



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 10 December, 2020

1. The House met at 11:18 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, 9 December, 2020.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcement**
 - (i) **Conference Committee on the 2021 - 2023 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP):**
Mr Speaker announced the names of Members as follows:

(1)	Hon. James Abiodun Faleke	—	Chairman
(2)	Hon. Saeed Abdullahi Musa	—	Member
(3)	Hon. Taiwo Oluga	—	Member
(4)	Hon. Obinna Chidoka	—	Member
(5)	Hon. Edim Etta Mborá	—	Member
(6)	Hon. Ahmed Ndakene	—	Member
(7)	Hon. Edwin Anayo	—	Member
 - (ii) **Ad-hoc Committee on the Need to Review the Purchase, Use and Control of Arms, Ammunition, and Related Hardware by Military, Paramilitary and Other Law Enforcement Agencies in Nigeria:**
Mr Speaker announced the names of Members as follows:

(1)	Hon. Olaide Adewale	—	Chairman
(2)	Hon. Komsol Longgap Alphonsus	—	Member
(3)	Hon. Tijani Kayode Ismail	—	Member
(4)	Hon. Abu Dan Bukari	—	Member
(5)	Hon. Ibrahim Almustapha Aliyu	—	Member
(6)	Hon. Olusola Steve Fatoba	—	Member
(7)	Hon. Egbérongbe Mufutau Adewale	—	Member
(8)	Hon. Chike Okafor	—	Member

(9)	Hon. Muda Lawal Umar	—	Member
(10)	Hon. Bede Eke	—	Member
(11)	Hon. Samson Okwu	—	Member
(12)	Hon. Abdullahi Abubakar	—	Member
(13)	Hon. Tajudeen Obasa	—	Member
(14)	Hon. Tijjani Ahmed	—	Member
(15)	Hon. Egbona Alex	—	Member
(16)	Hon. Saidu Miga	—	Member
(17)	Hon. Thomas Ereyitomi	—	Member
(18)	Hon. Samaila Suleiman	—	Member
(19)	Hon. Koko Shehu	—	Member
(20)	Hon. Kabiru Idris	—	Member
(21)	Hon. Ja'afaru Ribadu	—	Member

5. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**

Need to Monitor the Distribution of Post COVID-19 Pandemic Palliatives and Other Measures to Cushion the Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic on Nigerians:

Hon. Dozie Ferdinand Nwankwo (*Njikoka/Dunukofia/Anaocha 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 Monitor the Distribution of Post COVID-19 Pandemic Palliatives and Other Measures to Cushion the Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic on Nigerians:

The House:

Aware of the devastation of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Nigerian economy and her citizens and series of efforts and measures adopted by the Executive to cushion the effects of the income loss due to the pandemic;

Conscious of the intentions of the Executive to stimulate the growth and survival of the economy and the citizens' livelihood both in the private and the public sector, e.g.

- Central Bank of Nigeria ₦50bn, now increased to ₦300bn credit facility stimulus package for households and micro and small enterprises. (Small business can get ₦25m while households can get ₦3m each),
- One-time payment of ₦30,000 each to 330,000 artisans and transporters under Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Survival Fund. (9,009 beneficiaries per State for transporters and 4,504 artisans),
- ₦100bn intervention in healthcare loans to pharmaceutical companies/practitioners,
- ₦1tr in loans to boost local manufacturers and production across critical sectors,
- Commencement of a 3months repayment moratorium to be given to all TraderMoni, MarketMoni and FarmerMoni loans and others,

Worried that as many as the programmes are, and as much funds that have already been deployed into the programmes, complaints abound nationwide by teeming Nigerian citizens who have not felt the impact of the cushioning measures. This means that the programmes are yet to get to the grassroots across the federation;

Concerned that the #ENDSARS protests revealed that some palliatives meant for distribution to the public long before now were still being kept in warehouses across the States while Nigerian citizens are still very hungry and wallowing in penury. Evidently, there are doubts and suspicions in the minds of citizens that these palliatives and intervention measures will end up being hijacked or diverted to personal uses;

