



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

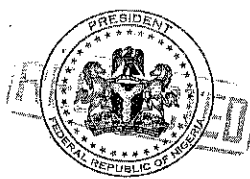
Tuesday, 29 September, 2020

1. The House met at 11.34 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge
3. **Votes and Proceedings**  
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Second Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 23 July, 2020.

*The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.*

4. **Messages**  
Mr Speaker read the following messages from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

(i)



**PRESIDENT,**  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

13th August, 2020

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

*Dear Rt Hon. F. Gbajabamila,*

**REQUEST FOR RESOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR APPROVAL OF THE REIMBURSEMENT OF ₦148.14BN THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF PROMISSORY NOTES TO BAYELSA, CROSS RIVER, ONDO, OSUN AND RIVERS STATE GOVERNMENTS FOR FEDERAL ROAD PROJECTS EXECUTED BY THE STATES**

The House of Representatives may wish to be informed that the Federal Executive Council (FEC), at its meeting of June 3, 2020 approved the reimbursement of ₦148,141,969,161.24 through the issuance of Promissory Notes to the Bayelsa, Cross River, Ondo, Osun and Rivers State Governments for Federal Road projects executed by the States. The Extract from the Conclusion of the meeting referenced EC 11 (2020) 4 is attached as Appendix 1.

2. The approval by FEC was subsequent to the recommendation of an Inter-Ministerial Committee which reviewed the requests for reimbursement made by the State Governments for the projects. The Committee reviewed the documents submitted and carried out physical inspection and verification of the projects in the respective States before making its recommendation to FEC. The summary of the amounts approved for each of the five (5) States is stated in the table below:

S/N	BENEFICIARY	AMOUNT (₦)
1.	Bayelsa State	38,404,564,783.40
2.	Cross River State	18,394,732,608.85
3.	Ondo State	7,822,147,577.08
4.	Osun State	4,567,456,673.63
5.	Rivers State	78,953,067,518.29
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>148,141,969,161.24</b>

3. In view of the foregoing, I wish to request the House of Representatives to kindly approve, through its Resolution, the request for the reimbursement of the total sum of ₦148,141,969,161.24 through the issuance of Promissory Notes to the five (5) aforementioned State Governments for the Federal Road Projects executed on behalf of the Federal Government, as detailed in Paragraph 2 above.

4. The Honourable Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning shall provide any information that may be required by National Assembly in its consideration of this request.

5. While looking forward to the expeditious consideration and approval of the House of Representatives, please accept, Right Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

**Muhammadu Buhari**

Matter referred to the Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management.

(ii)



**PRESIDENT,**  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

2nd September, 2020

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

Dear Rt Hon. F. Gbajabiamila,

**TRANSMISSION OF THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY BILL, 2020  
FOR CONSIDERATION AND PASSAGE INTO LAW**

Pursuant to Section 58 of Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), I formally request the consideration and passage into law by the House of Representatives the Petroleum Industry Bill, 2020.

In particular, the House of Representatives may wish to note that this Bill combines, in a single tome, aspects of significant reforms to the laws governing the Nigerian Petroleum Industry, that were previously set out in two (2) distinct draft legislation, namely the Petroleum Industry Bill, 2020 and the Petroleum Industry Fiscal Bill, 2020.

While I trust that the House of Representatives will in their usual expeditious manner favourably consider the passage of this Bill into law, please accept, Right Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Muhammadu Buhari

(iii)



**THE PRESIDENCY**

Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on  
**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MATTERS**  
(House of Representatives)

25th September, 2020

HE Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila  
Speaker House of Representatives  
National Assembly Complex  
3-Arms Zone  
Abuja.

