



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 1 December, 2020

1. The House met at 11.52 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, 25 November, 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

25th November, 2020

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

Dear Rt Hon. F. Gbajabiamila,

**TRANSMISSION OF THE FINANCE BILL, 2020 TO THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY FOR CONSIDERATION AND PASSAGE INTO LAW IN
SUPPORT OF THE 2021 BUDGET**

Pursuant to Sections 58 and 59 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), I formally request that the Finance Bill, be considered by the House of Representatives, for passage into law.

2. The Finance Bill, 2020 seeks to support the implementation of the 2021 Budget by proposing key reforms to specific taxation, customs, excise, fiscal and other laws. Specifically, this Bill's provisions:

- (a) adopt appropriate counter-cyclical fiscal policies to respond to the economic and revenue challenges precipitated by the decline in international oil prices, as well as the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Nigerian economy;
- (b) reform extant Fiscal Policies to prioritise job creation, economic growth, socio-economic development, domestic revenue mobilisation, as well as to foster closer coordination with Monetary and Trade Policies;
- (c) provide fiscal relief for taxpayers by reducing the applicable minimum tax rate for two (2) consecutive years of assessment, as well as reforming the commencement and cessation rules for small businesses;
- (d) propose measures to fund the Federal Government's COVID-19 Pandemic response and introduce provisions to enhance the recovery of corporate donations towards responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic, as well as any similar crises in the future;
- (e) amend certain aspects of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, to align this Act with the 1999 Constitution (as amended), as well as to enhance fiscal efficiencies by controlling the cost-to-revenue ratios of key State and Government-Owned Enterprises; and
- (f) amend the Public Procurement Act to implement key procurement reforms previously proposed by the National Assembly, in 2019, to extend the scope of the Act to the Federal Judiciary and Legislature, accelerate procurement processes, increase mobilisation fee thresholds and provide for essential e-procurement reforms.

3. I trust that this Bill will be favourably considered by the National Assembly, to accelerate its passage into law, so as to support the implementation of the 2021 Federal Budget.

4. Please accept, Right Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Muhammadu Buhari

5. Announcement

Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of Federal University of Technology, Auchi, Edo State and for Related Matters, 2020 (HB. 527):

Mr Speaker announced the names of Members as follows:

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|---|----------|
| (1) | Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata | — | Chairman |
| (2) | Hon. Ademorin Aliyu Kuye | — | Member |
| (3) | Hon. Gbefwi Gaza Jonathan | — | Member |
| (4) | Hon. Ogluma Johnson | — | Member |
| (5) | Hon. Nnaji Prince Cornelius | — | Member |
| (6) | Hon. Aliyu Muktar Betara | — | Member |

6. **Remarks by Mr Speaker on the Killing of Farmers and Villagers in Zabarmari, Borno State by Suspected Boko Haram Terrorists**

Mr Speaker made the following remarks:

Good morning Honourable Colleagues.

2. *In the towns and villages of the North East, our fellow citizens have been and continue to be the first victims of a brutal insurgency that seeks to destroy our country and remake our world in the image of a discredited ideology.*
3. *On Saturday, the 28th of November, 2020 forty-three of our fellow citizens in the town of Zabarmari were cruelly murdered and decapitated by insurgents of the Boko Haram terrorist organisation. Forty-three people who set out to their farms to harvest their meagre yields became in one afternoon, the newest victims of the evil that has brought untold grief to too many, for far too long.*
4. *For more than a decade, we have confronted the evil that is Boko Haram. We have not won and do not appear close to winning the war against terrorism in Nigeria. Yes, we have recovered territory and land in places where not so long ago, the black flags of Boko Haram flapped in the desert air as an affront to our nationhood and a rebuke to the failures that brought us to that ignoble end.*
5. *But we must ask, what does it mean to recover territory if our people cannot live, and work and trade in these places? What is the value of land whose only purpose is to bury the unfortunate dead?*
6. *We must rethink this war on terror. We must ask ourselves what it is we are doing wrong? What have we failed to do? How is it that despite the billions in resources expended and the countless lives lost, we still are at the mercy of murderers who offer only the promise of death and the certainty of destruction and condemnation in this life and the next?*
7. *Now is the time to ask difficult questions. We ask these questions in the sincere hope that through our collective and concerted search for answers, we might arrive at a solution that spares us further bloodshed. We ask these questions in the hope that the answers we find will heal our land and make our people whole. We ask these questions because we must.*
8. *In the Legislative Agenda of the 9th House of Representatives, we have committed to specific strategic goals including improved funding of security agencies, better engagement with local communities, innovative, proactive and technological driven responsiveness amongst other things. These goals will help us to achieve the overall goal of a more secure country where people can go about their business free from terror in whatever form.*
9. *While we 'seek lasting solutions to the problems that threaten us, improving the lives of the people who have lost the most from this conflict must be part of our commitment. In the interim, we will consider interventions that compensate the people of Zabarmari for the loss of their harvest so that they are not so deprived that they return quickly to the killing feeds where already, they have lost so much.*
10. *We will not deviate from these commitments. The continued existence of our country and the progress of our nation's people depend on it and all of us Honourable members of this House of Representatives.*
11. *May God bless the memory of the departed. May he grant succour to the ones they've left behind. God bless you all, and God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.*