Disturbed that there is insufficient information about the palliatives and other intervention measures employed by government which left the citizens with no option than to believe that the whole exercise lacked transparency in distribution. Many citizens are as at today, not aware of the availability of such stimulating and intervention measures, whereas others who are aware, are not comfortable with some of the conditions and terms;

Cognizant that the ugly effects of COVID-19 Pandemic are still biting hard on the Nigerian citizens including civil servants as normalcy is yet to return, meaning that things like prices of commodities and supply chains are not yet back to pre-pandemic rates;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to urgently review and introduce extra measures to display more transparency in the post Covid-19 pandemic programmes aimed at cushioning the effects of the pandemic on Nigerians;
- (ii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to employ more robust publicity of the programmes to create more awareness as well as make the requirements easier to meet;
- (iii) call on the Executive Arm of Government to expand the criteria for selection of would-be beneficiaries of the programmes to accommodate more people; and
- (iv) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee or any other relevant Committee to liaise with the relevant government agencies charged with the responsibility of distribution of such intervention measures to ensure wide-spread distribution to the grassroots across the federation and report back within six (6) weeks (*Hon. Dozie Ferdinand Nwankwo — Njikoka/Anaocha/Dunukofia Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Prayer (iv), and *insert* a new Prayer (iv) as follows:

“mandate the *Ad-hoc* Committee on COVID-19 Pandemic to liaise with the relevant government agencies charged with the responsibility of distribution of such intervention measures to ensure wide-spread distribution to the grassroots across the federation and report back within six (6) weeks” (*Hon. Dozie Ferdinand Nwankwo — Njikoka/Anaocha/Dunukofia Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Aware of the devastation of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Nigerian economy and her citizens and series of efforts and measures adopted by the Executive to cushion the effects of the income loss due to the pandemic;

Conscious of the intentions of the Executive to stimulate the growth and survival of the economy and the citizens' livelihood both in the private and the public sector, e.g.

- Central Bank of Nigeria ₦50bn, now increased to ₦300bn credit facility stimulus package for households and micro and small enterprises. (Small business can get ₦25m while households can get ₦3m each),
- One-time payment of ₦30,000 each to 330,000 artisans and transporters under Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Survival Fund. (9,009 beneficiaries per State for transporters and 4,504 artisans),
- ₦100bn intervention in healthcare loans to pharmaceutical companies/practitioners,
- ₦1tr in loans to boost local manufacturers and production across critical sectors,
- Commencement of a 3months repayment moratorium to be given to all TraderMoni, MarketMoni and FarmerMoni loans and others;

Worried that as many as the programmes are, and as much funds that have already been deployed into the programmes, complaints abound nationwide by teeming Nigerian citizens who have not felt the impact of the cushioning measures. This means that the programmes are yet to get to the grassroots across the federation;

Concerned that the #ENDSARS protests revealed that some palliatives meant for distribution to the public long before now were still being kept in warehouses across the States while Nigerian citizens are still very hungry and wallowing in penury. Evidently, there are doubts and suspicions in the minds of citizens that these palliatives and intervention measures will end up being hijacked or diverted to personal uses;

Disturbed that there is insufficient information about the palliatives and other intervention measures employed by government which left the citizens with no option than to believe that the whole exercise lacked transparency in distribution. Many citizens are as at today, not aware of the availability of such stimulating and intervention measures, whereas others who are aware, are not comfortable with some of the conditions and terms;

Cognizant that the ugly effects of COVID-19 Pandemic are still biting hard on the Nigerian citizens including civil servants as normalcy is yet to return, meaning that things like prices of commodities and supply chains are not yet back to pre-pandemic rates;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to urgently review and introduce extra measures to display more transparency in the post Covid-19 pandemic programmes aimed at cushioning the effects of the pandemic on Nigerians;
- (ii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to employ more robust publicity of the programmes to create more awareness as well as make the requirements easier to meet;
- (iii) call on the Executive Arm of Government to expand the criteria for selection of would-be beneficiaries of the programmes to accommodate more people; and

- (iv) mandate the *Ad-hoc* Committee on COVID-19 Pandemic to liaise with the relevant government agencies charged with the responsibility of distribution of such intervention measures to ensure wide-spread distribution to the grassroots across the federation and report back within six (6) weeks (HR. 90/12/2020).

