



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 16 February, 2021

1. The House met at 11.04 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, 10 February, 2021.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Oaths of Allegiance and Membership**
A Member-elect, Suleiman Aliyu Lere (*Lere Federal Constituency*) took and subscribed the Oaths of Allegiance and Membership as prescribed by law.
5. **Announcement**
Defection:
Mr Speaker read the following communications from:
 - (i) Hon. Onuh Onyèche Blessing (*Ohimini/Otukpo Federal Constituency*), announcing her defection from the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) to the All Progressives Congress (APC); and
 - (ii) Hon. Yakubu Shehu Abdullahi (*Bauchi Federal Constituency*), announcing his defection from the Peoples Redemption Party (PRP) to the All Progressives Congress (APC).
6. **Remarks by the Speaker on the Shasha Crisis in Oyo State, and the Rising Spate of Inter-Ethnic Crises in the Country**
 1. *Last week, I spoke about the rising spate of insecurity and conflict across the country. Shortly after, and throughout the weekend, the warnings about the dangers we face manifested in Ibadan, Oyo State of Nigeria where an explosion of violence led to citizens' death and the loss of hard-earned property.*

2. *On behalf of the House, I commiserate with the families of those who lost their lives in this most unfortunate incident. And I commiserate too with the government and good people of Oyo State. I assure all Nigerians that the House of Representatives will work, within the powers available to us, to prevent reoccurrence of similar incidents across our country.*

3. *Honourable colleagues, the House of Representatives has neither command nor control of the country's security apparatus. We cannot act to deploy men and equipment to gather intelligence, enforce laws fairly, and take all other actions necessary to prevent breakdowns of law and order and the wanton violence that follows in its wake.*

4. *However, the House is a microcosm of our beloved country, and here in this chamber, we represent every tribe and region, creed, and religion. And we owe a duty to the people we serve, to do the things we believe sincerely in our hearts can improve the circumstances of their lives.*

5. *Today, we serve that duty by calling on the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) to conduct a speedy and thorough investigation into the recent violence in Oyo State, to allow for prosecution and punishment of those who instigated and participated in the killings and destruction of property. The Committees on Police Affairs, and Justice are mandated to communicate the House's position to the Inspector General of Police.*

6. *His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR has announced a Committee led by the National Security Adviser, Maj. Gen. Mohammed Babagana Monguno to hold peace and unity consultations across the country. The Committee will engage Governors, traditional rulers, religious leaders, security agencies, indigenous and settled groups across the States of the Federation to enact resolutions aimed at building an honourable peace in our land.*

7. *The House of Representatives aligns with this initiative, and we will constitute a working group to participate in these consultations. We will work together to examine the cultural, religious, and localised conflicts over land and history that are often at the root of internal security challenges and violent upheavals such as occurred in Oyo State last week and other parts of the country over the years.*

8. *Members will recall that on Wednesday, 10 February, 2021, Hon. Muraina Saubana Ajibola (Ibarapa Central/Ibarapa North Federal Constituency) sought to move a motion on the crisis in Ibarapa, Oyo State. The House is not unmindful of the level of the crisis and will do everything including calling on the Inspector-General of Police and other security agencies to do the needful to forestall the crisis in that State as we continue to address the nagging security challenges in the country.*

9. *Finally, I urge all of those who have large followership of people who listen to them and respect their voices, to be more circumspect about the information they share, the language they use, and the conversations they enable. The words we use about each other can have outsize consequences on our nation's peace and stability because words have the power to build and also to destroy.*

10. *And to political leaders, let me reiterate that we have a greater responsibility to keep the peace in our country. And to do that, we must first commit ourselves to the cause of equal justice and fair treatment for all. Only then, can we wage peace with resolve, secure in the knowledge that with peace, a more prosperous union is within reach.*

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

7. Petitions

(i) A petition from Frontier Solicitors (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Adebayo Ogundogba, on the alleged unlawful sealing of his property by the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON), was presented and laid by Hon. Agunsoye Oluwarotimi Ojo (Kosofe Federal Constituency);