Your Excellency Sir,

**INVITATION TO A 2-DAY DIALOGUE SESSION FOR SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE  
EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT AIMED AT ENHANCING  
PARTNERSHIP, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF PUBLIC GOOD  
AND SERVICES**

**Theme: "Promoting Effective Executive-Legislative Partnership: Finding a Middle Ground"**

Your Excellency, the 9th House of Representatives under your able leadership has been a strategic partner in Mr President's quest to provide good governance, wealth creation, and effective public services for the benefit of all Nigerians. Through your support and other members of the National

Assembly, Mr President has successfully initiated far reaching governance reforms aimed at addressing the plethora of governance challenges inhibiting our collective developmental aspirations. The timely confirmation of the ministerial nominees, and other nominations of the President by the Senate, accelerated consideration and passage of the 2020 Budget and its review as well as the consideration and passage of critical legislations assented to by Mr President demonstrates the good working relationship that currently exists between the Executive and the National Assembly.

It is in appreciation of the foregoing and the need to further consolidate on the gains recorded within the last one year, that His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari (GCFR) has approved a 2-day high-level consultative retreat for the President, Vice President, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, other leaders of the National Assembly, Chairmen of Committees of the National Assembly, members of the Federal Executive Council and selected senior government officials to collectively reflect, dialogue, consult on emerging governance issues and agree on measures aimed at strengthening collaboration between the executive and the legislature towards achieving our collective developmental agenda.

*The objectives of the retreat are as follows:*

- ◆ Enhance synergy between the arms of government for effective service delivery;
- ◆ Deepen understanding and build consensus on the priority development agenda of both the executive and legislature; and
- ◆ Improve communication and information sharing between the executive and the legislature.

*The Retreat is expected to produce the following outcome:*

- ◆ Improved service delivery as a result of effective partnership between the executive and the legislature;
- ◆ Improved accountability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness in the generation and utilisation of public resources; and
- ◆ Establishment of a joint technical team that will drive the implementation of specific actions and recommendations agreed at the retreat.

In recognition of your deep wealth of experience in governance, especially in the National Assembly as a former Minority and Majority Leader of the House of Representatives respectively, and currently the Speaker of the 9th Assembly; you have been respectfully invited to share your perspective with participants at the retreat. You will be delivering a paper titled: **“Building Effective Partnership for Good Governance and Delivery of Government Priority Agenda”** (20 minutes). A team of panelists will thereafter give further perspectives on the subject.

*Details of the Retreat are as follows:*

**Date:** 5th and 6th October, 2020

**Venue:** Banquet Hall, Presidential Villa, State House, Abuja

**Time:** 9.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m. daily.

*In the light of the foregoing, I humbly request:*

- ◆ Your participation at the Retreat
- ◆ That you deliver a goodwill message on behalf of the House of Representatives
- ◆ That you help mobilize other members of the Leadership and all Chairmen of Committees in the House in order to participate in the Retreat.

*While thanking you for your kind acceptance of this invitation, please accept the assurances of my highest esteem. Please find attached a copy of the agenda for your information.*

*(Signed)*

**UMAR IBRAHIM EL- YAKUB**

*Senior Special Assistant to the President on NASS Matters (House of Reps)*

**5. Remarks by the Speaker**

Mr Speaker made the following remarks:

**PROTOCOLS**

*Good morning.*

*I thank God by whose mercy and forbearance we are able to gather here once more in the hallowed chamber of the House of Representatives to attend to the business of the people with the dedication and determination that is expected of us, and which this moment in our history demands.*

*In the time since we have been away from plenary, the legislative business has not ceased entirely. Committees of the House have been engaging with stakeholders to achieve progress on several priority initiatives. Members have been meeting to work out strategies and develop plans for legislative action to address the many challenges of governance that we continue to face in the country.*

*Just over the weekend, the leadership of the House of Representative had cause to intervene to forestall the planned strike action led by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC). I am pleased to inform the House that the industrial action has been shelved for the moment to allow for further negotiations between the Federal Government of Nigeria and organised labour. The executive has made commitments to achieve this outcome, and the House expects that they will live up those commitments so that we can forestall the possibility of industrial action that disrupts the lives of citizens and further weakens an already troubled economy.*

