



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

FIRST VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 20 October, 2020

1. The House met at 11.10 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, 14 October, 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**

16th October, 2020

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

Dear Rt Hon. F. Gbajabamila,

**TRANSMISSION OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
(FCT), ABUJA REVISED 2020 STATUTORY APPROPRIATION**

Pursuant to Sections 121 - 122 and 299 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), I forward herewith the Revised 2020-Statutory Appropriation of the Federal Capital Territory Administration, Abuja for the kind consideration and passage by the House of Representatives. These revised estimates of revenue and expenditure are proposed in response to the lower revenues and higher personnel costs projected for the Federal Capital Territory Administration in the 2020 fiscal year, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, as well as the decline in global, and domestic, economic performance.

While appreciating your usual expeditious consideration of this submission, please accept, Right Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Muhammadu Buhari

5. Announcement

(a) Bereavement:

Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Fatoba Olusola Steve (Ado-Ekiti/Irepodun/Ifelodun Federal Constituency), announcing the demise of Hon. Samuel Adeyemi, a former Member (2003 - 2007) representing Ado-Ekiti/Irepodun/Ifelodun Federal Constituency.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(b) Special Ad-hoc Committee on Constitution Review:

Mr Speaker directed representatives from Nasarawa, Niger and Plateau States to submit names of their nominees to the Committee.

6. Remarks by Mr Speaker

Mr Speaker made the following remarks:

Protocols:

Good morning Honourable colleagues, thank you for being here this morning.

2. *About two weeks ago, I spoke to this honourable House about the need for urgent, substantive, and wholesale reforms of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) and an overhaul of our nation's internal security and policing framework.*
3. *This honourable House debated the failures of policing that have caused our nation's youth to take to the streets in their numbers, demanding that Government live up to our primary obligation to ensure the security and welfare of our people.*
4. *The nationwide protests that gave impetus to our deliberations that day have not abated. They have gotten more serious, with many reported instances of violence between state actors and protesters, between protesters and armed thugs who seek to hijack the passion and idealism of these protests for other nefarious purposes.*
5. *The Federal Government of Nigeria has acted to dissolve the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), whose gross-abuses of power are the proximate cause of this present unrest. The Government has moved to set up, through the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), a national judicial panel of inquiry, in addition to similar panels set up by the federating State Governments.*
6. *The House of Representatives has committed to a programme of reforms. We resolved to collaborate with the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in this effort and to ensure that draft legislation is ready for consideration within thirty days.*

7. *None of these actions have sufficed to convince the ever-growing numbers of protesters to withdraw from continued agitation. From Lagos to Awkuzu, from Port Harcourt to Kano, Abuja and Enugu, the protests have continued relentlessly, with good cause. Whatever else may be driving this moment, our people expect more than commitments. They expect action, and we must deliver.*
8. *This House will live up to the commitments we have already made, whilst we continue to seek avenues to do better and achieve more. Even as we act to establish systems for police accountability to ensure that the abuses of the past never happen again, we must seek the full measure of justice for what came before.*
9. *We owe this to Tiyanu Kazeem and Tina Ezekwe, Tony Zitta and Anita Akapson, to Chijioko Iloanya and Jimoh Istaq, Kolade Johnson, Modebayo Awosika and far too many others.*
10. *We owe it to the families they left behind, to those who even now do not know if their missing son, their long lost sister, their father, is buried somewhere in a shallow, unmarked grave, put there by those whose duty it was to protect them.*
11. *We owe this much to the young people who have such high hopes and lofty aspirations for this nation that they are willing to risk their lives, brave the sun and rain, through night and day, to demand that all of us, one nation under God, live up to the better angels of our nature, and be better than what we are now.*
12. *On Wednesday last week, the leadership of the House met with the President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA). This meeting was in furtherance of the House' resolution to partner with the Association to develop legislation that implements a new framework for holding police officers accountable when they fail in the performance of their duties under the law.*
13. *Following from that meeting, the President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Olumide Akpata constituted a Committee, led by the eminent Professor Deji Adegunle, SAN to work with the House of Representatives to develop a Bill for the House within the timeline we have pledged. The Committee has resumed its assignment. I thank Olumide Akpata and the leadership of the NBA for their support. I also thank Professor Adegunle, SAN and members of the Committee, all of whom volunteered for this assignment, for recognising the urgency of the moment and acting with dedication and in good conscience, in service of our beloved nation.*
14. *Two weeks from now, the House will receive and immediately begin to consider legislation that seeks to establish a system of independent, responsive accountability that:*
 - (a) *holds erring members of the Police Force to account for their conduct in the performance of their duties;*
 - (b) *imposes civil and criminal liability for violations of the law and the Police regulations;*
 - (c) *ensures that officers found who engage in unauthorised, unlawful use of force are expelled from office and subject to the full penalty of the law; and*
 - (d) *prohibits with severe penalties the practice of using illegal incarceration as a cudgel to extort law-abiding citizens of their hard-earned resources.*
15. *We will establish a system of citizen-led accountability for the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) because in the democracy we have set out to build, the police are not above the citizenry, they are servants of the people. The police are not above the law; they are its guardians.*

16. *As we endeavour to hold our nation's police to higher standards of personal and professional conduct, we must also make sure that we provide for the welfare of the men and women to whom we assign such significant responsibilities in our collective interest. From minimum police recruitment requirements, through to training, everything must change, if we are to have a police force that meets our nation's needs and upholds the law of the land with integrity and professionalism.*

17. *Honourable colleagues, independence for any nation is not a function of a singular declaration; it doesn't happen one time. Freedom is earned through generations, over and over again, by the sacrifice of patriots who band together to achieve for themselves and leave to their descendants, the inheritance of a more perfect union.*

18. *Sixty years ago, our country gained its independence from the British who until then had charted our course and devised our fate. Twenty years ago, when we set off the shackles of the military dictatorship, to commit once more to this grand experiment in civil governance, we gained independence again.*

19. *Today, we are witnessing across Nigeria, a call for a fundamental rethinking of our nationhood. As we sit here in this hallowed chamber, a new independence movement is roiling our nation. A generation of young people, who came of age in the years of our democracy have looked upon what we have built and decided that we can do better.*

20. *We will do well to heed this call and what it portends for Nigeria. Let us take the opportunity of this moment to do the hard things, make the right choices and pursue those objectives that drive progress and put us in good stead for generations to come.*

As Speaker of this House of Representatives, let me say now for the records to reflect, and in the expectation that I would be held to account:

- *I will not sign off on a 2021 Budget that does not include adequate provisions to compensate those who have suffered violence and brutality at the hands of the police in Nigeria in the last two decades.*
- *I will not sign off on a budget that does not meet the reasonable demands of the ASUU, to which Government has already acceded. There is no better time to rethink the system of funding for higher education in Nigeria. The current system does a great disservice to our children and our country, and we must commit to changing it so that we can free our institutions of higher learning to be citadels where innovation thrives, and excellence is a given.*
- *With my colleagues in the House of Representatives, I will visit over the next week, some of the families of those who have lost loved ones to police brutality and when we come back, we will work together to honour the memory of those we have lost.*
- *The House of Representatives will pass an Electoral Reform Bill in time for the next general elections so that we may continue to improve the process of electing our political representatives at all levels.*
- *I will support the amendment of the constitution to ensure that the provisions on fundamental human rights have teeth, resource control is dealt with equitably and that the next generation of Nigerians does not inherit evident dysfunctions of our current system.*

21. *This is my commitment, and I ask the support of the House of Representatives for this and more. Let us through the grace of God and with humility work together to bring peace, security, justice and prosperity for all our nation's people.*

22. *To the young people across Nigeria who have led these protests, whose call for change has brought about this historical moment, you are the midwives of national rebirth. You have moved a nation to action, and now you must join in doing the hard work of making real the vision of a more just, more prosperous, and more resilient nation.*

23. *We see your true cause. Please do not allow your righteous cause to be hijacked by those with base motives, who see in this moment an opportunity to pursue vendettas, to spread division. exploit the many, existing fissures that exist in our society and bring our nation to its knees.*

24. *You have raised your voices and marched to demand a better Nigeria. From Abuja to Washington, to Calgary and London, your voices have been heard. Do not allow anybody to convince you that to withdraw from the streets now is to concede defeat.*

25. *This is the time to move your agitation from the chaos of the streets to the painstaking deliberations and strategic partnerships that birth policy and produce legislation. It is time to mobilise your voices in support of specific policy interventions that will deliver on our shared objectives of national renewal and a country that reflects the best of us. I thank you, your country thanks you, and history will be kind to you.*

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

7. **Executive Session**

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

Closed Session — 11.33 a.m.

House in Open Session — 1.01 p.m.