- (ii) A petition from Tokumbo Lijadu-Oyemade, on the termination of her appointment by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission, was presented and laid by Hon. Kolawole Lawal (*Egbado South/Ipokia Federal Constituency*);
- (iii) A petition from E. E. Eshief & Co., (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Inemesit Isaiah Akpor and the entire members of Ikot Obong family, in Obio Ndot village in Oruk Anam Local Government Area, on the forceful conversion of their land and refusal to pay compensation by the Nigeria Police Force, was presented and laid by Hon. Unyime Idem Josiah (*Ukanafun/Oruk Anam Federal Constituency*);
- (iv) A petition from Oladimeji Ekengba & Co., (KKLM Chambers), on issuance of "Letter of No Objection" by the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria, contrary to due process, was presented and laid by Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu (*Bende Federal Constituency*);
- (v) The following Petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Dederi Haruna Isa (*Karaye/Rogo Federal Constituency*):
- (a) George Uboh on alleged dereliction of duty by Mohammed Isah, Chairman, Code of Conduct Bureau;
- (b) George Uboh on the alleged diversion of over \$10 billion at Federal Inland Revenue Service by Oil companies;
- (c) George Uboh, on alleged receipt of ₦70 billion illegal Cost of Collection (CoC) on oil revenue by the former Chairman and the present Chairman of Federal Inland Revenue Service;
- (d) Hannah and Hannah & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on the abandonment of Coconut Jetty in Bonny Island, Rivers State, by the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA);
- (e) Azeez Abiodun, on the non-payment of his end of service entitlement by Conoil Plc;
- (f) La Villa City Estate Residents Association, on alleged fraudulent extortion and breach of contract agreement by KYC Inter Project Limited;
- (g) Emmanuel Owoicho & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Michael Ayuba Auta, on alleged intimidation and forceful acquisition of his land by officers of the Nigeria Police Force;
- (h) Nelson Ekujumi, on alleged unwholesome practices detrimental to national economy and security by Zhe Long Investment Limited;
- (i) Sam Aram & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Kunlala Nigeria Limited on alleged unlawful claim of ownership of land by Col. Mohammed;
- (j) Cpl Ojo Aiyetan, on his dismissal from the service of the Nigeria Police Force;
- (k) Pelumi Olajengbesi & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Navy Captain Emmanuel Ekpe Owen, on alleged gross misconduct and abuse of power by the Chief of Naval Staff;
- (l) E-Law & Co., (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Olivia Ekwunife, on the alleged denial of access into her duly acquired property in Ipaja town, Gowon Estate, before Ipaja town, by officials of Federal Housing Authority, Lagos State; and

- (m) Jasper Musa, on the termination of his appointment by the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

- (i) ***Need to Investigate the Disbursement of Special Public Intervention Funds Received by Some Agencies of the Federal Government:***

Hon. Henry Nwawuba (*Mbaitoli/Ikeduru 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 Investigate the Disbursement of Special Public Intervention Funds Received by Some Agencies of the Federal Government:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Government was constrained to revert to external and internal borrowing to augment domestic savings, balance of payment deficits, and shortfalls in revenue;

Also notes that the Federal Government has also been borrowing quite substantially to fund projects and a range of public interventions;

Aware that some of the funds established by the Federal Government between 2015 - 2020 and the amounts released include the following:

(i)	Special Intervention MDGs (2015)	—	₦7,689,002,462,
(ii)	Contingency	—	₦22,469,358,143,
(iii)	MDG Special Projects	—	₦7,229,622,307,
(iv)	Special Intervention (2020)	—	₦39,933,338,086,
(v)	Special Intervention/Constituency Projects	—	₦3,002,315,957,
(vi)	Capital Contingency	—	₦15,868,060,896;

Also aware that other interventions include National Water Rehabilitation Project, National Agriculture Technology Program, and Salary Bailout to States, payment for Fertilizer, State Water Supply Project, State Agriculture Project, and FADAMA Project;

Concerned that despite the huge amount of funds invested, citizens continue to undergo untold hardships;

Also concerned that despite the huge loans to boost the economy, Nigeria still slipped into second recession in less than five years;

Further concerned that those agencies in charge of disbursing some of the special funds are unable to give proper accounts of how the monies were utilized;

Worried that most of the funds were not captured in the Appropriation Acts, thus the National Assembly was not aware of such monetary allocations;

Also worried that alleged fraudulent practices by Agencies of Government are sabotaging the efforts of the Federal Government and, if left unchecked, may lead to total collapse of the country's economy;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the disbursement of funds received by Agencies of the Federal Government from 2015 - 2020 with a view to ensuring that such funds were properly utilized (*Hon. Henry Nwawuba — Mbaitoli/Ikeduru Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Federal Government was constrained to revert to external and internal borrowing to augment domestic savings, balance of payment deficits, and shortfalls in revenue;

Also noted that the Federal Government has also been borrowing quite substantially to fund projects and a range of public interventions;