*I am also pleased to announce that for the first time in our history, the House of Representatives will sit in an entirely digitised chamber where the proceedings of the House, including records of votes, will be taken appropriately in real-time and archived for all history. When we resumed in the 9th House, we promised to deliver and operate a modern parliament in keeping with international best practice. We have kept our word in this regard and will continue to do so in every other sphere.*

*Since March, when the virus first entered our shores, the House of Representatives has taken active measures to protect the people who work here and our constituents who visit in the National Assembly Complex. As a result of these measures, we have not operated at full capacity for most of the year. Despite these limitations, the House has considered and passed 38 Bills with another 159 Bills awaiting reports from the Committees.*

*However, we still have 713 (Seven Hundred and Thirteen) Bills pending second reading, and we must act quickly to dispense of them lest we find ourselves overwhelmed and unable to respond to emerging developments with the speed and effectiveness that the moment requires.*

*Before the recess, we presented to the general public the updated Legislative Agenda of the House, a document which we tagged "Our Contract with Nigerians". The updated Legislative Agenda of the House and the accompanying implementation framework are a significant and thorough effort to outline a set of actions and priorities that taken together will help us achieve a more peaceful and more prosperous nation.*

*interests of our people, never allowing our disagreements over politics to get in the way of our joint efforts at nation-building. And as we ask for God's favour on our endeavours, let us make sure that the decisions we make, the actions we take, and the priorities we pursue are always deserving.*

*Thank you for your time this morning. God bless you all, and God bless our Federal Republic of Nigeria.*

## 6. Announcement

### (i) Conferment of Traditional Title:

Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Saidu Musa Abdullahi (*Bida/Gboko/Katcha Federal Constituency*) informing the House of his conferment of the traditional title of *Gorozon (Messiah/Hero)* of Nupe Kingdom, on Saturday, 12 September, 2020.

### (ii) Bereavement:

Mr Speaker read the following communications from:

- (1) Hon. Kalu Benjamin Okezie (*Bende Federal Constituency*) announcing the demise of Hon. Ogwe K. Ogwe (*Bende Federal Constituency*, 1979 - 1983) at the age of 89;
- (2) Hon. Obua Azibapu Fred (*Ogbia Federal Constituency*) announcing the demise of his father, Chief Jacob Fredrick Obua, on Thursday, 10 September, 2020.
- (3) Hon. Ndudi Elumelu (*Aniocha/Oshimili Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of Senator Buruji Kashamu (*Ogun East Senatorial District*, 2015 - 2019), on 8 August, 2020.

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

## 7. Petitions

### (i) Petitions from the following persons were presented and laid by Hon. Haruna Dederi (*Karaye/Rogo Federal Constituency*):

- (a) SPDC Nonviolence Trainees in Bayelsa State, Iniringi, Otusega, Oruma and Elebele Youths Union and Umusa Adege-Ogbe community, on the alleged negligence and refusal of the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited to carry out corporate social responsibility in capacity building and training of the youths in the areas;
- (b) Boru Uju-Kan Ohaneaye on alleged threat to his life by Dammalau Mohammed, Assistant Inspector-General of Police, Zone 13;
- (c) Centre for Social Economic Rights (CSER), on the alleged undermining of National Security and Economy by the Long Investment Limited;
- (d) Hamza Ridhwan BA, on behalf of Concerned Shareholders of Unity Bank, on the alleged unwholesome practices against the management of Unity Bank of Nigeria;
- (e) Tolu Babaleye & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on the alleged wrongful discharge of Cadet Faloye Temitope from the Nigeria Police Academy, Wudil, Kano State;
- (f) Nicholas O. Bisong and 5 others, on behalf of the Non-Academic Staff Union of Educational and Associated Institutions (NASSI), Federal University of Lafia Chapter, on the alleged infringement on their rights and undue interference in the activities of the Union by the Vice Chancellor of the Institution;