6. **Privilege (Order Six, Rule 2)**

Hon. Bob Solomon (*Ahoada East/Abua/Odual Federal Constituency*), drew the attention of the House to the news in the print and electronic media that Mr President has declined to honour the invitation to brief the House on the security situation in the country as contained in its resolution of Tuesday, 1 December, 2020. He considered that as a breach of his privilege and that of the House and noted that the integrity of the House is at stake. He urged Mr Speaker to address the House on the issue.

Mr Speaker noted the concern and stated that the House will await official communication from Mr President.

7. **Presentation of Reports**

- (i) **Committees on Finance, North-East Development Commission, and Public Procurement:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committees on Finance, North-East Development Commission, and Public Procurement on Investigation of the Alleged Misappropriation of the One Hundred Billion Naira (₦100,000,000,000.00) only in the North-East Development Commission" (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

- (ii) **Committee on Public Petitions:**
Report of the Petition by I B. Ahmad and Co.:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by I B. Ahmad and Co against the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) on the Non-Payment of the Entitlement and Benefit of Late Cpl. Olajide Adewale, Force No. 64226 to his Family an Appeal for urgent Intervention" (*Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso — Orlu/Orsu/Oru East Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

- (iii) **Committee on Public Petitions:**
Report of the Petition by Bankole Olawale:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Bankole Olawale against the National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC)" (*Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso — Orlu/Orsu/Oru East Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

- (iv) **Committee on Public Petitions:**
Report of the Petition by Arewa R. Olufemi:
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Arewa R. Olufemi against the Federal Road Safety Commission on dismissal from Service (FRSC)" (*Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso — Orlu/Orsu/Oru East Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

8. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Capital Gains Tax Act, Companies Income Tax Act, Personal Income Tax Act, Tertiary Education Trust Fund (Establishment) Act, Customs and Excise Tariff, Etc. Consolidated) Act, Value Added Tax Act, Federal Inland Revenue Services (Establishment) Act, Nigerian Export Processing Zone Act, Oil and Gas Export Free Zone Act, Fiscal Responsibility Act, Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020, Public Procurement Act, in order to make further Provisions in Connection with the Federal Government Financial Management, Public Revenue; and for Related Matters (HB. 1139) — *Second Reading*
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Capital Gains Tax Act, Companies Income Tax Act, Personal Income Tax Act, Tertiary Education Trust Fund (Establishment) Act, Customs and Excise Tariff, Etc. Consolidated) Act, Value Added Tax Act, Federal Inland Revenue Services (Establishment) Act, Nigerian Export Processing Zone Act, Oil and Gas Export Free Zone Act, Fiscal Responsibility Act, Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020, Public Procurement Act, in order to make further Provisions in Connection with the Federal Government Financial Management, Public Revenue; and for Related Matters (HB. 1139) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Finance.

9. A Bill for an Act to Alter Section 254 (f) (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) to delete the entire Provision on the ground that the Reflection of the Evidence Act, the Criminal Procedure Act and the Criminal Procedure Code in this Provision is Superfluous; and for Related Matters (HB. 1063) — *Second Reading*

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

10. A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to set time within which Civil and Criminal Causes and Matters are Heard and Determined at Trials and Appellate Courts in order to eliminate unnecessary delay in Justice Administration and Delivery; and for Related Matters (HB. 1056) — *Second Reading*

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to set time within which Civil and Criminal Causes and Matters are Heard and Determined at Trials and Appellate Courts in order to eliminate unnecessary delay in Justice Administration and Delivery; and for Related Matters (HB. 1056) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Onofriok Luke — Etinan/Nsit Ibom/Nsit Ubium Federal Constituency and 7 others*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