8. **Petition**

A petition from Kenneth Emeka Nwulu, on the termination of his appointment from the service of Nigerian Export Promotion Council, was presented and laid by Hon. Ndudi Elumelu (Aniocha/Oshimili Federal Constituency).

Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

(i) *Need for Repairs and Upgrade of Navigational and Landing Aids at the Sultan Abubakar III International Airport, Sokoto:*

Hon. Abdullahi Balarabe Salame (Illela/Gwadubawa 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 Repairs and Upgrade of Navigational and Landing Aids at the Sultan Abubakar III International Airport, Sokoto:

The House:

Notes that the Nigerian Airforce recently launched an Air operation to curtail the prevalent banditry and kidnappings in North Western part of the country;

Also notes that the Sultan Abubakar III International Airport, Sokoto is utilized by the Airforce to plan and execute the operation which most of the time take place at night or in the early hours of the morning;

Worried that some of the navigational/landing aids currently in use at the Airport are either unserviceable or in need of an upgrade and Calibration to ensure safety of flights;

Disturbed that the absence of approach light at Runway 26 and unserviceable one at Runway 08 make it almost impossible for an aircraft coming from another direction to locate the runways and complete its approach for landing;

Also disturbed that the conventional Runway edge light installed at the Airport is unserviceable and available solar type is not effective;

Amazed that the Very High Frequency Omni- Directional Radio Range (VOR) installed at the Airport is currently unserviceable despite its enabling the aircraft with a receiving unit to determine its position and stay on Course during flight by receiving Radio Signals transmitted from the VOR;

Regrets that the safety and smooth conduct of flight operations at the Airport will continue to be threatened if urgent action is not taken to address this challenge;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Aviation to liaise with the appropriate authorities to facilitate the urgent upgrade and repairs of the navigational and landing aids at the Sultan Abubakar III International Airport, Sokoto taking advantage of the on-going 2021 budget consideration by the National Assembly (*Hon. Abdullah Balarabe Salame — Illela/Gwadabawa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Nigerian Airforce recently launched an Air operation to curtail the prevalent banditry and kidnappings in North Western part of the country;

Also noted that the Sultan Abubakar III International Airport, Sokoto is utilized by the Airforce to plan and execute the operation which most of the time take place at night or in the early hours of the morning;

Worried that some of the navigational/landing aids currently in use at the Airport are either unserviceable or in need of an upgrade and Calibration to ensure safety of flights;

Disturbed that the absence of approach light at Runway 26 and unserviceable one at Runway 08 make it almost impossible for an aircraft coming from another direction to locate the runways and complete its approach for landing;

Also disturbed that the conventional Runway edge light installed at the Airport is unserviceable and available solar type is not effective;

Amazed that the Very High Frequency Omni- Directional Radio Range (VOR) installed at the Airport is currently unserviceable despite its enabling the aircraft with a receiving unit to determine its position and stay on Course during flight by receiving Radio Signals transmitted from the VOR;

Regretted that the safety and smooth conduct of flight operations at the Airport will continue to be threatened if urgent action is not taken to address this challenge;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Aviation to liaise with the appropriate authorities to facilitate the urgent upgrade and repairs of the navigational and landing aids at the Sultan Abubakar III International Airport, Sokoto taking advantage of the on-going 2021 budget consideration by the National Assembly (HR. 57/10/2020).

(ii) ***Need to Address the Possible Breach of National Security under the Peaceful Protests Across the Country:***

Hon. Soli Sada (*Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Need to Address the Possible Breach of National Security under the Peaceful Protests Across the Country:

The House:

Notes the legitimate and constitutional right to peaceful protests of citizens;

Also notes the quick action of the Federal Government by yielding to the demands to ban the Special Anti-Robbery Squad of the Nigeria Police Force, otherwise known as SARS;

Further notes that Mr President has assured Nigerians that all Policemen responsible for misconduct are brought to justice and that persons being held in SARS cells are promptly released;

Acknowledges the plight of the victims of Police misconduct and offer condolences to the relatives and friends of the numerous victims;

Concerned that the legitimate protests are being infiltrated by hoodlums, which may result in the breakdown of law and order;

Also concerned that the continuous protests across the country have inflicted untold hardship on other Nigerians pursuing their legitimate livelihoods:

Further concerned that the protests have impacted negatively on the nation's economy as economic activities have been inadvertently crippled by the protests;

Disturbed that the protests may be taking a dangerous political dimension which could be inimical to the country's democratic process;

Also disturbed that the protests are being hijacked by hoodlums and other unpatriotic Nigerians as there have been reports of break-ins at a medium security-correctional centre along Sapele Road in Benin, and burning of Police Stations, all in Edo State, as well as general violence by hoodlums brandishing dangerous weapons, causing mayhem and grounding vehicular movements in major cities across the country;

Worried about the public health and safety of the populace as the protests may escalate the spread of the COVID-19 infection across the country;

Also worried that due to the protests, people are finding it increasingly difficult to access health care and other services;

Cognizant that if adequate measures are not taken to address the protests, the country may be thrown into a state of complete anarchy, resulting in needless loss of lives and properties and posing a threat to governance across the country;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the President to issue an Executive Order to address some of the broader issues on Police brutality;
- (ii) appeal to protesters to have faith in the National Assembly and the Executive Arm of Government in the collective efforts towards finding a lasting solution to the lingering issues of general Police misconduct;
- (iii) set-up an *Ad-hoc* Committee chaired by the Deputy Speaker, the membership of which should comprise the Majority Leader, the Minority Leader and 3 members each from the Committees on Defence, Police, Army, Airforce, Navy, Interior, National Security and Intelligence and Human Rights to interface with relevant security agencies, other relevant agencies and interest groups to ensure a peaceful end to the protests (*Hon. Sada Soli — Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:

“Observe a minute silence in honour of those who lost their lives as a result of police brutality in the last decade” (*Hon. Mshelia Haruna — Askira-Ubd/Hawul Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the legitimate and constitutional right to peaceful protests of citizens;

Also noted the quick action of the Federal Government by yielding to the demands to ban the Special Anti-Robbery Squad of the Nigeria Police Force, otherwise known as SARS;

Further noted that Mr President has assured Nigerians that all Policemen responsible for misconduct are brought to justice and that persons being held in SARS cells are promptly released;

Acknowledged the plight of the victims of Police misconduct and offer condolences to the relatives and friends of the numerous victims;

Concerned that the legitimate protests are being infiltrated by hoodlums, which may result in the breakdown of law and order;

Also concerned that the continuous protests across the country have inflicted untold hardship on other Nigerians pursuing their legitimate livelihoods;

Further concerned that the protests have impacted negatively on the nation's economy as economic activities have been inadvertently crippled by the protests;

Disturbed that the protests may be taking a dangerous political dimension which could be inimical to the country's democratic process;

Also disturbed that the protests are being hijacked by hoodlums and other unpatriotic Nigerians as there have been reports of break-ins at a medium security-correctional centre along Sapele Road in Benin, and burning of Police Stations, all in Edo State, as well as general violence by hoodlums brandishing dangerous weapons, causing mayhem and grounding vehicular movements in major cities across the country;

Worried about the public health and safety of the populace as the protests may escalate the spread of the COVID-19 infection across the country;

Also worried that due to the protests, people are finding it increasingly difficult to access health care and other services;

Cognizant that if adequate measures are not taken to address the protests, the country may be thrown into a state of complete anarchy, resulting in needless loss of lives and properties and posing a threat to governance across the country;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the President to issue an Executive Order to address some of the broader issues on Police brutality;
- (ii) appeal to protesters to have faith in the National Assembly and the Executive Arm of Government in the collective efforts towards finding a lasting solution to the lingering issues of general Police misconduct;
- (iii) set-up an *Ad-hoc* Committee chaired by the Deputy Speaker, the membership of which should comprise the Majority Leader, the Minority Leader and 3 Members

each from the Committees on Defence, Police, Army, Airforce, Navy, Interior, National Security and Intelligence and Human Rights to interface with relevant security agencies, other relevant agencies and interest groups to ensure a peaceful end to the protests; and

- (iv) observe a minute silence in honour of those who lost their lives as a result of police brutality in the last decade (**HR. 58/10/2020**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

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. Mark Terseer Gbillah — Gwer East/Gwer West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(iii) Allegations of Unjustified, Inhuman, Illegal and Premeditated Freezing of Bank Accounts by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN):

Hon. Mark Terseer Gbillah (*Gwer East/Gwer 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.

