



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 7 October, 2020

1. The House met at 11.41 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 Wednesday, 30 September, 2020.

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

4. **Message**  
Mr Speaker read a message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:



**PRESIDENT,  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

5th October, 2020

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

*Dear Rt Hon. F. Gbajabamila,*

### **PRESENTATION OF 2021 APPROPRIATION BILL**

*May I crave the kind indulgence of the House of Representatives to grant me the slot of 1100hrs on Thursday, 8th October, 2020, to formally present the 2021 Appropriation Bill to the Joint Session of the National Assembly.*

*While I look forward to addressing the Joint Session, please accept, Mr Speaker, the assurances of my highest regards.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*(Signed)*

**Muhammadu Buhari**

*Mr Speaker noted that the presentation of the 2021 Appropriation Bill by Mr President would be an abridged programme as COVID-19 protocols would be fully observed.*

## 5. Announcement

### (a) Defection:

Mr Speaker read the following communication from:

- (i) Hon. Ephraim Nwuzi (*Etche/Omuma Federal Constituency*), announcing his defection from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to the All Progressives Congress (APC);
- (ii) Hon. David Abel Fuoh (*Sardauna/Gashaka/Kurmi Federal Constituency*), announcing his defection from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to the All Progressives Congress (APC).

### (b) Visitors in the Gallery:

Mr Speaker announced the presence of Children of Bilmor Technical and Vocational Centre for Special Needs of Children, Abuja.

## 6. Executive Session

*Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do resolve into a Closed Session" (Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader).*

*Closed Session — 12.17 p.m.*

*House in Open Session — 1.04 p.m.*

## 7. Petitions

- (i) A petition from Adewunmi Adeniyi John, on his alleged unlawful dismissal and imprisonment by the Nigerian Navy, was presented and laid by Hon. Jimoh Olajide (*Lagos Mainland Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) A petition from Olabode Adewale, on the non-payment of his entitlement and benefit by the Nigeria Police Force, was presented and laid by Hon. Agunsoye Oluwarotimi (*Kosofe Federal Constituency*);
- (iii) A petition from Petitus L. Elechi, on behalf of Ezzagu and Ezzekuna communities in Ishielu Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, on the alleged murder of Messrs; Monday Nwali Otubo and Emeka Paul Nwali Obueze by the operatives of the Anti-Kidnapping Unit of the Ebonyi State Police Command, was presented and laid by Hon. Anayo Edwin (*Ezza North/Ishielu Federal Constituency*);
- (iv) A petition from Emmanuel N. Yemfet, on the alleged wrongful termination of his appointment by the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State, was presented and laid by Hon. Dachung Bagos Musa (*Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*);

- (v) A petition from K. E. Okoro & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Ayo Olatayo Deleyo Mayotaiyewo Limited, on the alleged seizure, sale of its trailer truck and refusal to comply with court order of 4 March, 2011 and 24 February, 2012, was presented and laid by Hon. Joseph Asuku Bello (*Adavi/Okehi Federal Constituency*).

*Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.*

8. **Remarks by Mr Speaker**

Mr Speaker made the following remarks:

*Every day, throughout our country, interactions between the police and our citizens result in acts of horrific brutality, extortion, and retribution against the Nigerian people. Too many of the people we have assigned to protect our citizens have shown themselves unworthy of that calling. Their actions betray our trust and wreak unquantifiable damage on the already frayed fabric of our society.*

2. *Unfortunately, many of those who have betrayed our trust in this manner are never answerable for their actions. At the heart of this fundamental failure lies the unavoidable truth that we do not have an independent framework for ensuring that members of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) are appropriately held to account when they fail to adhere to the policies and laws that govern their operations.*

3. *We have long expected the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) to police itself. It is now abundantly clear that this was the wrong call. For the benefit of a functioning system of policing in Nigeria, it is now necessary that parliament steps in to introduce an independent, fair and practical approach to ensure that those to whom we grant the authority to act in the name of the State, are held to the highest standards of professional conduct.*

4. *Over the next thirty days, the House of Representatives will work with the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), with civil society and with Nigerians of good conscience to draft new legislation that establishes a system of independent accountability that:*