By leave of the House Mr Speaker invited Hon. Ahmed Satomi to present a Motion.

Need to Investigate the Gruesome Killing of Unarmed Farmers in Jere Local Government of Borno State:

The House:

Pained that on Saturday, 28 November, 2020, more than 43 people were killed in an insane and barbaric attack of rice farmers in Jere Local Government Area of Borno State:

Troubled that the attackers tied up agricultural labourers working in rice fields and slit their throats in Zabarmari village near Maiduguri, in Borno State;

Disturbed that some of the victims were labourers from other States of the Federation who had travelled to work on the rice farm fields in the State;

Worried that the exact number of people killed in the incident is not yet known as over 44 dead bodies were recovered and buried, all of them slaughtered, along with six others with serious injuries and many more residents are reported missing;

Recognizes that at the funeral of the victims on Sunday, 29 November, 2020, the Governor of Borno State, Babagana Zulum, stated that "the people are in very difficult situations, in one side, [if] they stay at home, they may be killed by hunger and starvation; on the other, they risk getting killed by the insurgents if they go out to the farms";

Also worried by the inability of the Military and other Security Forces in averting the continued wanton killings by Boko Haram insurgents, bandits, and terrorists in the North East and across the country;

Aware that President Muhammadu Buhari has condemned the senseless killing of several hard-working farmers by the terrorists as the entire country is hurt by the dastardly act:

Also aware of the urgent need for the President and Commander of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to reorganize the security architecture of the country to end insurgency in the North East, banditry and all acts of terrorism across the nation;

Resolves to:

- (i) condemn the killing of unarmed civilian farmers at Zabarmari village in Jere Local Government Area of Borno State by suspected Boko Haram insurgents;
- (ii) urge the President to declare a state of emergency on the nation's security;
- (iii) call on the central Bank to immediately key in the farmers at Zabarmari and environs to the dry season rice farming projects and look into the ongoing anchor programme to proper harvest recovery;
- (iv) set up a Committee to commiserate with the Governor and people of Borno State; and
- (v) observe a minute silence in honour of the victims of the incident (*Hon. Ahmed Satomi — Jere Federal Constituency and Twelve Others*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

(i) *Insert a new Prayer (vi) as follows:*

"Mandate the Committees on Defence, Army, Navy, and Air Force to investigate the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON), on its manufacturing status to determine its level of preparedness regarding weapons for national needs" (*Hon. Toby Okechukwu — Anirri/Awgu/Oji River Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

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

"Invite Mr President to brief the House on the security situation in the country" (*Hon. Ahmadu Usman Jaha — Chibok/Dambo/Gwoza Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Pained that on Saturday, 28 November, 2020, more than 43 people were killed in an insane and barbaric attack of rice farmers in Jere Local Government Area of Borno State;

Troubled that the attackers tied up agricultural labourers working in rice fields and slit their throats in Zabarmari village near Maiduguri, in Borno State;

Disturbed that some of the victims were labourers from other States of the Federation who had travelled to work on the rice farm fields in the State;

Worried that the exact number of people killed in the incident is not yet known as over 44 dead bodies were recovered and buried, all of them slaughtered, along with six others with serious injuries and many more residents are reported missing;