Allegations of Unjustified, Inhuman, Illegal and Premeditated Freezing of Bank Accounts by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN):

The House:

Concerned about the plethora of petitions and "save our soul" (SOS) appeals from Nigerian Citizens across the country in recent times about the untold hardship and poverty being experienced from extended freezing of their personal, corporate and other accounts by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), reports of the current unprecedented freezing of over 5,000 bank accounts in Nigeria by the CBN and allegations of injustice, illegality, victimization and prejudice by the CBN against innocent Nigerians in the freezing of their accounts. The burgeoning number of accounts being frozen by the CBN in Nigeria appears to be taking a huge toll on the nation's economy and livelihood of millions of Nigerians and underscores the seeming flagrant abuse of this power by the CBN when compared to the Central Banks, Treasuries and Federal Reserves of other climes;

Worried about innumerable allegations from affected Nigerians that the CBN in its claim of exercising the CBN Governors powers to freeze bank accounts under Section 60B of the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act (BOFIA), 2004, incessantly violates Nigerians fundamental human right to fair hearing and presumption of innocence until proven guilty as enshrined in Section 36 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) when it freezes accounts arbitrarily for extended periods without the knowledge of the account holder, the provision of an opportunity for the account holder to provide an explanation or referral of the matter to an appropriate regulatory authority for proper investigation as required in the related section of the Act. Although this section of the Act does not expressly indicate the requirement for an opportunity for fair hearing for the account.

holder, Section 1 (3) of the 1999 Constitution is explicitly clear about the supremacy of the Constitution over any other subsisting law and presupposes the CBN should be aware of its obligation to observe constitutional provisions in the exercise of any powers under any law:

Also worried about the preponderance of allegations of contraventions of provisions of the law by the CBN in freezing accounts without obtaining a valid court order, obtaining a court order after the fact when the account holder raises an alarm in this regard, freezing of accounts that are unconnected to the account suspected of involvement in a crime, inhuman and insensitive application for ex-parte orders to freeze accounts for up to 180 days (6 months) without considering the hardship this action might bring upon innocent Nigerians involved in legitimate transactions and who depend on the funds in these accounts for their remuneration, business transactions and daily sustenance. Indefinite freezing of accounts without referral to appropriate regulatory authorities for investigation, without renewal of the initial court order authorizing the freeze and even after concluded investigations do not indict the account holder for any wrongdoing. These actions if confirmed give credence to allegations that the CBN is complicit in the execution of political and personal vendettas against innocent Nigerians without just cause;

Notes the contradiction of Section 60B of BOFIA 2004 with provisions of subsisting legislation like Section 6 (1) (d) and (2) of the Money Laundering Prohibition Act, 2011 which in the first instance expressly provides for fair hearing for the account holder before reporting the matter to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) for further action if necessary including putting a restriction on the account in line with already existing statutory powers of the EFCC, Section 16 of Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit Act, 2018 which limits the power of the Director to only placing an account under surveillance, Section 43 of the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) Act, 2000 which empowers the Commission's Chairman after obtaining a court order in this regard to direct the receipt and inspection of all information related to any bank account under investigation and Section 34 (1) of the EFCC Act, 2004 which is the original legislation that authorizes the freezing of any account by the Commission after obtaining a valid court order;

Also notes that while the EFCC, ICPC and NFIU by virtue of their primary statutory functions are required to be equipped with requisite intelligence resources to carry out investigations into suspicions of financial impropriety, only the EFCC is empowered to freeze bank accounts after obtaining a valid court order which is more in consonance with the modus operandi in other climes. The primary statutory function of the CBN is not the investigation of suspicions of financial impropriety and hence it obviously is not equipped with requisite intelligence resources to do so which emphasizes the expedience of the National Assembly revisiting the provisions of Section 60B of BOFIA, 2004 and probably informs the reason why (and rightly so too) this section was conspicuously omitted from the proposed amendment of the BOFIA currently before the National Assembly. The circumstances surrounding the original inclusion of section 60B as an appendix to the 2004 amendment of the BOFIA after it was omitted from the body of the act in the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (LFN), 2004 also raises concerns about whether this section was legitimately signed into law at the time;

Concerned about the plethora of impending litigations against the CBN which every Nigerian constitutionally has the right to institute but that will distract the CBN from its primary statutory functions and unnecessarily expend monumental tax payers funds for the acquisition of legal representation by the CBN which should ordinarily have been avoided but for the indiscretion of its employees;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to within 48hrs, commence a review of all currently frozen accounts in Nigeria and to after one week remove the freeze order on accounts frozen under the following clear violations of the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and Section 60B of BOFIA, 2004:
- (a) Accounts frozen before a valid court order was obtained,
 - (b) Accounts frozen without obtaining a court order from the required court of competent jurisdiction,
 - (c) Accounts frozen without providing the opportunity for fair hearing to the account holder,
 - (d) Accounts frozen but till date have not been referred to the Nigeria Police Force, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency or any other appropriate regulatory authority for investigation,
 - (e) Accounts frozen that are unconnected to the account suspected for involvement in the commission of crime,
 - (f) Accounts remaining frozen after court authorized period of freeze has elapsed without obtaining a fresh order from a court of competent jurisdiction,
 - (g) Accounts remaining frozen even after concluded investigation has not indicted the account holder,
 - (h) Accounts frozen without documentary proof of petition or reason for suspicion of involvement in the commission of crime; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to immediately invite all relevant and affected stakeholders to a public investigation of circumstances surrounding the freezing of all accounts currently frozen by the CBN in Nigeria with a view to identifying:
- (a) any cases of contraventions of statutory provisions by the CBN in the freezing of accounts,
 - (b) any verifiable cases of victimization or vendetta against account holders by the CBN in the freezing of their accounts,
 - (c) provisions of the subsisting enabling act that might require immediate amendment considering the tendency for abuse by the CBN, ambiguity of related clause(s), contradictions with provisions of other subsisting legislation, jurisprudence or global best practice and controversy surrounding the addition of related Section of the Act after amended version of the Act had been published in the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (LFN), 2004,

- (d) whether appropriate sanctions will be required to be recommended against erring staff of the CBN including the Governor especially when the administration of related provisions of the Act is in the Governor's name; and report back within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Mark Terseer Gbittah – Gwer East/Gwer West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Concerned about the plethora of petitions and "save our soul" (SOS) appeals from Nigerian Citizens across the country in recent times about the untold hardship and poverty being experienced from extended freezing of their personal, corporate and other accounts by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), reports of the current unprecedented freezing of over 5,000 bank accounts in Nigeria by the CBN and allegations of injustice, illegality, victimization and prejudice by the CBN against innocent Nigerians in the freezing of their accounts. The burgeoning number of accounts being frozen by the CBN in Nigeria appears to be taking a huge toll on the nation's economy and livelihood of millions of Nigerians and underscores the seeming flagrant abuse of this power by the CBN when compared to the Central Banks, Treasuries and Federal Reserves of other climes;

Worried about innumerable allegations from affected Nigerians that the CBN in its claim of exercising the CBN Governor's powers to freeze bank accounts under Section 60B of the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act (BOFIA), 2004, incessantly violates Nigerians' fundamental human right to fair hearing and presumption of innocence until proven guilty as enshrined in Section 36 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) when it freezes accounts arbitrarily for extended periods without the knowledge of the account holder, the provision of an opportunity for the account holder to provide an explanation or referral of the matter to an appropriate regulatory authority for proper investigation as required in the related section of the Act. Although this section of the Act does not expressly indicate the requirement for an opportunity for fair hearing for the account holder, Section 1 (3) of the 1999 Constitution is explicitly clear about the supremacy of the Constitution over any other subsisting law and presupposes the CBN should be aware of its obligation to observe constitutional provisions in the exercise of any powers under any law;

Also worried about the preponderance of allegations of contraventions of provisions of the law by the CBN in freezing accounts without obtaining a valid court order, obtaining a court order after the fact when the account holder raises an alarm in this regard, freezing of accounts that are unconnected to the account suspected of involvement in a crime, inhuman and insensitive application for ex-parte orders to freeze accounts for up to 180 days (6 months) without considering the hardship this action might bring upon innocent Nigerians involved in legitimate transactions and who depend on the funds in these accounts for their remuneration, business transactions and daily sustenance. Indefinite freezing of accounts without referral to appropriate regulatory authorities for investigation, without renewal of the initial court order authorizing the freeze and even after concluded investigations do not indict the account holder for any wrongdoing. These actions if confirmed give credence to allegations that the CBN is complicit in the execution of political and personal vendettas against innocent Nigerians without just cause;

Noted the contradiction of Section 60B of BOFIA 2004 with provisions of subsisting legislation like Section 6 (1) (d) and (2) of the Money Laundering Prohibition Act, 2011 which in the first instance expressly provides for fair hearing for the account holder before reporting the matter to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) for further action if necessary including putting a restriction on the account in line with already existing

statutory powers of the EFCC, Section 16 of Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit Act, 2018 which limits the power of the Director to only placing an account under surveillance, Section 43 of the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) Act, 2000 which empowers the Commission's Chairman after obtaining a court order in this regard to direct the receipt and inspection of all information related to any bank account under investigation and Section 34 (1) of the EFCC Act, 2004 which is the original legislation that authorizes the freezing of any account by the Commission after obtaining a valid court order;