- (ii) A petition from Agui Diamond Bryan C. O. of Diamond Express Newspapers on the alleged illegal detention, deportation and harassment of Nigerians in the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh was presented and laid by Hon. Henry Nwawuba (*Mbaitoli/Ikeduru Federal Constituency*);
- (iii) A petition from Woli Hassan, on his alleged unlawful retirement from the Nigerian Army, was presented and laid by Hon. Mohammed Omar Bio (*Baruten/Kaima Federal Constituency*); and
- (iv) A petition from Umar Mohammed Sharubutu on alleged wrongful termination of his appointment by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, was presented and laid by Hon. Isah Shaba Ibrahim (*Lokoja/Kogi/Koton-Karfi Federal Constituency*).

*Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.*

**8. Matter of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**  
***Need to Provide Relief Materials to Victims of Flood in Gada and Goronyo Local Governments of Sokoto State.***

Hon. Musa Sarkin Adar (*Goronyo/Gada Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance.

***Ordered: All Motions on flood and rainstorm disaster be collated by the Committee on Rules and Business for presentation to the House.***

**9. Privilege (Order Six, Rule 1, 2 and 3)**

Hon. Mzondu Benjamin Ben (*Makurdi/Guma Federal Constituency*), drew the attention of the House to the consideration and passage of the National Water Resources Bill (HB, 921), on 23 July, 2020 and noted that the procedure for passing the Bill did not comply with Order Twelve, Rule 18 of the Standing Orders of the House requiring that such Bill should have been re-gazetted before being reconsidered in the Committee of the Whole.

He noted that the non-gazetting of the Bill denied him the usual opportunity to contribute to the shaping of the Bill which always takes place during debates on Bills, in breach of his privilege and therefore urged the House to adopt the right procedure for the passage of the Bill.

***Ordered: The National Water Resources Bill to be re-gazetted and re-introduced to afford Members opportunity to participate in the consideration.***

**10. Presentation of Bills**

The following Bills were read the *First Time*.

- (1) Chartered Institute of Project Auditors of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB, 1040).
- (2) Chartered Institute of Operations and Supply Chain Professionals (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB, 1041).
- (3) Chartered Institute of Inventory Control Management Professionals (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB, 1042).
- (4) Federal University of Technology, Okija, Anambra State (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB, 1043).
- (5) National Orientation Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB, 1044).
- (6) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (HB, 1045).
- (7) Nigerian Armed Forces Service Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB, 1046).

- (8) Nigerian Fallen Heroes Welfare Agency Bill, 2020 (HB. 1047).
- (9) National Institute for Police Studies (NIPS) (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1048).
- (10) National Directorate of Employment Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1049).
- (11) Harmful Waste (Special Criminal Provisions, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1050).
- (12) Oil and Gas Investment and Free Zones Bill, 2020 (HB. 1051).
- (13) Institute of Safety Professionals of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1052).
- (14) Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (Establishment) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1053).
- (15) Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1054).
- (16) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1055).
- (17) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1056).
- (18) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1057).
- (19) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1058).
- (20) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1059).
- (21) Companies and Allied Matters Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1060).
- (22) Federal Medical Centre, Ankpa (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1062).
- (23) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 Alteration Bill, 2020 (HB. 1063).
- (24) Federal University of Agriculture, Ugbakwa (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1064).
- (25) Federal Medical Centre, Akpugo (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1065).
- (26) Federal Colleges of Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1066).
- (27) The Nigerian Railway Corporation Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1067).
- (28) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) (Indulgence of Judiciary in States Bill, 2020 (HB. 1068).
- (29) Taxes and Levies (Approved List for Collection) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1069).
- (30) Petroleum Industry Bill, 2020 (HB. 1061).

11. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Medical Centre, Igboho, Oyo State; and for Related Matters (HB.733) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Medical Centre, Igboho, Oyo State; and for Related Matters (HB.733) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Olumide Abiodun Ojerinde — Irepo/Orelope/Olorunsogo 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 Health Institutions.*

**12. Rescission of the Resolution on the FGN 2021 - 2023 Medium Term Expenditure Framework and Fiscal Strategy Paper**

*Order deferred by leave of the House.*

**13. Need to End the Incessant Killings in Guri and Kirikasamma Local Government Areas of Jigawa State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* the violent encounters between farmers and herdsmen in Guri and Kirikasamma Local Government Areas of Jigawa State which has claimed several lives and property on a recurrent basis such that the lives of farmers in the areas are perpetually in danger;

*Also notes* that unless urgent action is taken, the people of the two Local Government Areas would be plunged into starvation as rampaging horde of herdsmen killed the farmers, destroyed their crops;

*Concerned* that in June 2020, over 20 farmers were killed and over sixty people sustained various degrees of injuries and several crops destroyed by herdsmen in Adiyane town of Guri Local Government Area;

*Also aware* that on Friday, 18 September, 2020, Madammawa town in Guri Local Government was invaded by herdsmen and one farmer was killed and over 20 people sustained machet and arrow wounds, equally in Kirikasamma Local Government Area, the people of Marma, Zagari, Madachi, Matara, Likori, Gubuzum and Sunkuye now live in perpetual fear;

*Worried* that the perpetrators of these crimes are known but were either not arrested or released shortly after they are arrested by the police and never prosecuted;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Department of State Service (DSS), and the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Special Task Force to conduct thorough investigation with a view to apprehending and prosecuting the leaders and members of the herdsmen;
- (ii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to supply relief materials to all the affected victims of the violence at Adiyane, Madammawa and Marma Guri and Kirikasamma Local Government areas of Jigawa State (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* the violent encounters between farmers and herdsmen in Guri and Kirikasamma Local Government Areas of Jigawa State which has claimed several lives and property on a recurrent basis such that the lives of farmers in the areas are perpetually in danger;

Also noted that unless urgent action is taken, the people of the two Local Government Areas would be plunged into starvation as rampaging horde of herdsmen killed the farmers, destroyed their crops;

Concerned that in June 2020, over 20 farmers were killed and over sixty people sustained various degrees of injuries and several crops destroyed by herdsmen in Adiyane town of Guri Local Government Area;

Also aware that on Friday, 18 September, 2020, Madammawa town in Guri Local Government was invaded by herdsmen and one farmer was killed and over 20 people sustained machet and arrow wounds, equally in Kiriassamma Local Government Area, the people of Marma, Zagari, Madachi, Matara, Likori, Gubuzum and Sunkuye now live in perpetual fear;

Worried that the perpetrators of these crimes are known but were either not arrested or released shortly after they are arrested by the police and never prosecuted;

Resolved to:

(i) urge the Department of State Service (DSS), and the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Special Task Force to conduct thorough investigation with a view to apprehending and prosecuting the leaders and members of the herdsmen;

(ii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to supply relief materials to all the affected victims of the violence at Adiyane, Madammawa and Marma, Guri and Kiriassamma Local Government areas of Jigawa State (HR. 43/09/2020).

#### 14. Non-Release of Take-Off Grant to Federal Universities Across the Country

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

Notes that there are some Federal Universities in Nigeria that are yet to receive take-off grants decades after their establishment and commencement of academic activities;

Aware that take-off Grants are seed funds provided by the Federal Government to assist newly established Universities for take-off of academic activities, support training, pays the salaries of pioneer workers, assist in the provision of requisite technology, books and other crucial materials needed to run the school;

Concerned that most second and third generation Universities had to commence academic activities from existing Secondary, Technical School or State Universities as the case may be;

Also concerned that University of Uyo, formerly known as the University of Cross River State (UNICROSS), a third generation University established in October 1, 1991 commenced academic activities without the initial take-off grant and had to grapple with lean resources to manage its affairs and as a result, could not develop properly till date;