Recognized that at the funeral of the victims on Sunday, 29 November, 2020, the Governor of Borno State, Babagana Zulum, stated that "the people are in very difficult situations, in one side, [if] they stay at home, they may be killed by hunger and starvation; on the other, they risk getting killed by the insurgents if they go out to the farms";

Also worried by the inability of the Military and other Security Forces in averting the continued wanton killings by Boko Haram insurgents, bandits, and terrorists in the North East and across the country;

Aware that President Muhammadu Buhari has condemned the senseless killing of several hard-working farmers by the terrorists as the entire country is hurt by the dastardly act;

Also aware of the urgent need for the President and Commander of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to reorganize the security architecture of the country to end insurgency in the North East, banditry and all acts of terrorism across the nation;

Resolved to:

- (i) condemn the killing of unarmed civilian farmers at Zabarmari village in Jere Constituency Area of Borno State by suspected Boko Haram insurgent;
- (ii) urge the President to declare state of emergency on the nation's security;

- (iii) call on the central Bank to immediately key in the farmers at Zabarmari and environs to the dry season rice farming projects and look into the ongoing anchor program to proper harvest recovery;
- (iv) set up a Committee to commiserate with the Governor and people of Borno State;
- (v) observe a minute silence in honor of the victims of the incidence that lost their lives;
- (vi) mandate Committees on Defence, Army, Navy, and Air Force to investigate the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON), on the manufacturing status to determine the level of preparedness regarding weapons for national needs; and
- (vii) invite Mr President to brief the House on the security situation in the country (HR. 67/12/2020).

7. Petitions

- (i) A petition from S. A. Rahman & Associates (Attorney, Arbitrators), on behalf of Maikano Abdullahi Fagge, on the alleged illegal disposal of his property located in Gwagwalada Federal Capital Territory, Abuja by the Minister of Federal Capital Territory and Chairman of the Ad-hoc Committee on the sales of Federal Government Properties, was presented and laid by Hon. Suleiman Aminu (*Fagge Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) A petition from Temple A. Amadi & Co. (Barristers, Solicitors), on behalf of Bomzo Limited, on the non-payment by the Management of Sterling Petrochemicals, and Fertilizers Limited on products supplied, was presented and laid by Hon. Chinyere Igwe Emmanuel (*Port Harcourt II Federal Constituency*); and
- (iii) A petition from Ekhasomi Henry Sambo, on the termination of his appointment by the Management of the Nigerian Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF), was presented and laid by Hon. Isa Shaba Ibrahim (*Lokoja/Kogi/Koton-Karfe Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

8. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**
Deliberate Attempt by a Member of the British House of Commons, Mr Tom Tugendhat to Cause Crisis in Nigeria by Making False Allegations Capable of Inciting Violence Against the Former Head of State, Gen. Yakubu Gowon and to Cause Breach of Peace:
 Hon. Yusuf Gagdi (*Pankshin/Kanke/Kanam 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.

Deliberate Attempt by a Member of the British House of Commons, Mr Tom Tugendhat to Cause Crisis in Nigeria by Making False Allegations Capable of Inciting Violence Against the Former Head of State, Gen. Yakubu Gowon and to Cause Breach of Peace:

The House:

Notes that on 23 November, 2020, the British House of Commons acting on a petition organised by some Nigerians at home and abroad, held a special session in the British House of Commons to debate the response by the Federal Government of Nigeria to the #EndSARS protests and the attendant loss of life and property that followed in the aftermath of the demonstrations:

Also notes that during the debate, Tom Tugendhat, the Conservative Member of Parliament for Tonbridge and Malling and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee of the House of Commons, had accused former Head of State of Nigeria, General Yakubu Gowon of taking half of the money domiciled in the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) with him when he was on exile to the United Kingdom:

Aware that Tom Tugendhat, MP did not at the time of speaking, provide any evidence to support the weighty allegations made against General Yakubu Gowon, and had not provided any evidence in support of his claims:

Also aware that Tom Tugendhat, MP by his position as the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee of the House of Commons, and having served as an Army Officer to the rank of a Lt. Col in the Territorial Army, understands that allegations of this nature, made without evidence can have an incendiary effect in a country like Nigeria:

Concerned that the Member of Parliament made those allegations in the House of Commons without due regard for many years of cordial relationship between Nigeria and the United Kingdom, and without first using other diplomatic channels available to him to ascertain the veracity of his position, or to seek evidence in support of the claims he intended to make in parliament:

Disturbed that despite the barrage of condemnations by well-meaning and right-thinking people from all over the world and an official request for retraction by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, neither Tom Tugendhat, MP nor the government he represents has thought it fit and proper to act to correct the inconsiderate and dangerous statements by Tom Tugendhat, MP:

Also disturbed that the recalcitrance of Tom Tugendhat, MP in this matter gives credence to suggestions in certain quarters that the careless utterance was not made in error, but rather is a calculated attempt to exploit the faultlines of Nigerian society to create conflict, exacerbate crises and create conditions that make governing doubtful, and progress impossible:

Resolves to:

- (i) write the House of Commons to:
 - (a) express the displeasure of the House that a Member of the House of Commons has taken advantage of the parliamentary privilege to disparage a former Head of State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the person of General Yakubu Gowon and to make statements against him which in other circumstances would be libellous and subject to sanction,
 - (b) demand that the Member of Parliament, Tom Tugendhat, offer a public apology to General Yakubu Gowon and the people and government of Nigeria for making claims in parliament that are capable of creating conflict, and breaching the peace in Nigeria;
- (ii) invite the British High Commissioner to the Federal Republic of Nigeria to explain to this Honourable House why despite demands made by citizens and governments alike, the Government of Great Britain has failed to offer an apology for the actions of Tom Tugendhat, MP and Chair of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee of the House of Commons, knowing fully well the effect such a statement can have in a country such as ours (*Hon. Yusuf Gagdi — Pankshin/Kanke/Kanam Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* all the Prayers and *insert* a new Prayer as follows:
 "Mandate the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Inter-Parliamentary Relations to investigate the comments and report back within four (4) weeks" (*Hon. Kingsley Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
 "Engage United Kingdom Parliament through Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) being an Umbrella Association" (*Hon. Ahmadu Usman Jaha — Chibok/Dambo/Gwoza Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on 23 November, 2020, the British House of Commons acting on a petition organised by some Nigerians at home and abroad, held a special session in the British House of Commons to debate the response by the Federal Government of Nigeria to the #EndSARS protests and the attendant loss of life and property that followed in the aftermath of the demonstrations;

Also noted that during the debate, Tom Tugendhat, the Conservative Member of Parliament for Tonbridge and Malling and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee of the House of Commons, had accused former Head of State of Nigeria, General Yakubu Gowon of taking half of the money domiciled in the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) with him when he was on exile to the United Kingdom;

Aware that Tom Tugendhat, MP did not at the time of speaking, provide any evidence to support the weighty allegations made against General Yakubu Gowon, and had not provided any evidence in support of his claims;

Also aware that Tom Tugendhat, MP by his position as the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee of the House of Commons, and having served as an Army Officer to the rank of a Lt. Col in the Territorial Army, understands that allegations of this nature, made without evidence can have an incendiary effect in a country like Nigeria;

Concerned that the Member of Parliament made those allegations in the House of Commons without due regard for many years of cordial relationship between Nigeria and the United Kingdom, and without first using other diplomatic channels available to him to ascertain the veracity of his position, or to seek evidence in support of the claims he intended to make in parliament;

Disturbed that despite the barrage of condemnations by well-meaning and right-thinking people from all over the world and an official request for retraction by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, neither Tom Tugendhat, MP nor the government he represents has thought it fit and proper to act to correct the inconsiderate and dangerous statements by Tom Tugendhat, MP;

Also disturbed that the recalcitrance of Tom Tugendhat, MP in this matter gives credence to suggestions in certain quarters that the careless utterance was not made in error, but rather is a calculated attempt to exploit the faultlines of Nigerian society to create conflict, exacerbate crises and create conditions that make governing doubtful, and progress impossible;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Inter-Parliamentary Relations to investigate the comments and report back within four (4) weeks (HR. 68/12/2020).

9. **Presentation of Bills**

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Nigerian Council for Management Development Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1119).
- (2) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1109).
- (3) Communal Farm (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1110).
- (4) Counterfeit and Fake Drugs and Unwholesome Processed Food and Drug Administration and Control Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1126).
- (5) Chartered Institute of Statisticians of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1120).
- (6) Casual Workers Rights Protection Bill, 2020 (HB. 1106).
- (7) Nigeria Shea Butter Institute (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1121).
- (8) National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1127).
- (9) Federal Medical Centre, Koko (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1122).
- (10) National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1123).
- (11) University Teaching Hospitals (Reconstitution of Board, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1124).
- (12) National Renewable Energy Development (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1125).
- (13) Nigerian Sovereign Investment Authority Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1128).
- (14) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1129).
- (15) Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1130).
- (16) National Tuber Crops Research Institute, Ukum, Benue State (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1131).
- (17) Small and Medium Scale Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1132).