Also noted that while the EFCC, ICPC and NFIU by virtue of their primary statutory functions are required to be equipped with requisite intelligence resources to carry out investigations into suspicions of financial impropriety, only the EFCC is empowered to freeze bank accounts after obtaining a valid court order which is more in consonance with the modus operandi in other climes. The primary statutory function of the CBN is not the investigation of suspicions of financial impropriety and hence it obviously is not equipped with requisite intelligence resources to do so which emphasizes the expedience of the National Assembly revisiting the provisions of Section 60B of BOFIA, 2004 and probably informs the reason why (and rightly so too) this section was conspicuously omitted from the proposed amendment of the BOFIA currently before the National Assembly. The circumstances surrounding the original inclusion of section 60B as an appendix to the 2004 amendment of the BOFIA after it was omitted from the body of the act in the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (LFN), 2004 also raises concerns about whether this section was legitimately signed into law at the time;

Concerned about the plethora of impending litigations against the CBN which every Nigerian constitutionally has the right to institute but that will distract the CBN from its primary statutory functions and unnecessarily expend monumental tax payers funds for the acquisition of legal representation by the CBN which should ordinarily have been avoided but for the indiscretion of its employees;

Resolved to:

(i) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to within 48hrs, commence a review of all currently frozen accounts in Nigeria and to after one week remove the freeze order on accounts frozen under the following clear violations of the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and Section 60B of BOFIA, 2004:

- (a) Accounts frozen before a valid court order was obtained,
- (b) Accounts frozen without obtaining a court order from the required court of competent jurisdiction,
- (c) Accounts frozen without providing the opportunity for fair hearing to the account holder,
- (d) Accounts frozen but till date have not been referred to the Nigeria Police Force, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency or any other appropriate regulatory authority for investigation,
- (e) Accounts frozen that are unconnected to the account suspected for involvement in the commission of crime,
- (f) Accounts remaining frozen after court authorized period of freeze has elapsed without obtaining a fresh order from a court of competent jurisdiction.

- (g) Accounts remaining frozen even after concluded investigation has not indicted the account holder,
 - (h) Accounts frozen without documentary proof of petition or reason for suspicion of involvement in the commission of crime; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to immediately invite all relevant and affected stakeholders to a public investigation of circumstances surrounding the freezing of all accounts currently frozen by the CBN in Nigeria with a view to identifying:
- (a) any cases of contraventions of statutory provisions by the CBN in the freezing of accounts,
 - (b) any verifiable cases of victimization or vendetta against account-holders by the CBN in the freezing of their accounts,
 - (c) provisions of the subsisting enabling act that might require immediate amendment considering the tendency for abuse by the CBN, ambiguity of related clause(s), contradictions with provisions of other subsisting legislation, jurisprudence or global best practice and controversy surrounding the addition of related Section of the Act after amended version of the Act had been published in the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (LFN), 2004,
 - (d) whether appropriate sanctions will be required to be recommended against erring staff of the CBN including the Governor especially when the administration of related provisions of the Act is in the Governors name; and report back within four (4) weeks (HR. 59/10/2020).

10. **Matter Requiring the Attention of the House**

Hon. Benjamin Kalu (*Bende Federal Constituency*), drew the attention of the House to a protest by the National Youth Council of Nigeria in which a delegation of the House was directed to interact with the protesters and reported that the protesters presented their demands to the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, through the House of Representatives. He noted that the demands were concise and comprehensive and assured them that the demands would be conveyed to the appropriate authority.

Ordered: Mr Speaker directed that the demands of the National Youth Council of Nigeria as contained in a communique be laid before the House.

11. **Presentation of Bills**

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1067).
- (2) Nigerian Citizens Moral Accountability Bill, 2020 (HB. 1068).
- (3) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1070).
- (4) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1071).
- (5) National Human Rights Commission (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1072).
- (6) Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1073).
- (7) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1074).

- (8) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1075).
- (9) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1076).
- (10) Bunker Convention Bill, 2020 (HB. 1077).
- (11) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1078).
- (12) Occupational safety and Health Association (Chartered) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1079).
- (13) Federal Medical Centre, Ila-Orangun (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1080).
- (14) Indian-Hemp Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1081).
- (15) National Transport Commission Bill, 2020 (HB. 1082).
- (16) Federal Medical Centre, Rano (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1083).
- (17) Lagos Port Operations (Special Provisions) (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1084).
- (18) Nigerian Ports Authority Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1085).
- (19) Chartered Institute of Power Engineers of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1086).
- (20) National Agricultural Loan Facility Management Commission Bill, 2020 (HB. 1087).
- (21) Nigeria Police Trust Fund (Establishment) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1088).
- (22) Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1089).
- (23) Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1090).
- (24) Federal Medical Center, Zuru (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1091).
- (25) Federal College of Education, Tudun Wada Dankadai (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1092).
- (26) Legal Practitioners Bill, 2020 (HB. 1093).
- (27) Extradition Treaty Bill, 2020 (HB. 1094).
- (28) Nigerian Shippers Council Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1095).
- (29) Nigerian Maritime Labour Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1096).
- (30) National Security Regulatory Management Commission Bill, 2020 (HB. 1097).
- (31) Nigerian Army University, Biu (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1100).

12. Presentation of Reports

(i) *Committee on Reformatory Institutions:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Reformatory Institutions on the Need to Investigate the Nigerian Correctional Service (HR. 27/7/2020)" (Hon. Anayo Edwin — Ezza North/Ishielu Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

- (ii) **Committee on Reformatory Institutions:**
Motion made and Question proposed. "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Reformatory Institutions on the Need to Relocate the Correctional Centre (Medium Security Prison) in Jalingo, Taraba State to a less Congested Area (H.R. 218/11/2020)" (Hon. Anayo Edwin — Ezza North/Ishielu Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

13. **Need to Address the Impact of Recent Ravaging Flood Disaster in parts of Nigeria**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that flooding is the most common disaster in Nigeria as several communities in the country increasingly suffer from annual flooding during the rainy seasons caused by increased precipitation linked to human, natural causes and climate change;

Aware of this years' ravaging effect of flood disaster across the country on the socio-economic wellbeing of the people families and communities;

Recalls that the 2020 Annual Flood Outlook released by the Nigeria Hydrological Survey Agency (NIHSA) in May 2020 indicated that 102 Local Government Areas in over 28 States were reported to be at risk of flooding;

Also recalls that States listed in the survey included Rivers, Cross River, Delta, Lagos, Ondo, Bayelsa, Sokoto, Kogi, Niger, Kaduna, Katsina, Gombe, Adamawa, Benue, FCT, Nasarawa, Delta, Oyo, Ogun, Osun, Ekiti, Ebonyi, Edo, Abia, Anambra, Imo, Borno, Kano and Kebbi;

Further recalls that the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) also asserted that 275 Local Government Areas across the 36 States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory fall within the moderately probable flood risk areas, while the remaining 397 Local Government Areas fall within the low probable flood risk areas. The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) further indicated that States likely to be affected are Borno, Yobe, Gombe, Adamawa, Taraba, Bauchi, Plateau, Nasarawa, Benue, Niger, Kogi, Enugu and Anambra. The rest include Imo, Abia, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Delta, Edo, Ekiti, Osun, Kwara, Zamfara, Sokoto, Lagos, Ondo, Bayelsa, Kaduna, Oyo, Ogun, Abia, Kano, Kebbi and the FCT;

Also aware that Flooding and rainstorms and flood related disasters have been reported in Kebbi, Akwa Ibom, Borno, Lagos, Ogun, Kano, Niger, Adamawa, Kaduna, Katsina, Yobe, Jigawa displacing hundreds of thousands of people and creating hardships of livelihoods across these communities;

Concerned that in Kwara State over 15, 000 persons have been internally displaced and 5,000 houses destroyed with properties estimated at about ₦10 billion to flood disasters, most affected areas in Ilorin metropolis are Okelele, Alagbado, Aiyegbami-Dada, Dada Community, Harmony Estate, Akerebiata, Maya/Ile-Apa, Gaa-Osibi, Ero-Omo, Faté, Gaa-Akanbi, Muritala Muhammed Way, Taiwo Road and Agbabiaka area;

Also concerned that the floods have affected various communities in Jigawa State causing the death of not less than 40 persons and recorded as the worst and most devastating since 1988, worsening food insufficiency leading to an increase in prices of basic food items;