Also aware that other institutions such as the Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umuahia, University of Jos, and Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka among others are yet to receive their take off grants decades after being established, and this has hampered their growth;

Concerned that this unfortunate development has hampered the rapid provision of required infrastructure at various main campuses of the affected Universities over-stretching the existing facilities due to lack of lecture halls;

*Also concerned* that failure of Federal Government to release the said take-off grant to the affected Universities from the onset, has led to untold hardship since funds that would have been used for other projects were deployed to provide immediate remediation;

*Worried* that these Universities are still facing the challenges of inability to prove a befitting physical facility, payment of staff promotion arrears, arrears of salary shortfalls, payment of earned allowances and engagement of more staff to improve the staff – student ratio;

*Disturbed* that other Universities established after these Universities have enjoyed the privilege of receiving take – off – grant ranging from N2 billion to N5 billion from the Federal Government:

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to, as a matter of urgency release the take-off grant meant for the University of Uyo;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services to liaise with the Executive Arm of Government to ensure compliance and report back within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Unyime Idem – Ukanafun/Oruk Anam Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that there are some Federal Universities in Nigeria that are yet to receive take-off grants decades after their establishment and commencement of academic activities;

*Aware* that take-off Grants are seed funds provided by the Federal Government to assist newly established Universities for take-off of academic activities, support training, pays the salaries of pioneer workers, assist in the provision of requisite technology, books and other crucial materials needed to run the school;

*Concerned* that most second and third generation Universities had to commence academic activities from existing Secondary, Technical School or State Universities as the case may be;

*Also concerned* that University of Uyo, formerly known as the University of Cross River State (UNICROSS), a third generation University established in October 1, 1991 commenced academic activities without the initial take-off grant and had to grapple with lean resources to manage its affairs and as a result, could not develop properly till date;

*Also aware* that other institutions such as the Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umuahia, University of Jos, and Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka among others are yet to receive their take off grants decades after being established, and this has hampered their growth;

*Concerned* that this unfortunate development has hampered the rapid provision of required infrastructure at various main campuses of the affected Universities over-stretching the existing facilities due to lack of lecture halls;

*Also concerned* that failure of Federal Government to release the said take-off grant to the affected Universities from the onset, has led to untold hardship since funds that would have been used for other projects were deployed to provide immediate remediation;

*Worried* that these Universities are still facing the challenges of inability to prove a befitting physical facility, payment of staff promotion arrears, arrears of salary shortfalls, payment of earned allowances and engagement of more staff to improve the staff – student ratio;

*Disturbed* that other Universities established after these Universities have enjoyed the privilege of receiving take – off – grant ranging from N2 billion to N5 billion from the Federal Government;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to, as a matter of urgency release the take-off grant meant for the University of Uyo;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services to liaise with the Executive Arm of Government to ensure compliance and report back within four weeks (HR. 44/09/2020).

15. **Devastating Effects of Deforestation and the Need for Extensive Tree Planting in Nigeria**  
*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that trees improve air quality by filtering harmful dust, odours and pollutants such as ozone, carbon monoxide, and sulphur dioxide from the air we breath;

*Also notes* that not only can trees benefit the economy by reducing heating and cooling cost, trees can also reduce our dependence on oil and natural gas;

*Aware* that according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the requirements of sustainable forest management include extent of forest resources, biological diversity, forest health and vitality, productive functions of forest resources, protective functions of forest resources, socio-economic functions and a legal, policy and institutional framework;

*Also aware* that forests have been associated with helping to reduce flooding as many flooding disasters have been partly blamed on the effects of deforestation;

*Further aware* that Nigeria is member nation of the Coalition for Rainforest Nations (CFRN) which seeks to, among other things, manage tropical rainforests in a way that supports climate stability, conserves biodiversity, and helps development and poverty alleviation efforts;

*Concerned* that due to high demand for timber, which is used for the production of furniture, paper and in the construction industry, there has been an increase in illegal logging, which has resulted in deforestation in Nigeria the consequence of which Nigeria has been rated by the FAO as the country with the highest rate of deforestation in the world;