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

11. **A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) to Provide that the Federal and States Governments shall have Concurrent Legislative Authority on Railway; and for Related Matters (HB. 1070) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) to Provide that the Federal and States Governments shall have Concurrent Legislative Authority on Railway; and for Related Matters (HB. 1070) be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Babajimi Benson — Ikorodu Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

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

12. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Institute of Strategic Management of Nigeria charged with the duty of among others, determining what Standards of knowledge and Skills are to be Attained by Persons seeking to become Members of the Institute; and for Related Matters (HB. 1024) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Institute of Strategic Management of Nigeria charged with the duty of among others, determining what Standards of knowledge and Skills are to be Attained by Persons seeking to become Members of the Institute; and for Related Matters (HB. 1024) be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Chinyere Emmanuel Igwe — Port Harcourt II 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 Commerce.

13. **Need for Construction of Ihunbo-Itaegbe-Oniro-Ipokia Road**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Ihunbo-Itaegbe-Oniro-Ipokia road is a 35km major route in Ipokia Local Government Area of Ogun State and the people are predominantly farmers through which they earn their livelihood;

Aware that road infrastructure helps farmers to transport their agricultural products within the State and to other States as well as access essential services;

Worried that the deplorable state of the road has paralyzed socio-economic activities of the area a some portions of the road have completely been cut-off, thereby making it impossible for vehicle to ply;

Concerned that the continuous neglect of the road over a long period has left it in a state of disrepair and poses a major risk to commuters as well as community dwellers in the surrounding areas;

Cognizant that prompt reconstruction of the road will boost socio-economic activities as well as reduce the rate of accidents and crimes in the area;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to make provisions in the 2021 budget estimates for the reconstruction of Ihunbo-Itaegbe-Oniro-Ipokia road;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Works, and Appropriations to ensure compliance (*Hon. Kolawole Lawal Wasiu — Egbado South/Ipokia Federal Constituency*).

(HR. 91/12/2020).

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

14. **Need to Investigate the Corporate Governance of the Nigerian Communications Commission to Protect the Interests of Subscribers**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

15. **Need to Combat the Rising Cases of Insecurity in Lame-Burra Game Reserve in Toro Local Government Area, Bauchi State**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Lame-Burra Game Reserve, located in Lame District in Toro Local Government Area of Bauchi State, was established through a proclamation of the Federal Government in 1972 and just like the Yankari Game Reserve, it inhabits rare species of birds, monkeys and other wild animals;

Concerned that the Game Reserve has become a haven for insurgents, bandits, armed robbers, kidnappers, cattle rustlers and all other criminal elements who have converted the Reserve to their operational base as insurgents and bandits relocating from Zamfara State and other parts of the country seem to be regrouping in the Reserve;

Worried that most Game Reserves, Forests and Wild Life Parks within Nigeria such as Palgore Game reserve in Kano State, Kudara Forest in Lere-Kaduna State, Zurok Forest in Plateau State, Pandam Wild Life Park in Plateau State, Nabardo in Toro-Bauchi State, Jengre in Plateau State and Igabi in Kaduna State share similar security threats as the Lame-Burra Game Reserve;

Cognizant of the need to combat the rising cases of insecurity in Lame-Burra Game Reserve in Toro Local Government Area;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Chief of Defence Staff, the Chief of Army Staff, the Inspector General of Police and other Security Agencies to investigate the rising cases of insecurity in Lame-Burra Game Reserve, Palgore Game Reserve, Kudara Forest, Zurok Forest, Pandam Wild Life Park, Jengere, Igabi and Nabardo with a view to prosecuting the criminals operating therein and improving security in the area;
- (ii) urge the Executive Arm of Government to establish security formations within Lame-Burra Game Reserve, Palgore Game Reserve, Kudara Forest, Zurok Forest, Pandam Wild Life Park, Jengre, Igabi and Nabardo;
- (iii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to provide infrastructure like roads, electricity and institutes in the Game Reserves with a view to boosting their tourism potentials;

- (iv) mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Muda Lawal Umar — Toro Federal Constituency and 1 other*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

(HR. 92/12/2020).