10. **Presentation of Reports**(i) **Committee on Public Petitions:****Report on the Petition by Mohammed Ibrahim and 53 Others:**

Motion made and Question proposed. "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Mohammed Ibrahim and 53 Others against the Nigeria Defence Academy on the unlawful withdrawal and relegation of Mohammed Ibrahim and 53 Others" (Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso — Orlu/Orsu/Oru East Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) **Committee on Public Petitions:****Report on the Petition by Mr Samuel Umeadi Mogekwu:**

Motion made and Question proposed. "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Mr Samuel Umeadi Mogekwu against the Central Bank of Nigeria for his wrongful dismissal from service and the blunt refusal of the Bank to comply with the resolution of the House" (Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso — Orlu/Orsu/Oru East Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iii) **Committee on Public Petitions:****Report on the Petition by Hamza Ridwan B. A.:**

Motion made and Question proposed. "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Hamza Ridwan B. A. against the Unity Bank Plc and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on the Fundamental Issues in the Bank" (Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso — Orlu/Orsu/Oru East Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iv) **Committee on Public Petitions:****Report on the Petition by Support Staff of Warri Refinery and Petrochemical Company:**

Motion made and Question proposed. "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Support Staff of Warri Refinery and Petrochemical Company, Delta State against the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) on their continuous casualization" (Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso — Orlu/Orsu/Oru East Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Film and Video Censors Board Act, Cap. N40, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the National Film and Video Censorship, Classification and Exhibition Regulatory Commission Bill for Classification of Films, Video Works, Musical Videos and Video Games; and for Related Matters (HB.514) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed. "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Film and Video Censors Board Act, Cap. N40, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the National Film and Video Censorship, Classification and Exhibition Regulatory Commission Bill for Classification

of Films, Video Works, Musical Videos and Video Games; and for Related Matters (HB. 514) be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Olusegun Odebinmi — Ogo-Oluwa/Surulere 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 Information Technology, National Orientation, Ethics and Values.

12. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Defence Academy Act, Cap. N101, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make Provision for Establishment of Additional Campuses to give more Opportunities to Nigerian Youths wishing to take up careers in the Military; and for Related Matters (HB. 910) — *Second Reading*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Defence Academy Act, Cap. N101, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make Provision for Establishment of Additional Campuses to give more Opportunities to Nigerian Youths wishing to take up careers in the Military; and for Related Matters (HB. 910) be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Aniekan Umanah John — Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika 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 Defence.

13. A Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Human Rights Commission Act, Cap. N46, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the National Human Rights Commission Bill, 2020 to strengthen the Commission to conduct Investigations and sustain activities in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 1072) — *Second Reading*

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

14. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Electric Power Sector Reforms Act to Provide for Electricity Distribution Companies to Reimburse any Power Consumer who incurs expenses in the Acquisition and Maintenance of Electricity Apparatus Connected to the National Grid in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 287) — *Second Reading*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Electric Power Sector Reforms Act to Provide for Electricity Distribution Companies to Reimburse any Power Consumer who incurs expenses in the Acquisition and Maintenance of Electricity Apparatus Connected to the National Grid in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 287) be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Igbakpa Rollands Ben — Ethiope East/Ethiope West 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 Power.

15. **Need to Investigate the Gruesome Murder of a Popular Trado-Medical Practitioner, Alhaji Fatai Yusuf (a.k.a. Oko Oloyun)**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the gruesome murder of a popular Trado-Medical Practitioner, Alhaji Fatai Yusuf (Oko Oloyun) on Thursday, 23 January, 2020 while he was travelling along the Abeokuta-Igboora Iseyin Road in Oyo State by hoodlums who overwhelmed his two police escorts:

Also notes that the deceased was killed at a point that is between two police checkpoints on the Eruwa-Igboora road which is noted for cases of kidnapping and robbery, but had rarely recorded cases of hired assassination;