Further concerned that in Jigawa State the flood destroyed 6,637 houses in about 19 Local Government Areas in the State as many people died in Gwaram, Dutse, Jahun, Gumel and Ringim Local Government Areas of the State, the flood also destroyed 96 houses in Kirikasamma; 141 in Dutse; 419 in Jahun; 525 in Hadejia, 417 in Babura; 525 in Ringim; 822 in Gumel; 529 in Malamadori and 126 in Birninkudu Local Government Areas and additional 68 houses in Taura; 120 in Kazaure; 691 in Maigatari; 336 in Gagarawa; 67 in Buji; 101 in Garki; 856 in Kiyawa; 87 in Kafinhausu; Auyo 57 in Gwaram and 54 in Suletankarkar Local Government Areas;

Still concerned that in Guri, Birinwa and Kirikasamma Local Government Areas, thousands of farmlands were washed away and hundreds of houses completely submerged and destroyed;

Disturbed that Flood Disaster has rendered hundreds of people homeless in fifteen (15) out of 31 Local Government Areas of Katsina State including Dutsi, Daura, Sandamu, Katsina, Faskari, Batagarawa, Danmusa, Danja, Kusada, Jibia, Kaita, Ingawa, Kankia, Kurfi and Bindawa;

Worried that the floods have washed away more than 500 hectares of rice farm in Jigawa State, nearly 450,000 hectares of rice in Kebbi State destroying over 25% of Nigeria's expected 8 million tons of rice this year from the two States;

Also worried that no fewer than 36 people have died while 470 others displaced from their homes following floods due to heavy rainfalls in various parts of Sokoto State: about 302,500 hectares of farmlands were submerged and about 120 animals were killed due to flooding experienced across the State; 19 out of 23 Local Government Areas in Sokoto State were affected by the devastating flooding since the start of the rains;

Further worried that flooding has displaced 3,772 people in communities of Ajaokuta and disrupted agricultural activities, destroyed livelihood and damaged goods and property, creating a huge humanitarian crisis in parts of Kogi State. Some of the affected communities are Gbaraga community, Onyokum Ireland, Adogu North, Adogu Station, Oguro community in Niger Bridge, Ajaokuta native Village, Geregu Village, Kporoko Village, Ganaja Village, Gadumo Community and Settlers along Meme Bridge;

Further aware that $\frac{1}{3}$ of Lokoja and Kogi Local Government Areas were submerged by flood water and the percentage is increasing daily. Between 6 and 15 September, 2020 more than 120 villages are completely submerged by flood and residence sacked from their homes with over 40 lives lost to the fire disaster emanating from two separate fire incidences of tanker explosions in Kogi and Lokoja Local Government Areas on the 22 and 23 September, 2020 respectively;

Again worried that the constant incidence of multiple road accidents occurs daily due to the deplorable state of the road between Manyanre and Kotonkarfe Local Government Area in Kogi State and Crusher village and Nataco in Lokoja Local Government Area of Kogi State;

Still worried by the devastating effect of the flood in Oyo State which affected sale-Afa Community, Ode-Aje Community, Aremo Community, Oranmiyan Community, Idi-Ope Community, Elere Community, Eyiyan Community, Odo-Oba Community, Academy Oju-Odo Community and Kudeti Community;

Deeply worried that in Cross River State the flood displaced several communities in the Local Government Areas of Yala, Ogoja, Obudu, Biase, Akpabuyo, Abi, Odukpani, Boki, Yakurr, Bakassi, Bekwarra Calabar South and Calabar Municipality;

Also disturbed by the devastating effect of the floods in Plateau State affecting Gazum Community, Sabongida, Kwaitkong communities and Pilgani Community of Langtang North and South Local Government Areas of Plateau State;

Further disturbed that several communities within the Lagos Mainland including Herbert Macaulay way by Yaba College of Technology, Iwaya Community, Makoko Community, Otto Community; Ebute-Meta Community; Ojo Oniyu Community, Otumara Community, Abule-Ijesha Community, Railway Compound, among several communities have been seriously ravaged and affected by the incessant flooding that has socio-economic impacts on so many families and communities in recent times;

Still disturbed that more than forty (40) riverine communities in Agaie and Lapai Local Government Areas of Niger State have been submerged in a flood resulting from the heavy rainfall and overflowing of the Rivers Niger and Gurara;

Also notes that the affected communities are located along the banks of Rivers Niger and Gurara which makes them perennially affected by the flood every rainy season or whenever the dams spillways are opened;

Deeply disturbed that due to torrential rain in recent weeks, Nafada and other villages in Gombe State have been ravaged by floods; other communities affected include Gombe Metropolis, Kwami, Bojude, Gadam, Malleri, Doho, Jurare, Funakaye, Bajoga, Tongo, Ashaka, Kupto and Bage;

Alarmed that recent increase in rains caused flooding in the following communities of Unedegor, Odochi, Osomegbe, Imhokhueme, Agbabu, Ofukpo, Udaba, Ifeku, Anegbete and Ukpeko Ole in Etsako, Edo State, leading to deaths, displacement of families from their abodes and total collapse of economic activities in the areas;

Also alarmed that several other communities are also affected by the floods including Illushi, Odegwume 1, Odegwume 2, Okpiru, Okporokporo, Igbamaka, Atowor, Ineniya, Odo Ogor, Odiuje, Odiutor, Ifeku, Okpatawo, Ukpodo, Okwoshiili, Iygi, Adagwu, and Allah Ajobe communities which are all located in Esan South East Local Government Area of Edo State ravaged by flood water from River Niger leading to loss of livelihood having crumbled the day to day business activities of the residents, destroyed valuable public and private properties and displaced hundreds of people;

Further notes with deep concern, the calamity caused by series of heavy rainfall leading to severe flood and erosion which destroyed houses, shops, farmlands, farm produce, schools and other properties worth hundreds of millions in naira and displacement of thousands of people in three Local Government Areas in Kano State affecting the following villages: Saya-Saya, Tarai, Durba, Kahu Kadigawa, Nariya, Fassi Ruwan Kanya, Rurum Tsohon Gari, Rurum Sabon Gari, Kaurar Garba, Yalwa, Kundu, Zinyau, Saji, Fammar, Madachi, Lausu, Gwamma, Gafar, Barkum, Kumurya, Sanda, Gurjiya, Kullawa, Bono and Gwanneri;

Informed that the flood also affected communities in Bade West and some parts of Jakusko South like Gogaram Ward, Dumbari Ward, Zabudum Dachi Ward, Jawur, Katamma Ward needing urgent intervention in Yobe State;

Also informed that due to the unfriendly economic situation in the country as a result of COVID-19 pandemic, majority of the victims of this rain disasters are financially incapacitated and helpless to reconstruct their destroyed properties and revive their businesses without assistance from relevant government agencies;

Further informed of the recent torrential rainfall and the fierce flooding that ravaged homes, farmlands and markets in Katsina-Ala, Ukum, Logo in Benue State leading to displacement of over 3,000 persons; other affected communities in the state include, Tse viir, Kwaghgure, Mchia, Mbayam, Mbashav, Tse Ajim, Bojande, Tseho, Door, Ayati community, Tse Adem, and Afia; Tor-Donga. Communities of Ikurav Ya, Amire Tamen of Kwande Local Government Benue State; Communities in Makurdi and environs including Wurukum, Wadata, Idye, Hungu, Bam-Bam, KM4, Gboko Road, Abinsi and Agasha; Buruku, Dogo Wuav, Wuna, Usen, Adogo, Abuku, Shonto, Mbajor, Mbaikyer, Mbade, Ikyov; Gwer, Naka, Agbeede, Yogbo; the floods also ravaged houses,

farmlands, economic trees and valuables in Oweto, Obishu, Ocholonya; Ugbokpo, Amoke communities in Apa and Agatu Local Government leading to displacement of households of over 4,000 people;

Pained by the number of flooded communities in Eastern Obolo Local Government Area of Akwa-Ibom State including Elekpon, Okoroete, Emeroke I, Emeroke II, Akpabom and Out-Okwan;

Also pained that over the years, flood has caused serious damages in many communities in Abia State including Ariaria, Ngozi Avenue, Osusu, Omuma, Ohanku, Obohia, Ndiegoro and Uratta among several others;

Further pained that in Kaduna State recent floods affected communities of Makarfi, Kudan, Kuran, Wali, Garu, Dandamisa, Tudun Wada, Likoro, Danguziri, Gimi and Taba;

Again pained that there have been serious flooding ravaging different communities which have destroyed farmlands, washing away farm produce and loss of lives in Bura, Gilas, Dagu, Gabanga, wando, in Warji Local Government and Guddaba, Nasaru, Tsangaya, Jimi, Zazika, Siri, Balma, Unguwar Malami, Massussuka, Zahi, Pannan, Gonakai, Tudun Jarkoya and Ningi Town in Ningi Local Government Area of the State;