(a) *"holds erring members of the Police Force to account for their conduct in the performance of their duties and imposes civil and criminal liability for violations of the Police Code; and*

(b) *also compels the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) to take responsibility for the failures of training and discipline that leads to such violations.*

5. *The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in Section 215 (5) states that "The question whether any and if so what, directions have been given (to the Police) under this section shall not be inquired into in any court". This provision presents a singularly obstinate obstacle to any system of effective judicial review of policing in Nigeria. Therefore, any reforms of the operations of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) must include a constitutional amendment to expunge this painfully undemocratic clause from our country's Constitution.*

6. *Substantive and wholesale reform of policing institutions is never an easy undertaking. From Europe to America, and across Africa, we have seen such efforts begin and falter. Police reforms succeed when such reforms have the support of the citizens who are determined to see the process through to a rewarding end, regardless of whatever obstacles might exist along the way.*

7. *This House of Representatives will act to ensure that those agents of the State to whom we have assigned the duty to protect and serve, are deserving of the faith and respect of the Nigerian people. I ask for the support of all Nigerians as we begin this where the citizens trust the police to always act in the public's best interest by respecting the rights of citizens and following the due process of law.*

8. *God bless you all, and God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.*

*By leave of the House, Mr Speaker invited the House Leader, Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado to move a Motion of urgent public importance on the abuse of Human Rights by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) of the Nigeria Police Force.*

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

(i) *Need to Stop Human Rights Abuses by the Special Anti Robbery Squad (SARS) of the Nigeria Police Force:*

Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado (*Doguwu/Tudun Wada Federal Constituency and 359 others*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

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

**Need to Stop the Human Rights Abuses by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) of the Nigeria Police Force:**

The House:

*Notes with great concern the persistent outcry by Nigerians over the brutality and human rights violation by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) of the Nigeria Police Force:*

*Disturbed by the alarming rate of unauthorized raids, extortion, stealing, frame-ups, indiscriminate search of mobile phones and other smart devices as well as arbitrary confiscation and fraudulent conversion of private property of citizens to their personal use;*

*Realizes that this is a sharp departure from their core mandate of responding to cases of armed robbery, kidnapping and other violent crimes;*

*Concerned that their activities in most cases have led to loss of property and extra judicial killings which is eroding public confidence in government and diminishing the nation's human rights and democratic credentials;*

*Recalls the recent death of Ifeoma Abugu who was allegedly raped and murdered in FCT, Kingsley Tariuwa in Port Harcourt, Daniel Ikeaguchi Chibuikwe in Elemenwo Rivers State, Kolade Johnson and Temiyu Kazeem in Lagos, Sunday Bong in Abuja and Miracle in Nnewi to mention these few;*

*Aware that the Anti-Torture Act, 2017 and the Police Act prohibit the use of torture, harassment and intimidation by security agents);*

*Deeply worried that despite repeated announcements by Police authorities since 14 August, 2018 to reform the SARS, the problem of human right abuses and impunity still persists within the Nigeria Police Force;*

*Observed that in most cases efforts by victims and their families to seek justice is greeted with concerted opposition from the police authorities including threat to their lives;*

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Inspector General of Police to take decisive action to stop the brutality and Human Rights violation by the SARS and report same to the House within three (3) weeks;
- (ii) also urge the Inspector General of Police to:
  - (a) produce a comprehensive record of disciplinary and (or) judicial action taken against officers accused of abuse of power in the past five years;
  - (b) produce immediate plan for identifying and compensation for victims;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Justice, Human Rights, and Police to ensure compliance with the above prayers and conduct Public Hearing on Human Rights Violation of Citizens by SARS and report back within six (6) weeks;
- (iv) take immediate steps to develop Legislative actions to:
  - (a) amend existing Laws and the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to expunge Section 215 (5) and replace it with provisions that ensure judicial review of Police actions is entrenched and protected.
  - (b) establish a framework for holding individual members of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) accountable for their conduct in the course of the performance of their duties, including criminal and civil liabilities, and
  - (c) call the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) to bear civil liability for failures in their conduct and operational procedures that lead to violations of citizens' rights (*Hon. Alhassan Doguwa — House Leader and 359 Others*).