16. **Need for Banks to Adopt Non-Interest Banking (NIB) System to Stimulate the Economy:**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that non-interest banking, also known as Profit and Loss Sharing (PLS) banking system prohibits the payment of interest in all ramifications and then adopts the principle of profit and loss sharing between the parties;

Also notes that under non-interest banking, both the investor and the entrepreneur are seen as partners, thus when profit or losses are made, same is shared according to the formula that reflects their level of financial participation;

Further notes that non-interest banking encourages asset banking as financial transactions are tied to tangible assets like real estate investment or investment on gold, which usually appreciates over time and does not depreciate;

Concerned that conventional banking is an interest-based system whose relationship with their customer is that of creditor and borrower, where interest is fixed in advance and risk or loss is only incurred by the borrower;

Also concerned that a large number of Nigerians, especially those from the Northern part of the country, do not take loans with interest due to religious concerns, which thus short changes them from benefiting from Federal Government policies and stimulus packages and is constituting one of the major reasons for the slow economic growth of the region;

Further concerned that Nigeria's lending rate, in conventional banking, is one of the highest in the world, and creates serious hardship, particularly on low-income earners, most especially in this period of the COVID-19 Pandemic;

Disturbed that with higher interest rates, interest payments on credit cards and loans are more expensive, consequently discouraging people from borrowing and spending with the attendant decrease in consumption;

Cognizant that the Central Bank of Nigeria, which is the apex regulatory body for banks and other financial institutions has not done enough in encouraging non-interest banking which would provide another palliative measure in this season of COVID-19 Pandemic;

Also cognizant that few commercial banks that embraced non-interest banking have made profits with high returns to the investors and at the same time, created better opportunities for access to funds for business purposes with very low risk;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministries of Finance, Agriculture and Rural Development, and Industry, Trade and Investment to provide a deliberate policy that will encourage the Bank of Industry (BOI), the Bank of Agriculture (BOA), Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing system for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL) Micro Finance Banks and other Government owned Financial Institutions to provide non-interest banking to their customers;
- (ii) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to review its current policy on non-interest banking and direct Federal Government Development Banks and Commercial Banks to integrate same into their systems; and
- (iii) further urge the Central Bank of Nigeria to review its policy on non-interest banking to allow Commercial Banks carry it out as a product rather than having to acquire a separate license for non-interest banking as is obtainable currently;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to ensure compliance (*Hon. Kabir Ibrahim Tukura — Fakai/Zuru/Sakaba/Danko-Wasagu Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the Prayers, and insert a new Prayer as follows:

“Mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to investigate the non-interest banking programmes and report back within eight (8) weeks” (Hon. Ndudi Elumelu — Aniocha/Oshimili Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that non-interest banking, also known as Profit and Loss Sharing (PLS) banking system prohibits the payment of interest in all ramifications and then adopts the principle of profit and loss sharing between the parties;

Also noted that under non-interest banking, both the investor and the entrepreneur are seen as partners, thus when profit or losses are made, same is shared according to the formula that reflects their level of financial participation;

Further noted that non-interest banking encourages asset banking as financial transactions are tied to tangible assets like real estate investment or investment on gold, which usually appreciates over time and does not depreciate;

Concerned that conventional banking is an interest-based system whose relationship with their customer is that of creditor and borrower, where interest is fixed in advance and risk or loss is only incurred by the borrower;

Also concerned that a large number of Nigerians, especially those from the Northern part of the country, do not take loans with interest due to religious concerns, which thus short changes them from benefiting from Federal Government policies and stimulus packages and is constituting one of the major reasons for the slow economic growth of the region;

Further concerned that Nigeria's lending rate, in conventional banking, is one of the highest in the world, and creates serious hardship, particularly on low-income earners, most especially in this period of the COVID-19 Pandemic;

Disturbed that with higher interest rates, interest payments on credit cards and loans are more expensive, consequently discouraging people from borrowing and spending with the attendant decrease in consumption;

Cognizant that the Central Bank of Nigeria, which is the apex regulatory body for banks and other financial institutions has not done enough in encouraging non-interest banking which would provide another palliative measure in this season of COVID-19 Pandemic;

Also cognizant that few commercial banks that embraced non-interest banking have made profits with high returns to the investors and at the same time, created better opportunities for access to funds for business purposes with very low risk;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to investigate the non-interest banking programmes and report back within eight (8) weeks (HR. 93/12/2020).