*Also concerned* that many aspects of the FAO requirements are currently not being met in Nigeria and will continue to have detrimental effects, if not quickly addressed;

*Cognizant* that Tree-planting is one of the options adopted by many nations towards curbing the serious and irreversible changes of climate change as trees help absorb greenhouse gasses and carbon emissions that are caused by human civilization;

*Worried* that a lot of damage has been done to Nigeria's land through the processes of deforestation, notably contributing to desertification and increased temperatures across the country;

*Again aware* that there is hardly any implementation of forest management policies, and very few attempts have been made to lower the deforestation rates and to stop illegal logging, hence Nigerians are hardly aware of how to prevent deforestation;

*Also worried* that deforestation has led to soil degradation across the country, resulting in poor crop yield and economic loss to the nation as a whole;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Environment to implement and enforce policies that discourage deforestation;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Environment to embark on sensitization campaigns to create awareness across the country on the need to imbibe the culture of tree planting in order to mitigate the negative consequences of climate change caused by indiscriminate deforestation;
- (iii) call on the Executive Arm of Government to liaise with institutions, communities and other relevant stakeholders with a view to offering capacity building opportunities, productive partnerships and sustainable schemes that can create more economic activities to sustain hard working rural dwellers and discourage them from indiscriminate cutting of trees;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Environment to ensure compliance (*Hon. Kolawole Lawal — Egbeda South/Ipokia Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

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

*“Review the Forestry Act to provide stringent measures against defaulters” (Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency).*

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

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

The House:

*Noted* that trees improve air quality by filtering harmful dust, odours and pollutants such as ozone, carbon monoxide, and sulphur dioxide from the air we breath;

*Also noted* that not only can trees benefit the economy by reducing heating and cooling cost, trees can also reduce our dependence on oil and natural gas;

*Aware* that according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the requirements of sustainable forest management include extent of forest resources, biological diversity, forest health and vitality, productive functions of forest resources, protective functions of forest resources, socio-economic functions and a legal, policy and institutional framework;

*Also aware* that forests have been associated with helping to reduce flooding as many flooding disasters have been partly blamed on the effects of deforestation;

*Further aware* that Nigeria is member nation of the Coalition for Rainforest Nations (CFRN) which seeks to, among other things, manage tropical rainforests in a way that supports climate stability, conserves biodiversity, and helps development and poverty alleviation efforts;

*Concerned* that due to high demand for timber, which is used for the production of furniture, paper and in the construction industry, there has been an increase in illegal logging, which has resulted in deforestation in Nigeria the consequence of which Nigeria has been rated by the FAO as the country with the highest rate of deforestation in the world;

*Also concerned* that many aspects of the FAO requirements are currently not being met in Nigeria and will continue to have detrimental effects, if not quickly addressed;

*Cognizant* that Tree-planting is one of the options adopted by many nations towards curbing the serious and irreversible changes of climate change as trees help absorb greenhouse gasses and carbon emissions that are caused by human civilization;

*Worried* that a lot of damage has been done to Nigeria's land through the processes of deforestation, notably contributing to desertification and increased temperatures across the country;

*Again aware* that there is hardly any implementation of forest management policies, and very few attempts have been made to lower the deforestation rates and to stop illegal logging, hence Nigerians are hardly aware of how to prevent deforestation;

*Also worried* that deforestation has led to soil degradation across the country, resulting in poor crop yield and economic loss to the nation as a whole;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Environment to implement and enforce policies that discourage deforestation;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Environment to embark on sensitization campaigns to create awareness across the country on the need to imbibe the culture of tree planting in order to mitigate the negative consequences of climate change caused by indiscriminate deforestation;
- (iii) call on the Executive Arm of Government to liaise with institutions, communities and other relevant stakeholders with a view to offering capacity building opportunities, productive partnerships and sustainable schemes that can create more economic activities to sustain hard working rural dwellers and discourage them from indiscriminate cutting of trees;
- (iv) review the Forestry Act to provide stringent measures against defaulters;
- (v) mandate the Committee on Environment to ensure compliance (HR. 45/09/2020).