*Debate.**Agreed to.*

## The House:

*Noted* with great concern the persistent outcry by Nigerians over the brutality and human rights violation by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) of the Nigeria Police Force;

*Disturbed* by the alarming rate of unauthorized raids, extortion, stealing, frame-ups, indiscriminate search of mobile phones and other smart devices as well as arbitrary confiscation and fraudulent conversion of private property of citizens to their personal use;

*Realized* that this is a sharp departure from their core mandate of responding to cases of armed robbery, kidnapping and other violent crimes;

*Concerned* that their activities in most cases have led to loss of property and extra judicial killings which is eroding public confidence in government and diminishing the nation's human rights and democratic credentials;

*Recalled* the recent death of Ifeoma Abugu who was allegedly raped and murdered in FCT, Kingsley Tariuwa in Port Harcourt, Daniel Ikeaguchi Chibuike in Eielenwo Rivers State, Kolade Johnson and Temiyu Kazeem in Lagos, Sunday Bong in Abuja and Miracle in Nnewi to mention these few;

*Aware* that the Anti-Torture Act, 2017 and the Police Act prohibit the use of torture, harassment, and intimidation by security agents);

*Deeply worried* that despite repeated announcements by Police authorities since 14 August, 2018 to reform the SARS, the problem of human right abuses and impunity still persists within the Nigeria Police Force;

*Observed* that in most cases efforts by victims and their families to seek justice is greeted with concerted opposition from the police authorities including threat to their lives;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Inspector General of Police to take decisive action to stop the brutality and Human Rights violation by the SARS and report same to the House within three (3) weeks;
- (ii) also urge the Inspector General of Police to:
  - (a) produce a comprehensive record of disciplinary and (or) judicial action taken against officers accused of abuse of power in the past five years;
  - (b) produce immediate plan for identifying and compensation for victims;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Justice, Human Rights, and Police to ensure compliance with the above prayers and conduct Public Hearing on Human Rights Violation of Citizens by SARS and report back within six (6) weeks;
- (iv) take immediate steps to develop Legislative actions to:
  - (a) amend existing Laws and the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to expunge Section 215 (5) and replace it with provisions that ensure judicial review of Police actions is entrenched and protected,
  - (b) establish a framework for holding individual members of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) accountable for their conduct in the course of the performance of their duties, including criminal and civil liabilities, and
  - (c) all the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) to bear civil liability for failures in their conduct and operational procedures that lead to violations of citizens' rights (HR. 51/10/2020).

(ii) ***Murder of Two Monarchs, Several Others and Continued Killings and Destruction of Crops in Barkin Ladi and Riyom Local Government Areas, Plateau State:***

Hon. Simon Mwadkwon Davou (*Barkin Ladi/Riyom 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.*

**Murder of Two Monarchs, Several Others and Continued Killings and Destruction of Crops in Barkin Ladi and Riyom Local Government Areas, Plateau State:**

The House:

*Notes* the serial killings of citizens of Barkin-Ladi and Riyom Local Government Areas of Plateau State and constant destruction of their farmlands which has led to displacement of many households and thrown the constituency into hunger;

*Also notes* the murder of two monarchs, Gwom Rung who is the District Head of Foron HRH Da Bulus Chuwang Jakai by suspected herdsmen at his residence in Rasat village Foron on Monday, 21 September, 2020, and the Village head of Wereng in Riyom LGA HRH Da Chungyang Mwadkwon on Monday, 5 October, 2020 at about 9.30p.m., and many others too numerous to mention;

*Worried* that these acts of criminality have continued to harvest the lives of people in my constituency causing the people to abandon their farms which have been occupied by strange elements. This has caused food insecurity, productivity and worsen unemployment indices with high consequence on education as schools have been abandoned both primary and secondary;

*Aware* that unprovoked destruction of crops has been going on unabated despite series of attempt of peaceful meetings and interactions organized by several groups and traditional rulers;

*Also aware* that government at all levels has played lip service in solving this challenge. There seem not to be any form of intelligence gathering to forestall the constant destruction of crops and killings in the Federal Constituency;