Aware that some of the funds established by the Federal Government between 2015 - 2020 and the amounts released include the following:

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(vi)	Capital Contingency	—	₦15,868,060,896;

Also aware that other interventions include National Water Rehabilitation Project, National Agriculture Technology Program, and Salary Bailout to States, payment for Fertilizer, State Water Supply Project, State Agriculture Project, and FADAMA Project;

Concerned that despite the huge amounts of funds invested, citizens continue to undergo untold hardships;

Also concerned that despite the huge loans to boost the economy, Nigeria still slipped into second recession in less than five years;

Further concerned that those agencies in charge of disbursing some of the special funds are unable to give proper accounts of how the monies were utilized;

Worried that most of the funds were not captured in the Appropriation Acts; thus the National Assembly was not aware of such monetary allocations;

Also worried that alleged fraudulent practices by Agencies of Government are sabotaging the efforts of the Federal Government and, if left unchecked, may lead to total collapse of the country's economy;

Resolved to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the disbursement of funds received by Agencies of the Federal Government from 2015 - 2020 with a view to ensuring that such funds were properly utilized (HR. 03/02/2021).

By leave of the House, Motion referred to the Committee on Finance.

(ii) ***Need to Caution Against Inflammatory and Divisive Statements by Public Officers:***
Hon. Bagos Dachung Musa (*Jos South/Jos East 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 Caution Against Inflammatory and Divisive Statements by Public Officers;

The House:

Notes the recent inflammatory and divisive statements allegedly credited to the Executive Governor of Bauchi State, His Excellency Bala Mohammed reportedly justifying illegal bearing of fire arms by herdsmen;

Also notes that the said statement has caused national outrage and condemnation by members of the public who believe the government is giving support to perpetrators of crime and carriers of prohibited fire arms;

Aware that the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and the Fire Arms Act forbid any individual from bearing AK47 rifle as classified fire arms except as approved by the Inspector General of Police (IGP);

Worried that the statement allegedly credited to the Governor of Bauchi State can lead to armed conflicts, as other groups such as farmers and defenseless citizens would equally consider bearing fire arms like AK47 rifle in defense of their lives and property;

Resolves to:

- (i) caution public officials against such statements, actions and policies that can cause unrest in the country;
- (ii) also caution media outlets on dissemination of such inflammatory and divisive information; and

- (iii) mandate the Leadership of the House to interface with the Nigerian Governors Forum as most of those inflammatory and divisive statements are being made by Governors, so as to focus on possible solution in addressing insecurity in Nigeria (*Hon. Bagos Dachung Musa — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the recent inflammatory and divisive statements allegedly credited to the Executive Governor of Bauchi State, His Excellency Bala Mohammed reportedly justifying illegal bearing of fire arms by herdsmen;

Also noted that the said statement has caused national outrage and condemnation by members of the public who believe the government is giving support to perpetrators of crime and carriers of prohibited fire arms;

Aware that the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and the Fire Arms Act forbid any individual from bearing AK47 rifle as classified fire arms except as approved by the Inspector General of Police (IGP);

Worried that the statement allegedly credited to the Governor of Bauchi State can lead to armed conflicts, as other groups such as farmers and defenseless citizens would equally consider bearing fire arms like AK47 rifle in defense of their lives and property;

Resolved to:

- (i) caution public officials against such statements, actions and policies that can cause unrest in the country;
- (ii) also caution media outlets on dissemination of such inflammatory and divisive information; and
- (iii) mandate the Leadership of the House to interface with the Nigerian Governors Forum as most of those inflammatory and divisive statements are being made by Governors, so as to focus on possible solution in addressing insecurity in Nigeria (HR. 04/02/2021).

9. **Personal Explanation (Order Eight, Rule 5)**

Hon. Oluga Taiwo Olukemi (*Ayedaade/Irewole/Isokan*), Chairman, Committee on Women in Parliament, on behalf of the House of Representatives, congratulated Dr (Mrs) Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala on her emergence as the Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO). She commended her for being the first woman and first African to assume leadership of the WTO. She thanked the International Community for their support, and urged all Nigerians to give Dr (Mrs) Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala all the needed encouragement and support.