**16. Need to Speed Up the Certification of Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport to World Class Standard**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the Certification of Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport has commenced since 2017, but has not been completed;

*Aware* that Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport is the oldest Airport in Nigeria where the first aircraft landed in Nigeria at Kano in 1922 and full operations in Kano Airport started in 1936 with flights from the Airport to Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt and the international flight to Cairo, Addis Ababa, Medina, Khartoum and other destinations;

*Also aware* that Certification means an official document Issued by the Regulatory Authority Supported by Technical documentation demonstrating that the Aerodrome for which it was issued meets specific Air Safety-Related Criteria. Thus certification helps to show that Airport meet international best practices;

*Further aware* that the certification of an Airport entails making sure that everything is up to date, working and checked on a regular basis. It also encompasses all elements of safety oversight such as aviation legislation, operating regulations, civil aviation system, personnel training and certification, development of guidance materials and safety critical information, as well as surveillance and resolution of safety concerns;

*Again aware* that Airport certification is one of the requirements of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) and covers security, safety and equipment, it shows the Airport Operator and aircraft Operators with documented proof that the facilities they operate or use are safe;

*Concerned* that the Certification of Kano Airport started the same year, 2017 with that of Lagos Airport. Regrettably, while Lagos Airport has been certified, the Kano International Airport has not been certified;

*Worried* that the true state and status of the Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport is not known unless it is certified, failure to certify the Airport may be endangering the safety of aircraft and passengers alike;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) and the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority to speed up the certification of Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria and Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) to include the project in the 2021 budget estimates; and
- (iii) mandate Committee on Aviation to liaise with the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria, Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority and other relevant Agencies and ensure compliance (*Hon. Haruna Dederi Isa — Karaye/Rogo Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the Certification of Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport has commenced since 2017, but has not been completed;

*Aware* that Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport is the oldest Airport in Nigeria where the first aircraft landed in Nigeria at Kano in 1922 and full operations in Kano Airport started in 1936 with flights from the Airport to Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt and the international flight to Cairo, Addis Ababa, Medina, Khartoum and other destinations;

*Also aware* that Certification means an official document issued by the Regulatory Authority supported by technical documentation demonstrating that the Aerodrome for which it was issued meets specific Air Safety-Related Criteria. Thus certification helps to show that Airport meet international best practices;

*Further aware* that the certification of an Airport entails making sure that everything is up to date, working and checked on a regular basis. It also encompasses all elements of safety oversight such as aviation legislation, operating regulations, civil aviation system, personnel training and certification, development of guidance materials and safety critical information, as well as surveillance and resolution of safety concerns;

*Again aware* that Airport certification is one of the requirements of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) and covers security, safety and equipment, it shows the Airport Operator and aircraft Operators with documented proof that the facilities they operate or use are safe;

*Concerned* that the Certification of Kano Airport started the same year, 2017 with that of Lagos Airport. Regrettably, while Lagos Airport has been certified, the Kano International Airport has not been certified;

*Worried* that the true state and status of the Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport is not known unless it is certified, failure to certify the Airport may be endangering the safety of aircraft and passengers alike;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) and the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority to speed up the certification of Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria and Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) to include the project in the 2021 budget estimates; and
- (iii) mandate Committee on Aviation to liaise with the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria, Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority and other relevant Agencies and ensure compliance (HR. 46/09/2020).

17. **Order of the Day**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That the House do set down items 7 to 10 on the Order Paper to another legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (3)" (Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency).

*Agreed to.*

18. **Adjournment**

*That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 30 September, 2020 at 11.00 a.m.* (Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency).

*The House adjourned accordingly at 2.13 p.m.*

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila  
Speaker