17. **Need to Curb the Rising Incidences of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Related Explosions Nationwide**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that on 4 January, 2020, a gas explosion along Kachia Road in Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State claimed about 8 lives, including that of the Director-General of the Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission (NAEC) who was reported to have gone to a nearby barber's shop located within the premises of the retail gas outlet when the incident occurred;

Also notes another gas explosion on 28 November, 2019 in Ajegunle, Apapa Area of Lagos State which claimed the lives of 2 children and left about 23 persons with varying degrees of burns resulting in the destruction of properties worth millions of naira;

Further notes another gas cylinder explosion in October 2019, at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Victoria Island, Lagos leaving 3 persons seriously injured, with cars and nearby properties destroyed;

Worried that stakeholders in the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) value chain often point at the failure to enforce standards, failure to clamp down on violators and failure to prevent siting of gas stations and refill outlets in residential areas by regulatory bodies, including the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) and the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON), as being responsible for the rise in cooking gas explosions in the country;

Also worried by accusations, counter accusations and claims among regulatory agencies and stakeholders on the cause(s) of gas explosions nationwide, for instance the DPR and Liquefied Petroleum Gas Retailers Association (LPGAR), a branch of NUPENG were at loggerheads over the cause(s) of the January 2020 explosion in Kaduna, a case where the DPR claimed that the explosion was as a result of decanting (transfer) of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) into another cylinder by operators of the facility, while LPGAR claimed that the disaster was as a result of acetylene and oxygen gases and not LPG, as widely circulated;

Again notes that the DPR, which is responsible for regulating gas activities and ensuring compliance with Health, Safety and Environmental (HSE) Standards in the sector, has consistently warned against siting gas stations in residential areas and unauthorized places, yet the number of unauthorized gas plants keeps increasing on an annual basis and as part of its enforcement procedures, the DPR sealed a total of 40 gas plants in December 2019 in Akwa Ibom State over unsafe practices;

Cognizant that the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) established standards for gas cylinders in Nigeria (NIS587) which among others specifies a 15-year life cycle for gas cylinders and provides for every gas cylinder to go through mandatory re-qualification process every 5 years, but there are no facilities for re-qualification, certification and re-certification of gas cylinders in Nigeria;

Also cognizant that in order to curb the domestic production and importation of substandard and fake gas cylinders, the then Director-General of Standards Organisation of Nigeria, Dr Joseph Odumodu, in 2014, assured Nigerians of the implementation of a new policy on the ownership of gas cylinders;

Disturbed that six (6) years after the conception of the policy, the Federal Government is yet to commence the implementation of the new policy on ownership of cylinders in Nigeria while the production and importation of fake and sub-standard cylinders continue unabated while lives have been lost to the same problem which the proposed policy would have solved;

Believes that in line with the provisions of Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), government needs to take more appropriate steps to protect Nigerians from avoidable deaths by adopting relevant practices obtainable in other climates, especially in effectively monitoring the validity of LPG cylinders;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on users of LPG, to procure and install both active fire extinguishers and gas leakage detectors in their homes as part of safe ways of using same;
- (ii) urge the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON), the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), the National Orientation Agency (NOA) and Marketers to embark on aggressive but consistent sensitization and awareness campaigns on safe ways of using gas cylinders to save lives; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Petroleum Resources (Downstream), and Commerce to investigate the cause(s) of explosions of gas cylinders at LPG plants in order to find permanent and sustainable solutions which will save lives while encouraging safe use of LPG, and report back within six (6) weeks for further Legislative action (*Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu — Bende Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (iii), immediately after the word "Commerce", insert the words "Gas Resources" (*Hon. Kabiru Idris — Kura/Madobi/Garun Malam Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) Leave out Prayer (iii), and insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
"mandate the Committees on Gas Resources, and Commerce to investigate the cause(s) of explosions of gas cylinders at LPG plants in order to find permanent and sustainable solutions which will save lives while encouraging safe use of LPG, and report back within six (6) weeks" (*Hon. Chinyere Igwe Emmanuel — Port Harcourt II Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on 4 January, 2020, a gas explosion along Kachia Road in Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State claimed about 8 lives, including that of the Director-General of the Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission (NAEC) who was reported to have gone to a nearby barber's shop located within the premises of the retail gas outlet when the incident occurred;