10. **Presentation of Reports**

(i) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

Report on the Petition by 1st Synergy Resources Limited:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by 1st Synergy Resources Limited against the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) on alleged short change in the Federation Account by diverting Crude Oil Revenues of over \$1.13 Billion in 2017/2018" (*Hon. Dederi Haruna Isa — Karaye/Rogo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) Committee on Public Petitions:

Report on the Petition by U. C Oparaugo & Co.:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by U. C. Oparaugo & Co. on behalf of Kings and Security Services Limited against the Federal Ministry of Health and the Federal College for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (FEDCAM) over refusal to pay King Kelle Security Services Limited" (*Hon. Dederi Haruna Isa — Karaye/Rogo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iii) Committee on Public Petitions:

Report on the Petition by 1st Synergy Resources Limited:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by 1st Synergy Resources Limited against the Oil Companies Evading Tax in Nigeria, the Nightmare of the Executive Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) and the nation at large" (*Hon. Dederi Haruna Isa — Karaye/Rogo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iv) Committee on Public Petitions:

Report on the Petition by Dr Napoleon Aisueni JP:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Dr Napoleon Aisueni JP against the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, a Call to Obey Court Orders and allow Dr. Napoleon Aisueni to function as the Director/CEO of the Nigerian Institute of Oil Palm Research, (NIFOR) Benin City, Edo State of Nigeria" (*Hon. Dederi Haruna Isa — Karaye/Rogo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(v) Committee on Public Petitions:

Report on the Petition by Falode Oluyemi Oyeleye:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Falode Oluyemi Oyeleye against the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) on a Plea to Save the Families of Four missing Nigerians from trauma and suffering by directing the NPF Authority to search and rescue their missing Officers and a Civilian since September 3, 2018 while on official duty" (*Hon. Dederi Haruna Isa — Karaye/Rogo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(vi) **Committee on Public Petitions:****Report on the Petition by Hussein Afolabi & Associates::**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Hussein Afolabi & Associates against the Nigeria Navy, the Chief of Naval Staff and Commander, Nigeria Navy School, Beecroft-Apapa, Lagos on the unlawful arrest, detention and human rights violations of Messrs Emmanuel Eze, Patrick Ogberugba, Grace Inyang, Okechukwu Iwuoha and Paul Obi" (*Hon. Dederi Haruna Isa — Karaye/Rogo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

11. **Consolidation of Bills.**

(i) *Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act; and for Related Matters (HB. 542), a Bill for an Act to Amend the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act to make Provisions for Enhanced Efficiency in the Operations of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons; and for Related Matters (HB.1054), and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act No. 4, 2015 to Review the mode of Appointment of the Director-General of the Agency, Strengthen the Composition of its Governing Board and Review the Offences and Penal Provisions; and for Related Matters (HB.1154) be now consolidated" (*Hon. Abubakar Fulata Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(ii) *Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015 to Provide for Review of the Provisions which do not conform with the Spirit of the Constitution, and make them more responsive to Criminal Justice Reform; and for Related Matters (HB. 944), a Bill for an Act to Amend the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015 to Eliminate the Use of Life Threatening Gadgets on Suspects by Security Agents according to International Best Practices; and for Related Matters (HB. 1108), a Bill for an Act to Amend the Administration of Criminal Justice Act No. 13, 2015, to further Enhance the Dispensation of Justice in Criminal Proceedings in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 1162), and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015; and for Related Matters (HB. 1186) be now consolidated" (*Hon. Abubakar Fulata Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Institute of Animal Science Act, Cap. N160, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Related Matters (HB. 915) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Institute of Animal Science Act, Cap. N160, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Related Matters (HB. 915) be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Gideon Gwani Lucas — Kaura 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 Agricultural Production and Services.

The House:

Noted that there is an increasingly disturbing security situation in and around Isuikwuato and Umuinneochi Local Government Areas of Abia State which, unless urgent steps are taken, may degenerate to chaos and lawlessness;

Also noted that virtually all roads that lead to the Areas have been taken over by criminals, killer herdsmen and bandits who lay siege on the people of the Local Government Areas, maiming, robbing, kidnapping, raping and killing people and travellers;

Informed that there has not been a single day in the last five months that there were no reported cases of abductions, robberies, theft or some form of criminality in and around the two Local Government Areas and those criminal elements are so audacious that they operate in broad day light and night time, mostly without any interference from security operatives;

Aware that victims of those murderous gangs range from poor peasant farmers, old and young people, travellers, traditional and political leaders, among others and a case in point is that of one Mr. Obiajulu Okafor who was kidnapped, together with his wife and driver, on 2 January, 2021, which forced his family to pay a ransom of twenty-two Million Naira (₦22m) to secure their release;

