowing Plan of the Federal Government in the 2020 Appropriations and approved the only Recommendation of the report.

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

**25. Adjournment**

*That the House do adjourn till 1.45 p.m. (Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader).*

*The House adjourned accordingly at 1.35 p.m.*

**Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila**  
*Speaker*