*Recalls* that during the June 23, 2018 massacre of citizens of the constituency, no action has been taken to alleviate their suffering as the communities affected are still in a state of despair leaving the educational, health and agricultural sectors unattended to. The number of out-of-school children is on the increase with rising social consequences as the constituency is still struggling with several IDP camps in Gashish and Bachi Districts estimated at 13,000 persons mainly women and children;

*Also recalls* that the Federal Government had pledged the sum of 10 billion Naira as intervention funds solely to cater for the IDPs. As I speak, the funds have not been released to the state to solve this problem despite an appeal in a letter to the Federal Government by my office;

*Also worried* that in trying to solve the security challenges in the area, a pronouncement was made by the IGP on the establishment of a MOPOL Squadron Mobile 65 Base in Gashish Barkin-Ladi LGA to help curb the insecurity, has not taken off, while other new Squadron bases have taken off in some parts of the country even with less security challenges. The establishment of the MOPOL 65 Squadron mobile base will help curb insecurity in the constituency;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Government as a matter of emergency to release the 10 billion Naira as promised on the 25 June, 2018, to help resettle the displaced persons and help curb insecurity in the area;

- (ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other relevant government agencies to urgently swing into action to help supply all the affected communities and people with food and other relief materials, also to help rebuild destroyed communities;
- (iii) urge the IG of Police and all other Security agencies to arrest and prosecute the killers of the two monarchs and others. To also arrest and prosecute the perpetrators of cattle rustling, destruction of crops and all other acts of criminality within the constituency; and
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Police Affairs and the National Assembly to press on the IG of Police to fulfil the promise by establishing the MOPOL 65 Squadron Mobile Base in Gashish District of Barkin-Ladi LGA to help curb constant killings, destruction of crops and any act of criminality (*Hon. Simon Davou Nwawkwon — Barkin Ladi/Riyom Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

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

“Urge the security agencies to take local intelligence information seriously in addressing the issues on insecurity in local communities” (*Hon. Dachung Bagos — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*).

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

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

The House:

*Noted* the serial killings of citizens of Barkin-Ladi and Riyom Local Governemtn Areas of Plateau State and constant destruction of their farmlands which has led to displacement of many households and thrown the constituency into hunger;

*Also noted* the murder of two monarchs, Gwom Rung who is the District Head of Foron HRH Da Bulus Chuwang Jakai by suspected herdsmen at his residence in Rasat village Foron on Monday, 21 September, 2020, and the Village head of Wereng in Riyom LGA HRH Da Chungyang Mwawkwon on Monday, 5 October, 2020 at about 9.30p.m., and many others too numerous to mention;

*Worried* that these acts of criminality have continued to harvest the lives of people in my constituency causing the people to abandon their farms which have been occupied by strange elements. This has caused food security, productivity and worsen unemployment indices with high consequence on education as schools have been abandoned both primary and secondary;

*Aware* that unprovoked destruction of crops has been going on unabated despite series of attempt of peaceful meetings and interactions organized by several groups and traditional rulers;

*Also aware* that government at all levels has played lip service in solving this challenge. There seem not to be any form of intelligence gathering to forestall the constant destruction of crops and killings in the Federal Constituency;



*Recalled* that during the June 23, 2018 massacre of citizens of the constituency, no action has been taken to alleviate their suffering as the communities affected are still in a state of despair leaving the educational, health and agricultural sectors unattended to. The number of out of school children is on the increase with rising social consequences as the constituency is still struggling with several IDP camps in Gashish and Bachi Districts estimated at 13,000 persons mainly women and children;

*Also recalled* that the Federal Government had pledged the sum of 10 billion Naira as intervention funds solely to cater for the IDPs. As I speak, the funds have not been released to the state to solve this problem despite an appeal in a letter to the Federal Government by my office;