Further notes that preliminary investigation by the police showed that Alhaji Yusuf was assassinated hours after some of his workers set fire on some financial book-keeping records due to an alleged book-keeping fraud he detected in his Lagos office:

Recalls that in 2019 dastardly attacks were carried out at Eruwa, Lanlate Igangan, Tapa and Ayete, Igboora and Idere in Ibarapa Central Local Government Area of Oyo State by armed bandits and criminal element, notorious for kidnappings, rape and extortion of large sums of money from victims:

Cognizant that the level of insecurity is attributed to the inability of security operatives to secure the area, a development that negates the provisions of section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) which provides that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of Government, thus leaving the people with no other option than to resort to vigilante groups to tackle banditry, kidnappings and other criminal activities:

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute of silence in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) urge the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) to direct a thorough investigation into the gruesome murder of Alhaji Fatai Yusuf and to review the security architecture of Ibarapa Central Local Government, Ibarapa North Local Government and Ibarapa East Local Government Areas of Oyo State and Nigeria as a whole and also upgrade Igangan Police Station in Ibarapa North Local Government Area to a Divisional Police headquarters for effective policing of the Local Government Area;
- (iii) also urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to carry out rehabilitation work on the Abeokuta-Igboora-Iseyin-Sokoto road;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) and Police Affairs to ensure compliance;
- (v) set-up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to visit and commiserate with the immediate family of the deceased and the people and Government of Oyo State over the death of their illustrious son, whose death not only hurt his family, but also dealt a huge blow to many people benefiting from him (*Hon. Saubana Ajibola Muraina — Ibarapa Central/Ibarapa North Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

(HR. 69/12/2020).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

16. **Need to Regulate the Movement of Articulated Vehicles, Especially Fuel Tankers, on Nigerian Roads**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

17. **Need to Ensure Strict Compliance with COVID-19 Guidelines and Protocols as Schools Resume**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

18. **Need to Eliminate the Menace of Illicit Drugs and the Attendant Consequences**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

19. **Need to Address the Increasing Rate of Brain Drain of Nigerian Medical Practitioners**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Nigeria has one of the leading stocks of human resources for health in Africa but has failed to meet the health attention of its over 200 million people as a result of brain drain;

Also notes that the Nigeria Medical Association (NMA) in 2016 gave the statistics of about Five Thousand (5,000) medical workers leaving the country annually to developed countries making Nigeria the highest source of foreign born medical practitioners abroad;

Aware from studies that Nigeria has over Ninety Thousand (90,000) qualified Medical Doctors practicing abroad and in fact an average of fifty (50) doctors who had their primary Medical Education in Nigeria are said to be registering for practice every week in the United Kingdom (UK), United States of America (USA), Canada and the Oil rich countries;

Also aware that Saudi Arabia's Health Ministry visit Nigeria every year to conduct screening for intending Medical Practitioners both in Abuja and Lagos to take them to their country for employment and Nigerian doctors are struggling for visa at British Embassy to travel to their country after they have even passed their compulsory Professional Linguistic Assessment Board (PLAB) exams at the British council;

Observes that some factors responsible for this development in Nigeria are inadequate infrastructure, poor human resources planning and management practices and structures, unsatisfactory working conditions characterized by heavy workloads and other factors such as lack of professional autonomy, poor supervision and support, long working hours, unsafe workplaces, inadequate career structures, poor working conditions and poor compensation packages are the factors contributing to the emigration from the country by surgeons, physicians, nurses and other medical professionals;

Worried that the exodus of medical practitioners in Nigeria has in particular contributed to acute shortages of specialized and experienced health professionals in the country and if not curbed, it will be tough for Nigeria to tackle poverty because health is actually the wealth;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Ministry of Labour and Employment to review the salary, allowances and welfare of Nigerian medical practitioners;

- (ii) call on the Ministry of Labour and Employment to consider expanding the size of the medical practitioner in the country to create employment for the unemployed ones and develop a functional strategy that will attract diaspora Medical personnel to work at various teaching hospitals;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Labour and Employment to ensure the employment of the Nigerian medical practitioners;
- (iv) also mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to interface with relevant stakeholders in order to proffer a lasting solution to Brain Drain of Nigerian Medical Practitioners (*Hon. Ganiyu Abiodun Johnson — Oshodi Isolo II Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

(HR. 70/12/2020).