Also noted another gas explosion on 28 November, 2019 in Ajegunle, Apapa Area of Lagos State which claimed the lives of 2 children and left about 23 persons with varying degrees of burns resulting in the destruction of properties worth millions of naira;

Further noted another gas cylinder explosion in October 2019, at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Victoria Island, Lagos leaving 3 persons seriously injured, with cars and nearby properties destroyed;

Worried that stakeholders in the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) value chain often point at the failure to enforce standards, failure to clamp down on violators and failure to prevent siting of gas stations and refill outlets in residential areas by regulatory bodies, including the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) and the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON), as being responsible for the rise in cooking gas explosions in the country;

Also worried by accusations, counter accusations and claims among regulatory agencies and stakeholders on the cause(s) of gas explosions nationwide, for instance the DPR and Liquefied Petroleum Gas Retailers Association (LPGAR), a branch of NUPENG were at loggerheads over the cause(s) of the January 2020 explosion in Kaduna, a case where the DPR claimed that the explosion was as a result of decanting (transfer) of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) into another cylinder by operators of the facility, while LPGAR claimed that the disaster was as a result of acetylene and oxygen gases and not LPG, as widely circulated;

Again noted that the DPR, which is responsible for regulating gas activities and ensuring compliance with Health, Safety and Environmental (HSE) Standards in the sector, has consistently warned against siting gas stations in residential areas and unauthorized places, yet the number of unauthorized gas plants keeps increasing on an annual basis and as part of its enforcement procedures, the DPR sealed a total of 40 gas plants in December 2019 in Akwa Ibom State over unsafe practices;

Cognizant that the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) established standards for gas cylinders in Nigeria (NIS587) which among others specifies a 15-year life cycle for gas cylinders and provides for every gas cylinder to go through mandatory re-qualification process every 5 years, but there are no facilities for re-qualification, certification and re-certification of gas cylinders in Nigeria;

Also cognizant that in order to curb the domestic production and importation of substandard and fake gas cylinders, the then Director-General of Standards Organisation of Nigeria, Dr Joseph Odumodu, in 2014, assured Nigerians of the implementation of a new policy on the ownership of gas cylinders;

Disturbed that six (6) years after the conception of the policy, the Federal Government is yet to commence the implementation of the new policy on ownership of cylinders in Nigeria while the production and importation of fake and sub-standard cylinders continue unabated while lives have been lost to the same problem which the proposed policy would have solved;

Believed that in line with the provisions of Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), government needs to take more appropriate steps to protect Nigerians from avoidable deaths by adopting relevant practices obtainable in other climes, especially in effectively monitoring the validity of LPG cylinders;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on users of LPG, to procure and install both active fire extinguishers and gas leakage detectors in their homes as part of safe ways of using same;
- (ii) urge the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON), the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), the National Orientation Agency (NOA) and Marketers to embark on aggressive but consistent sensitization and awareness campaigns on safe ways of using gas cylinders to save lives; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Gas Resources, and Commerce to investigate the cause(s) of explosions of gas cylinders at LPG plants in order to find permanent and sustainable solutions which will save lives while encouraging safe use of LPG, and report back within six (6) weeks (HR. 94/12/2020).

18. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 15 December, 2020 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Garba Athassan Ado — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.16 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabamila
Speaker