*Also worried* that in trying to solve the security challenges in the area, a pronouncement was made by the IGP on the establishment of a MOPOL Squadron Mobile 65 Base in Gashish Barkin-Ladi LGA to help curb the insecurity, has not taken off, while other new Squadron bases have taken off in some parts of the country even with less security challenges. The establishment of the MOPOL 65 Squadron mobile base will help curb insecurity in the constituency;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Government as a matter of emergency to release the 10 billion Naira as promised on the 25 June, 2018, to help resettle the displaced persons and help curb insecurity in the area;
- (ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other relevant government agencies to urgently swing into action to help supply all the affected communities and people with food and other relief materials, also to help rebuild destroyed communities;
- (iii) urge the IG of Police and all other Security agencies to arrest and prosecute the killers of the two monarchs and others. To also arrest and prosecute the perpetrators of cattle rustling, destruction of crops and all other acts of criminality within the constituency;
- (iv) urge the security agencies to take local intelligence information seriously in addressing the issues on insecurity in local communities; and
- (v) mandate the Committee on Police Affairs and the National Assembly to press on the IG of Police to fulfil the promise by establishing the MOPOL 65 Squadron Mobile Base in Gashish District of Barkin-Ladi LGA to help curb constant killings, destruction of crops and any act of criminality (**HR. 52/10/2020**).

*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. Nkem-Abonta Uzoma — Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

(iii) *Need for the Nigerian Army to End the Siege and Lockdown of Uzuaku/Okorhia/Owaza Axis of Asa, Ukwa West Local Government Area, Abia State:*  
Hon. Nkem-Abonta Uzoma (*Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

*Worried* that the route which is a federal road should not ordinarily take more than 40 minutes drive, now takes commuters over two hours drive due to the current state, which is almost that of no road;

*Also worried* that criminals now take advantage of the state of the road to perpetrate various crimes on daily basis against the knowledge that vehicular movements are almost at a standstill on the affected portion of the road, aided by thick forests by the sides;

*Disturbed* that cases of kidnapping are recorded on the road regularly, thereby raising security concerns about the safety of commuters plying that route without options in view of the fact that it provides fast access to the parts of the country mentioned above;

*Also Disturbed* that lives are now being lost on the road due to auto crashes and armed robbery attacks, in addition to kidnappings, thereby making life difficult for innocent citizens who now use the road at the mercy of the criminals;

*Regrets* that in the month of December 2019 alone, about 16 persons, including two pregnant women were reported to have died along the road due auto crashes, occasioned by deplorable state of the road;

*Also regrets* that on the 9 February 2020, another fatality was recorded on the road immediately after Ochikala village due to the deplorable state of the road;

*Further disturbed* that apart from safety concerns, prices of farm produce that are being transported through the route continue to skyrocket as the cost of transportation is transferred on to the ultimate consumers;

*Still disturbed* that if urgent steps are not taken to provide lasting solution to this problem, commuters may not be able to ply the road, thereby disconnecting them from other parts of the country;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) and Federal Ministry of Works to ensure rehabilitation of the Ejule-Otukpa road, linking Kogi and Benue States;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), and Appropriations to make provisions for the rehabilitation of the Ejule-Otukpa Road in the 2021 Budget estimates (*Hon. David Idris Zacharias — Idah/Igalamela/Ibaji/Ofu Federal Constituency*).

**Amendment Proposed:**

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

“Also urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to extend the road rehabilitation to Obollo - Afor, Enugu State” (*Hon. Nnoli Nnaji — Nkanu East/Nkanu West Federal Constituency*).

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

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

The House:

*Noted* that Kogi State is strategically located, linking the South-East, South-South and South-West with the Federal Capital Territory and the northern part of the country;

*Also noted* that transport infrastructure, is one of the major challenges facing the country generally which necessitated the recent call on the Federal Government by the Senate to declare a state of emergency on federal roads across the country;

*Aware* that thousands of Nigerians ply the road from Ejule in Ofu Local Government Area of Kogi State and Otukpa in Benue State on daily basis, as the shortest route to the Federal Capital Territory and the northern part of the country;

*Also aware* that the same route is utilized by thousands of commuters and motorists who travel to the South-East, parts of South-South, and North-Central;

*Worried* that the route which is a federal road should not ordinarily take more than 40 minutes drive, now takes commuters over two hours drive due to the current state, which is almost that of no road;