20. **Call on the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to Rehabilitate the Dilapidated Onitsha-Owerri Road from Oba Axis to Upper Iweka, Onitsha**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Onitsha-Owerri Federal Highway is a major road connecting the four (4) geopolitical zones with South-East and South-South Zones;

Further notes that the absence of a functional railway line servicing the area, all the cargo consignments to and from the South-East area of Aba-Owerri-Umuahia and the entire South-South zone passes through the road thereby taking a heavy toll on the road structures;

Observes that the pressure exerted on the road couple with the erosion of the soil surfaces due to several factors have resulted in a deep gully that has almost split the dual carriage way into two thereby causing serious gridlock from Oba junction to Upper Iweka, Onitsha and constituting enormous danger to unsuspecting motorist;

Further observes that the effect of this unending gridlock on the road is diverting traffic to Obosi roads that are not meant for heavy traffic thereby causing untold hardship and death from avoidable accidents and damages to the township roads;

Convinced that a quick palliative measures by the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), pending a more permanent reconstruction work, will not only restore the full use of that section of the Onitsha-Owerri road, but will preserve the township roads within Obosi and its environs;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to rehabilitate the dilapidated Onitsha-Owerri Road from Oba Axis to Upper Iweka Road, Onitsha;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to ensure implementation (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 71/12/2020).

Motion referred to the Committee on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

21. Consideration of Report

A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Protection of Plant Varieties, Establish a Plant Variety Protection Office for the Promotion of Increased Staple Crop Productivity for small holder farmers in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 68) (Committee of the Whole):

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Protection of Plant Varieties, Establish a Plant Variety Protection Office for the Promotion of Increased Staple Crop Productivity for small holder farmers in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 68)", (Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT FOR THE PROTECTION OF PLANT VARIETIES, TO ENCOURAGE INVESTMENT IN PLANT BREEDING AND CROP VARIETY DEVELOPMENT, TO ESTABLISH A PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION OFFICE FOR THE PROMOTION OF INCREASE STAPLE CROP PRODUCTIVITY FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN NIGERIA; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

PART I — PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Clause 1: Objectives.

The objectives of this Bill are to:

- (a) promote increased staple crop productivity for smallholder farmers in Nigeria and encourage investment in plant breeding and crop variety development;
- (b) promote increased mutual accountability in the seed sector; and
- (c) protect new varieties of plants (Hon. Babagida Ibrahim — Malumfashi/Kafur Federal Constituency).

Question that Clause 1 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 2: Application.

This Bill applies to:

- (a) a breeder; and
- (b) any plant genera and species (Hon. Babagida Ibrahim — Malumfashi/Kafur Federal Constituency).

Question that Clause 2 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART II — PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION OFFICE

Clause 3: Establishment of Plant Variety Protection Office.

There is established the Plant Variety Protection Office (in this Bill referred to as "the Office") which shall be domiciled in the National Agricultural Seeds Council (Hon. Babagida Ibrahim — Malumfashi/Kafur Federal Constituency).

Question that Clause 3 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 4: Appointment of Registrar.

(1) The Director General shall appoint a Registrar and a Deputy Registrar for the Office subject to confirmation by the Board.

(2) The Registrar and the Deputy Registrar shall have at least a Masters Degree in plant breeding, seed science, agronomy or in related fields with a minimum of seven years cognate experience and shall perform the functions assigned to them by the Director General.

(3) The Registrar shall appoint such other grades of assistants as he may consider necessary for the enforcement of the provisions of this Bill.

(4) The Registrar shall be responsible for the day-to-day management and administration of the Office and answerable to the Director General (Hon. Babagida Ibrahim — Malumfashi/Kafur Federal Constituency).

Amendment Proposed:**Clause 4:**

In Clause 4 (1), line 1, immediately after the word "The", *leave out* the words "Director-General", and *insert* the word "Board" (Hon. Babagida Ibrahim — Malumfashi/Kafur Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Deferred consideration on Clauses 4 (2) - 57.

Chairman to report progress.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Protection of Plant Varieties. Establish a Plant Variety Protection Office for the Promotion of Increased Staple Crop Productivity for small holder farmers in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 68) and approved Clauses 1 - 3, approved Clause 4 (1) as amended, and deferred further consideration.

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

22. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 3 December, 2020 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Ali Muhammed Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 3.49 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila
Speaker