Still pained that more communities were affected by the recent windstorm and floods including Agwarmaji, Kyata, Yadagungume, Gwandabi, Gadar maiwa, Iyayi, Lumbu, Nasaru and Kanawa in Ningi Local Government Area and Baima, Gabanga, Tudun Wada, Katanga and Badayeso in Warji Local Government of Bauchi State;

Further alarmed that communities in Awka Local Government Area of Anambra State including Awba-Ofemili, Ugbenu and Ebenebe were submerged in the flood and rendered many families homeless, affected means of livelihoods and crippled agricultural and economic activities;

Again alarmed that many communities in Warri Federal Constituency namely; Ogidigben, Ogheye, Akakpa, Ebrohimi, Ekurede Itsekiri, Itsekelewu, Ogbinbiri, Opuama, Tebujor, Ikpokpo, Opuedebubor and Inikorogha were adversely affected by the floods, ocean surge and coastal erosion washing away several homes and farmlands;

Still disturbed that the floods affected communities of Ossissa, Onyah, Ase, Ushie, Ibedeni, Asagba, Aballa-Uno, Agballa-Obodo, Agballa-Oshimili, Uchi, Okpai, Omuaboh, Inyi, Benekuku, Aboh, Onyah, Asaba-Ase, Ibrede, Ashaka, Afor, Abalagada, Umuolu, Igbaku, Obettim, Obodo-Okolafa, Iyadama, Onuogboko, Utagba-Ogbe, Utagba-Uno, Ogume, Onitsh-Ukwuani, Akarri, Umuolu, farmlands and over 150 households and nearly 90% of communities in Ndokwa East Local Government of Delta State were submerged;

Highly worried that Obie, Obrikom, Kreigani, Idu-Oboswkwu, Idu-Osobile, Omoku-densely populated communities in Ahoada-West, Ogba, Egbema and Ndoni Local Government Areas of Rivers State were ravaged by the floods rendering several families homeless;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of all those who lost their lives in the devastating floods across the country and commiserate with their families and communities;
- (ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to immediately intervene and provide relief materials and support to all the affected communities across the country;
- (iii) also urge the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development to ensure that all displaced families and communities are rehabilitated and supported to resuscitate their livelihoods;

- (iv) mandate the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure implementation (Hon. Isah Shaba Ibrahim — Lokoja/Kogi/Koton-Karfi Federal Constituency and 359 others).

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) Insert a new Prayer (v) as follows:
 “Mandate the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to collate data in all affected areas in the 360 Federal Constituencies to enable NEMA send relief materials to those places” (Hon. Ndudi Elumelu — Aniocha/Oshimili Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) Insert a new Prayer (vi) as follows:
 “Urge NEMA to include Ogbaru, Anambra East, Anambra West, Oyi and parts of Onitsha North, Idemili North Local Government Areas of Anambra State” (Hon. Onyema Chukwuka — Ogbaru Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) Insert a new Prayer (vii) as follows:
 “Urge NEMA and the Ministry of Agriculture to always liaise with the Member representing the affected Constituencies when providing relief materials” (Hon. Onyema Chukwuka — Ogbaru Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iv) Insert a new Prayer (viii) as follows:
 “Urge the Federal Ministry of Environment and Ecological Fund Office to visit, design and construct embankment along communities at the banks of the River Niger in Ogbaru, Anambra East and West and Oyi Federal Constituencies of Anambra State, and relevant Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) to commence and complete dredging of the River Niger from Onitsha Port through Ogbaru down to Rivers and Bayelsa States” (Hon. Onyema Chukwuka — Ogbaru Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (v) Insert a new Prayer (ix) as follows:
 “Urge the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) to provide drugs, vaccines and medical personnel to affected communities to help combat any impending outbreak” (Hon. Onyema Chukwuka — Ogbaru Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (vi) In the last paragraph of the Motion, immediately after the words “Ndoni Local Government Areas”, insert the words “Eielenwo, Rumukwursi, Encka, Woji, Oyingbo, Rumunomasi, Rumuebekwe, Rumuobiakani, Rumuola, Rumuigbo, Eluzu, Elingbu, Atali, Rukpakolu, Rumuodameya, Nkpolu, Alakahia, Rumueme, Rumuepirikom, Rumuokwuta, Orazi, Rumuolumeni, Ruboku all in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area” (Hon. Kingsley Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(vii) *Insert a new Prayer (xi) as follows:*

“Urge the Ministries of Water Resources, Environment, and Ecological Fund Office to take necessary measures to avert the floods by distilling Dams, clearance of Rivers and water ways, issuance of early notice by Meterlogical Agency” (*Hon. Musa Sarkin Adar — Goronyo/Gada Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(viii) *Insert a new Prayer (xii) as follows:*

“Mandate the Committees on Agriculture, and Appropriations to make adequate provision to secure food supplies in Nigeria in the 2021 budget to augment the anticipated food shortage in 2021 in Nigeria due to the severe flooding in Nigeria this year” (*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 flooding is the most common disaster in Nigeria as several communities in the country increasingly suffer from annual flooding during the rainy seasons caused by increased precipitation linked to human, natural causes and climate change;

Aware of this years' ravaging effect of flood disaster across the country on the socio-economic wellbeing of the people families and communities;

Recalled that the 2020 Annual Flood Outlook released by the Nigeria Hydrological Survey Agency (NIHSA) in May 2020 indicated that 102 Local Government Areas in over 28 States were reported to be at risk of flooding;

Also recalled that States listed in the survey included Rivers, Cross River, Delta, Lagos, Ondo, Bayelsa, Sokoto, Kogi, Niger, Kaduna, Katsina, Gombe, Adamawa, Benue, FCT, Nasarawa, Delta, Oyo, Ogun, Osun, Ekiti, Ebonyi, Edo, Abia, Anambra, Imo, Borno, Kano and Kebbi;

Further recalled that the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) also asserted that 275 Local Government Areas across the 36 States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory fall within the moderately probable flood risk areas, while the remaining 397 Local Government Areas fall within the low probable flood risk areas. The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) further indicated that States likely to be affected are Borno, Yobe, Gombe, Adamawa, Taraba, Bauchi, Plateau, Nasarawa, Benue, Niger, Kogi, Enugu and Anambra. The rest include Imo, Abia, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Delta, Edo, Ekiti, Osun, Kwara, Zamfara, Sokoto, Lagos, Ondo, Bayelsa, Kaduna, Oyo, Ogun, Abia, Kano, Kebbi and the FCT;

Also aware that Flooding and rainstorms and flood related disasters have been reported in Kebbi, Akwa Ibom, Borno, Lagos, Ogun, Kano, Niger, Adamawa, Kaduna, Katsina, Yobe, Jigawa displacing hundreds of thousands of people and creating hardships of livelihoods across these communities;

Concerned that in Kwara State over 15, 000 persons have been internally displaced and 5,000 houses destroyed with properties estimated at about ₦10 billion to flood disasters, most affected areas in Ilorin metropolis are Okelele, Alagbado, Aiyegbami-Dada, Dada Community, Harmony Estate, Akerebiata, Maya/Ile-Apa, Gaa-Osibi, Ero-Omo, Fate, Gaa-Akanbi, Muritala Muhammed Way, Taiwo Road and Agbabiaka area;

Also concerned that the floods have affected various communities in Jigawa State causing the death of not less than 40 persons and recorded as the worst and most devastating since 1988, worsening food insufficiency leading to an increase in prices of basic food items;

Further concerned that in Jigawa State the flood destroyed 6,637 houses in about 19 Local Government Areas in the State as many people died in Gwaram, Dutse, Jahun, Gumel and Ringim Local Government Areas of the State, the flood also destroyed 96 houses in Kirikasamma; 141 in Dutse; 419 in Jahun; 525 in Hadejia, 417 in Babura; 525 in Ringim; 822 in Gumel; kaugama 529 in Malamadori and 126 in Birninkudu Local Government Areas and additional-68 houses in Taura; 120 in Kazaure; 691 in Maigatari; 336 in Gagarawa; 67 in Buji; 101 in Garki; 856 in Kiyawa; 87 in Kafinhausu; Auyo 57 in Gwaram and 54 in Suletankarkar Local Government Areas;

Still concerned that in Guri, Birinwa and Kirikasamma Local Government Areas, thousands of farmlands were washed away and hundreds of houses completely submerged and destroyed;

Disturbed that Flood Disaster has rendered hundreds of people homeless in fifteen (15) out of 31 Local Government Areas of Katsina State including Dutsi, Daura, Sandamu, Katsina, Faskari, Batagarawa, Danmusa, Danja, Kusada, Jibia, Kaita, Ingawa, Kankia, Kurfi and Bindawa;