*Also worried* that criminals now take advantage of the state of the road to perpetrate various crimes on daily basis against the knowledge that vehicular movements are almost at a standstill on the affected portion of the road, aided by thick forests by the sides;

*Disturbed* that cases of kidnapping are recorded on the road regularly, thereby raising security concerns about the safety of commuters plying that route without options in view of the fact that it provides fast access to the parts of the country mentioned above;

*Also Disturbed* that lives are now being lost on the road due to auto crashes and armed robbery attacks, in addition to kidnappings, thereby making life difficult for innocent citizens who now use the road at the mercy of the criminals;

*Regretted* that in the month of December 2019 alone, about 16 persons, including two pregnant women were reported to have died along the road due auto crashes, occasioned by deplorable state of the road;

*Also regretted* that on the 9 February 2020, another fatality was recorded on the road immediately after Ochikala village due to the deplorable state of the road;

*Further disturbed* that apart from safety concerns, prices of farm produce that are being transported through the route continue to skyrocket as the cost of transportation is transferred on to the ultimate consumers;

*Still disturbed* that if urgent steps are not taken to provide lasting solution to this problem, commuters may not be able to ply the road, thereby disconnecting them from other parts of the country;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) and Federal Ministry of Works to ensure rehabilitation of the Ejule-Otukpa road, linking Kogi and Benue States;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to extend the road rehabilitation to Obollo - Afor, Enugu State; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), and Appropriations to make provisions for the rehabilitation of the Ejule-Otukpa Road in the 2021 Budget estimates (HR. 54/10/2020).

11. **Need to Construct a Pedestrian Bridge at the Entrance of Kogi State Polytechnic, on Lokoja-Okene Highway, Lokoja, Kogi State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that provision of necessary infrastructure on federal highways is the responsibility of the Federal Government;

*Also notes* that Lokoja-Okene Highway is one of the busiest roads in the country, as it serves as a major link between the south and the Federal Capital Territory as well as some parts of Northern Nigeria;

*Aware* that the site of Kogi State polytechnic along this road attracts a high population of students and other category of persons who transact businesses in the school premises or in the market situated very close to the polytechnic;

*Also aware* that the people are exposed to the risk of being knocked down by motorists while trying to cross the road as more than 15 students lost their lives between 2017 to 2019 alone;

*Observes* that there is no pedestrian bridge across this ever busy federal highway;

*Also observes* that there is no known plan by any government or private institution to provide the urgently needed bridge to make crossing of the road easier and to prevent the ugly incident of knocking down people on the highway;

*Convinced* that an appropriate measure must be put in place urgently to prevent further loss of human lives on the road;

*Resolves to:*

Mandate the Committees on Works, and Appropriations to make provision for the Construction of a Pedestrian Bridge at the entrance of Kogi State Polytechnic, on Lokoja-Okene highway, Lokoja, Kogi State in the 2021 budget estimates (*Hon. Isah Shaba Ibrahim — Lokoja/Kogi/Koton Karfi Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**(HR. 55/10/2020).**

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

**12. Need to Investigate the hurried and Indiscriminate sale of the Federal Government Properties and Assets by the Presidential Implementation Committee and Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs)**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that pursuant to House Resolution 105/03/2020, an *Ad-hoc* Committee was constituted to Investigate the Federal Government Abandoned Properties Across the Federation including the Status, Use, and Current State of all Federal Government Properties in the country;

*Also notes* that the *Ad-hoc* Committee was officially inaugurated by Mr Speaker, Rt Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila on Tuesday, 12 May, 2020 with emphases on the need to include abandoned properties and projects outside country;

*Aware* that the *Ad-hoc* Committee immediately commenced investigation and discovered the existence of numerous abandoned properties, projects and assets within and outside the country;

*Also aware* that the commercial viability and inherent economic values of the properties could be a boost to the country's revenue if put to good use or sold;

*Worried* that the Presidential Implementation Committee of the White Paper on the Commission of Inquiry into the Alienation of Federal Government Landed Property, *Ad-hoc* Committee on Sales of Federal Government Houses in Abuja (FCT) and some Ministries, Departments and Agencies have not shown due diligence, transparency and accountability in the exercise of their respective mandates with respect to Federal Government properties;