Worried that the floods have washed away more than 500 hectares of rice farm in Jigawa State, nearly 450,000 hectares of rice in Kebbi State destroying over 25% of Nigeria's expected 8 million tons of rice this year from the two States;

Also worried that no fewer than 36 people have died while 470 others displaced from their homes following floods due to heavy rainfalls in various parts of Sokoto State; about 302,500 hectares of farmlands were submerged and about 120 animals were killed due to flooding experienced across the State; 19 out of 23 Local Government Areas in Sokoto State were affected by the devastating flooding since the start of the rains;

Further worried that flooding has displaced 3,772 people in communities of Ajaokuta and disrupted agricultural activities, destroyed livelihood and damaged goods and property, creating a huge humanitarian crisis in parts of Kogi State. Some of the affected communities are Gbaraga community, Onyokum Ireland, Adogu North, Adogu Station, Oguro community in Niger Bridge, Ajaokuta native Village, Geregu Village, Kporoko Village, Ganaja Village, Gadurno Community and Settlers along Meme Bridge;

Further aware that $\frac{1}{3}$ of Lokoja and Kogi Local Government Areas were submerged by flood water and the percentage is increasing daily. Between 6 and 15 September, 2020 more than 120 villages are completely submerged by flood and residence sacked from their homes with over 40 lives lost to the fire disaster emanating from two separate fire incidences of tanker explosions in Kogi and Lokoja Local Government Areas on the 22 and 23 September, 2020 respectively;

Again worried that the constant incidence of multiple road accidents occurs daily due to the deplorable state of the road between Manyanre and Kotonkarfe Local Government Area in Kogi State and Crusher village and Nataco in Lokoja Local Government Area of Kogi State;

Still worried by the devastating effect of the flood in Oyo State which affected sale-Afa Community, Ode-Aje Community, Aremo Community, Oranmiyan Community, Idi-Ope Community, Elere Community, Eyiyan Community, Odo-Oba Community, Academy Oju-Odo Community and Kudeti Community;

Deeply worried that in Cross River State the flood displaced several communities in the Local Government Areas of Yala, Ogoja, Obudu, Biase, Akpabuyo, Abi, Odukpani, Boki, Yakurr, Bakassi, Bekwarra Calabar South and Calabar Municipality;

Also disturbed by the devastating effect of the floods in Plateau State affecting Gazum Community, Sabongida, Kwaitkong communities and Pilgani Community of Langtang North and South Local Government Areas of Plateau State;

Further disturbed that several communities within the Lagos Mainland including Herbert Macaulay way by Yaba College of Technology, Iwaya Community, Makoko Community, Otto Community, Ebute-Meta Community, Ojo Oniyu Community, Otumara Community, Abule-Ijesha Community, Railway Compound, among several communities have been seriously ravaged and affected by the incessant flooding that has socio-economic impacts on so many families and communities in recent times;

Still disturbed that more than forty (40) riverine communities in Agaie and Lapai Local Government Areas of Niger State have been submerged in a flood resulting from the heavy rainfall and overflowing of the Rivers Niger and Gurara;

Also noted that the affected communities are located along the banks of Rivers Niger and Gurara which makes them perennially affected by the flood every rainy season or whenever the dams spillways are opened;

Deeply disturbed that due to torrential rain in recent weeks, Nafada and other villages in Gombe State have been ravaged by floods; other communities affected include Gombe Metropolises, Kwami, Bojude, Gadam, Malleri, Doho, Jurare, Funakaye, Bajoga, Tongo, Ashaka, Kupto and Bage;

Alarmed that recent increase in rains caused flooding in the following communities of Urfedegor, Odochi, Osomegbe, Imhokhueme, Agbabu, Ofukpo, Udaba, Ifeku, Anegbete and Ukpeko Ole in Etsako, Edo State, leading to deaths, displacement of families from their abodes and total collapse of economic activities in the areas;

Also alarmed that several other communities are also affected by the floods including Illushi, Odegwume 1, Odegwume 2, Okpiru, Okporokporo, Igbamaka, Atowor, Ineniya, Odo Ogor, Odiuje, Odiutor, Ifeku, Okpatawo, Ukpodo, Okwoishiili, Iygbi, Adagwu, and Allah Ajobe communities which are all located in Esan South East Local Government Area of Edo State ravaged by flood water from River Niger leading to loss of livelihood having crumbled the day to day business activities of the residents, destroyed valuable public and private properties and displaced hundreds of people;

Further noted with deep concern, the calamity caused by series of heavy rainfall leading to severe flood and erosion which destroyed houses, shops, farmlands, farm produce, schools and other properties worth hundreds of millions in naira and displacement of thousands of people in three Local Government Areas in Kano State affecting the following villages: Saya-Saya, Tarai, Durba, Kahu Kadigawa, Nariya, Fassi Ruwan Kanya, Rurum Tsohon Gari, Rurum Sabon Gari, Kaurar Garba, Yalwa, Kundu, Zinyau, Saji, Fammar, Madachi, Lausu, Gwanma, Gafan, Barkum, Kumurya, Sanda, Gurjiya, Kulluwa, Bono and Gwanneri;

Informed that the flood also affected communities in Bade West and some parts of Jakusko South like Gogaram Ward, Dumbari Ward, Zabudum Dachi Ward, Jawur, Katamma Ward needing urgent intervention in Yobe State;

Also informed that due to the unfriendly economic situation in the country as a result of COVID-19 pandemic, majority of the victims of this rain disasters are financially incapacitated and helpless to reconstruct their destroyed properties and revive their businesses without assistance from relevant government agencies;

Further informed of the recent torrential rainfall and the fierce flooding that ravaged homes, farmlands and markets in Katsina-Ala, Ukum, Logo in Benue State leading to displacement of over 3,000 persons; other affected communities in the state include, Tse viir, Kwaghgure, Mehia, Mbayam, Mbashav, Tse Ajim, Bojande, Tseho, Door, Ayati community, Tse Adem, and Afia; Tor-Donga. Communities of Ikurav Ya, Amire. Tamen of Kwande Local Government Benue State; Communities in Makurdi and environs including Wurukum, Wadata, Idye, Hungu, Bam-Bam, KM4 Gboko Road, Abinsi and Agasha; Buruku, Dogo Wuav, Wuna, Usen, Adogo, Abuku, Shonto, Mbajor, Mbaikyer, Mbade, Ikyov; Gwer, Naka, Agbeede, Yogbo; the floods also ravaged houses, farmlands, economic trees and valuables in Oweto, Obishu, Ocholonya; Ugbokpo. Amoke communities in Apa and Agatu Local Government leading to displacement of households of over 4,000 people;

Pained by the number of flooded communities in Eastern Obolo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State including Elekpon Okoroete, Emeroke I, Emeroke II, Akpabom and Out-Okwan;

Also pained that over the years, flood has caused serious damages in many communities in Abia State including Ariaria, Ngozi Avenue, Osusu, Omuma, Ohanku, Obohia, Ndiegoro and Uratta among several others;

Further pained that in Kaduna State recent floods affected communities of Makarfi, Kudan, Kuran, Wali, Garu, Dandamisa, Tudun Wada, Likoro, Danguziri, Gimi and Taba;

Again pained that there have been serious flooding ravaging different communities which have destroyed farmlands, washing away farm produce and loss of lives in Bura, Gilas, Dagu, Gabanga, wando, in Warji Local Government and Guddaba, Nasaru, Tsangaya, Jimi, Zazika, Siri, Balma, Uguwar Malami, Massussuka, Zahi, Pannan, Gonakai, Tudun Jarkoya and Ningi Town in Ningi Local Government Area of the State;

Still pained that more communities were affected by the recent windstorm and floods including Agwarmaji, Kyata, Yadagungume, Gwandabi, Gadar maiwa, Iyayi, Lumbu, Nasaru and Kanawa in Ningi Local Government Area and Baima, Gabanga, Tudun Wada, Katanga and Badayeso in Warji Local Government of Bauchi State;

Further alarmed that communities in Awka Local Government Area of Anambra State including Awba-Ofemili, Ugbenu and Ebenebe were submerged in the flood and rendered many families homeless, affected means of livelihoods and crippled agricultural and economic activities;

Again alarmed that many communities in Warri Federal Countituency namely; Ogidigben, Ogheyè, Akakpa, Ebrohimi, Ekurede Itsekiri, Itsekelewu, Ogbinbiri, Opuama, Tebujor, Ikpokpo, Opuedebubor and Inikorogha were adversely affected by the floods, ocean surge and coastal erosion washing away several homes and farmlands;

Still disturbed that the floods affected communities of Ossissa, Onyah, Ase, Ushie, Ibedeni, Asagba, Aballa-Uno, Agballa-Obodo, Agballa-Oshimili, Uchi, Okpai, Omuaboh, Inyi, Benekuku, Aboh, Onyah, Asaba-Ase, Ibrede, Ashaka, Afor, Abalagada, Umuolu, Igbaku, Obettim, Obodo-Okolafa, Iyadama, Onuogboko, Utagba-Ogbe, Utagba-Uno, Ogume, Onitsh-Ukwuani, Akarri, Umuolu, farmlands and over 150 households and nearly 90% of communities in Ndokwa East Local Government of Delta State were submerged;

Highly worried that Obie, Obrikom, Kreigani, Idu-Oboskwu, Idu-Osobile, Omoku densely populated communities in Ahoada-West, Ogba, Egbema and Ndoni Local Government Areas of Rivers State were ravaged by the floods rendering several families homeless;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of all those who lost their lives in the devastating floods across the country and commiserate with their families and communities;
- (ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to immediately intervene and provide relief materials and support to all the affected communities across the country;
- (iii) also urge the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development to ensure that all displaced families and communities are rehabilitated and supported to resuscitate their livelihoods;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure implementation;
- (v) also urge NEMA to include Ogbaru, Anambra East, Anambra West, Oyi and parts of Onitsha North, Idemili North Local Government Areas of Anambra State;
- (vi) further urge NEMA and Ministry of Agriculture to always liaise with the Member representing the affected Constituencies when providing relief materials;
- (vii) urge the Federal Ministry of Environment and Ecological Fund Office, to visit, design and construct embankment along communities at the banks of the River Niger in Ogbaru, Anambra East and West and Oyi Federal Constituencies of Anambra State, and relevant Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) to commence and complete dredging of the River Niger from Onitsha Port through Ogbaru down to Rivers and Bayelsa States;
- (viii) urge the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) to provide drugs, vaccines and medical personnel to affected communities to help combat any impending outbreak;
- (ix) urge the Ministries of Water Resources, Environment, and Ecological Fund Office to take necessary measures to avert the floods by distilling Dams, clearance of Rivers and water ways, issuance of early notice by Meteorological Agency;
- (x) mandate the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to collate data in all affected areas in the 360 Federal Constituencies to enable NEMA send relief materials to those places;
- (xi) also mandate the Committees on Agriculture, and Appropriations to make adequate provision to secure food supplies in Nigeria in the 2021 budget to augment the anticipated food shortage in 2021 in Nigeria due to the severe flooding in Nigeria this year (HR. 60/10/2020).

Motion referred to the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

14. Need to Avert the Cut-Off of the Sagbama - Ekeremor Road

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Sagbama - Ekeremor road is one of the most important federal roads in Bayelsa State and connects most of the communities in Bayelsa West Federal Constituency;

Also notes that the road was constructed in 1970's starting from Sagbama junction off the East/West Road, passes through Sagbama to Orua, Ebrdebirji, Angalabiri Communities to Ekeremor Local Government Area and terminates at the seaside of Amatu I Community;

Informed that due to the recent flood and peculiar terrain of the area, the Sagbama axis of the road has started caving in, resulting in a huge sinkhole, hence making it very dangerous for commuters;

Worried that Sagbama - Ekeremor Federal Constituency is likely to be cut off from other parts of Bayelsa State and the country if urgent steps are not taken to address the situation;

Aware that the immediate solution to remedy the situation is to construct two span bridges each at the two damaged portions requiring intervention before the next rains;

Resolves to:

- (i) commend the immediate past Bayelsa State Government for alleviating the plight of commuters by making the road passable;
- (ii) also commend the present Government of Bayelsa State for directing the State Ministry of Works to alleviate the plight of commuters by making the road passable this rainy season;
- (iii) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to provide temporary intervention to enable commuters use the road;
- (iv) also urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to construct two short bridges of two span lengths each at the damaged point before the next rains;
- (v) further urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to include the repair of the section of the road in the 2021 Budget estimates before the National Assembly;
- (vi) mandate the Committee on Works to ensure compliance (*Hon. Frederick Yeitiemone Agbedi — Sagbama/Ekeremor Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 61/10/2020).

Motion referred to the Committee on Works, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

15. **Need to Investigate the Abandonment of the Construction of the Owerri-Aba Road and Bridge at Ulakwo in Owerri North, Imo State by Arab Contractors Nigeria Limited**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Government awarded a contract for the construction of Owerri-Aba express road bridge linking Ulakwo in Owerri North, considering the economic importance of the road as an exit point from Owerri to Aba in Imo State respectively;

Also notes that the road is in deplorable condition and adversely affecting the movement of commuters, mostly workers, students and visitors to the Airport, Aba and Owerri cities;

Aware that in spite of the importance of the road, the contractors handling the road construction have abandoned the work, leaving the road worse and creating further hardship for motorists plying the road;

Worried that the contractor, Arab Contractors Nigeria Limited, has excavated the road, leaving a very narrow part thereby making it a death trap for motorists and residents of the communities who have lost loved ones due to avoidable accidents on the road especially at night;

Also aware that on numerous occasions, heavy duty vehicles have been trapped on the road, making it impossible for other users to gain access to the Airport, Owerri and Aba in Imo State;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to direct Arab Contractors Nigeria Limited to resume work in order to complete the bridge;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Works to, as a matter of urgency, investigate the abandonment of the road by Arab Contractors Nigeria Limited and report back within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Elezieanya Ikenna Onyechere — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words in Prayer (ii) and *insert* as follows:

“Mandate the Committee on Works to as a matter of urgency, report progress on the state of the road within four (4) weeks” (*Hon. Elezieanya Ikenna Onyechere — Owerri Municipal/North/West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Federal Government awarded a contract for the construction of Owerri-Aba express road bridge linking Ulakwo in Owerri North, considering the economic importance of the road as an exit point from Owerri to Aba in Imo State respectively;

Also noted that the road is in deplorable condition and adversely affecting the movement of commuters, mostly workers, students and visitors to the Airport, Aba and Owerri cities;

Aware that in spite of the importance of the road, the contractors handling the road construction have abandoned the work, leaving the road worse and creating further hardship for motorists plying the road;

Worried that the contractor, Arab Contractors Nigeria Limited, has excavated the road, leaving a very narrow part thereby making it a death trap for motorists and residents of the communities who have lost loved ones due to avoidable accidents on the road especially at night;

Also aware that on numerous occasions, heavy duty vehicles have been trapped on the road, making it impossible for other users to gain access to the Airport, Owerri and Aba in Imo State;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to direct Arab Contractors Nigeria Limited to resume work in order to complete the bridge;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Works to as a matter of urgency, report progress on the state of the road within four (4) weeks (**HR. 62/10/2020**).

16. A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Insurance Act, Cap. 117, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Insurance Bill, 2020 to Provide for a Comprehensive Legal Framework for Insurance Business in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 967) — *Second Reading*
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Insurance Act, Cap. 117, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Insurance Bill, 2020 to Provide for a Comprehensive Legal Framework for Insurance Business in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 967) be read a Second Time" (Hon. Darlington Nwokocha — Isialangwa North/Isialangwa South Federal Constituency and 22 others).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Insurance and Actuarial Matters.

17. A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Health Act, 2014 to Define Basic Minimum Package of Health Services, provide more Mechanism for realizing the Objectives of the Principal Act in Providing Free Healthcare Services to all Nigerians without prejudice to the Requirement of Payment of the Contributory Scheme Stipulated in the National Health Insurance Scheme Act; and for Related Matters (HB.668) — *Second Reading*
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Health Act, 2014 to Define Basic Minimum Package of Health Services, provide more Mechanism for realizing the Objectives of the Principal Act in Providing Free Healthcare Services to all Nigerians without prejudice to the Requirement of Payment of the Contributory Scheme Stipulated in the National Health Insurance Scheme Act; and for Related Matters (HB.668), be read a Second Time" (Hon. Mohammed Shamsudeen Bello — Sumaila/Takai 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 Healthcare Services.

18. A Bill for an Act to Establish the National Assembly Library Trust Fund for the purpose of Research, Provision of Library equipment and Related facilities, enhance the Research of Legislators and Staff of the National Assembly; and for Related Matters (HB.987) — *Second Reading*
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Assembly Library Trust Fund for the purpose of Research, Provision of Library equipment and Related facilities, enhance the Research of Legislators and Staff of the National Assembly; and for Related Matters (HB.987) be read a Second Time" (Hon. Gaza Gbefwi Jonathan — Karu/Keffi/Kokona Federal Constituency and 2 others).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Legislative Compliance.

19. Adjournment of First Sitting

That the House do adjourn the First Sitting till 2.55 p.m. (Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.45 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabamila
Speaker