*Also worried* that the above committees and some Ministries, Departments and Agencies are wantonly balkanizing Federal Government assets with no commensurate remittances to the Federation Account without recourse to the oversight or accountability powers of this House or the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation (OAGF);

*Further worried* that some of the Ministries, Department and Agencies are hurriedly and indiscriminately selling off those assets/abandoned properties in order to circumvent investigation and scrutiny by the *Ad-hoc* Committee;

*Concerned* that the Federal Government and buyers of such properties are being shortchanged considering that such buyers are yet to get their Certificates of Occupancy as well as other relevant documents thereto for payment made as far back as 2008;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) mandate the *Ad-hoc* Committee to further investigate the activities and indiscriminate hurried sales of Federal Government Assets, abandoned properties as well as projects by Presidential Implementation Committee of the White Paper on the Commission of Inquiry into the Alienation of Federal Government Landed Property, *Ad-hoc* Committee on Sales of Federal Government Houses in Abuja (FCT) and some Ministries Department and Agencies; and
- (ii) also mandate the *Ad-hoc* Committee to embark on a holistic investigation of all assets, abandoned projects and properties and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislation action (*Hon. Ademorin Kuye — Shomolu Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

*Leave out* all the Prayers, and *insert* as follows:

“Extend the time given to the *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the abandoned Federal Government properties and projects across the Federation to 8 weeks beginning from Wednesday, 7 October, 2020” (*Hon. Benjamin O. Kalu — Bende Federal Constituency*).

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

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

The House:

*Noted* that pursuant to House Resolution 105/03/2020, an *Ad-hoc* Committee was constituted to Investigate the Federal Government Abandoned Properties Across the Federation including the Status, Use, and Current State of all Federal Government Properties in the country;

*Also noted* that the *Ad-hoc* Committee was officially inaugurated by Mr Speaker, Rt Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila on Tuesday, 12 May, 2020 with emphases on the need to include abandoned properties and projects outside country;

*Aware* that the *Ad-hoc* Committee immediately commenced investigation and discovered the existence of numerous abandoned properties, projects and assets within and outside the country;

*Also aware* that the commercial viability and inherent economic values of the properties could be a boost to the country's revenue if put to good use or sold;

*Worried* that the Presidential Implementation Committee of the White Paper on the Commission of Inquiry into the Alienation of Federal Government Landed Property, *Ad-hoc* Committee on Sales of Federal Government Houses in Abuja (FCT) and some Ministries, Departments and Agencies have not shown due diligence, transparency and accountability in the exercise of their respective mandates with respect to Federal Government properties;

*Also worried* that the above committees and some Ministries, Departments and Agencies are wantonly balkanizing Federal Government assets with no commensurate remittances to the Federation Account without recourse to the oversight or accountability powers of this House or the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation (OAGF);

*Further worried* that some of the Ministries, Department and Agencies are hurriedly and indiscriminately selling off those assets/abandoned properties in order to circumvent investigation and scrutiny by the *Ad-hoc* Committee;

*Concerned* that the Federal Government and buyers of such properties are being shortchanged considering that such buyers are yet to get their Certificates of Occupancy as well as other relevant documents thereto for payment made as far back as 2008;

*Resolved to:*

Extend the time given to the *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the abandoned Federal Government properties and projects across the Federation to 8 weeks beginning from Wednesday, 7 October, 2020 (HR. 56/10/2020).

**13. Admittance into the Chamber**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That the House do admit into the Chamber, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari and his entourage for the presentation of 2021 Appropriation Bill, on Thursday, 8 October, 2020, pursuant to Order Nineteen, Rule 8 (1) and (2) of the Standing Orders of the House" (Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader).

*Agreed to.*

**14. Order of the Day**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That the House do set down items 1 - 2, and 6 - 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.*

**15. Adjournment**

*That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 8 October, 2020 at 10.00 a.m.* (Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader).

*The House adjourned accordingly at 2.53 p.m.*

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila  
Speaker