Recalled that on 6 October, 2020, in two separate incidents, the Chairman (Transition Committee) of Isuikwuato Local Government Area and the member representing Isuikwuato Local Government Area in Abia State House of Assembly, were attacked on the same road and while the House Member was lucky to have escaped unharmed (with a bullet-ridden vehicle), the Transition Committee Chairman paid a ransom to regain his freedom from the kidnappers;

Worried that the people of Isuikwuato and Umuinneochi can no longer go to their farms or engage in other means of gaining livelihood for fear of being abducted, raped or killed by herdsmen and criminals who have taken over their farmlands and roadways;

Cognizant that unless urgent and drastic measures are taken to halt the tide and combat those criminal elements terrorizing the constituency, calamity may befall the areas as the people may tend to take the laws into their hands, which may lead to a state of anarchy;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Inspector General of Police to prioritize the security of those Local Government Areas and arrest the criminals terrorizing the constituency;
- (ii) also urge the various security agencies to collaborate for the purpose of ensuring a safe and conducive environment in the constituency;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to ensure compliance (HR. 05/02/2021).

17. **Need for the Independent National Electoral Commission to Review Upward the Number of State Constituencies in Oyo State**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Section 112 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) shall divide every State in the Federation into such number of State Constituencies as is equal to three or four times the number of Federal Constituencies within the State;

Also notes that Section 91 of the Constitution provides that the House of Assembly of a State shall consist of three or four times the number of seats the State has in the House of Representatives divided in a way to reflect, as far as possible, nearly equal population: provided that a House of Assembly of a State shall consist of not less than twenty-four and not more than forty members; -

Further notes that Section 114 of the Constitution provides that INEC shall review the division of every State into constituencies at intervals of not less than ten years, and may alter such constituencies under the provisions of this section to such extent as it may consider desirable in the light of the review;

Aware that Oyo State currently has thirty-two (32) State Constituencies and fourteen (14) Federal Constituencies namely: Ona-Ara/Egbe#a, Iseyin/Kajola, Iwajowa/Itesiwaju, Ibadan North-East/South-East, Lagelu/Akinyele, Ibarapa East/Ido, Ibadan North, Oluyole, Atisbo/Saki East/Saki West, Ibadan North-West/South-West, Ibarapa Central/Ibarapa North, Afijio/Atiba/Oyo East/Oyo West, Ogo-Oluwa/Surulere, Oluyole, Ogbomosho-North/South/Orire and Olorunsogo/Orelope/Irepo;

Believes that to comply with the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, the number of State Constituencies in Oyo State should be 40, being the maximum threshold prescribed by the Constitution;

Concerned that since the inception of the present democratic dispensation on 29 May, 1999, INEC has failed to review the number of State Constituencies in Oyo State as prescribed by the Constitution which is the Supreme Law of the Federation and its provisions are binding on all authorities and persons in Nigeria;

Observes that the failure or refusal of INEC to comply with the provisions of the Constitution deprives the people of Oyo State of equitable and fair representation in the State House of Assembly;

Also aware that the discharge of this constitutional duty by INEC is subject to the consequential approval of the National Assembly, hence, the process should be commenced and concluded before the statutory period prescribed for the conduct of the next general election in Nigeria, which may hold in the first quarter of 2021;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to commence the process of reviewing upward the number of State Constituencies in Oyo State by creating additional 8 State Constituencies to comply with the provisions of Sections 112 to 114 of the 1999 Constitution;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Electoral Matters to ensure compliance and report back within six (6) weeks (*Hon. Muraina Saubana Ajibola — Ibarapa Centra/Ibarapa North Federal Constituency and 13 others*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (i), immediately after the words "Constituencies in", *leave out* the words "Oyo State", and *insert* the word "Nigeria" (*Hon. Agunsoye Oluwarotimi Ojo — Kosofe Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Section 112 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) shall divide every State in the Federation into such number of State Constituencies as is equal to three or four times the number of Federal Constituencies within the State;

Also noted that Section 91 of the Constitution provides that the House of Assembly of a State shall consist of three or four times the number of seats the State has in the House of Representatives divided in a way to reflect, as far as possible, nearly equal population: provided that a House of Assembly of a State shall consist of not less than twenty-four and not more than forty members;

Further noted that Section 114 of the Constitution provides that INEC shall review the division of every State into constituencies at intervals of not less than ten years, and may alter such constituencies under the provisions of this section to such extent as it may consider desirable in the light of the review;

Aware that Oyo State currently has thirty-two (32) State Constituencies and fourteen (14) Federal Constituencies namely: Ona-Ara/Egbeda, Iseyin/Kajola, Iwajowa/Itesiwaju, Ibadan North-East/South-East, Lagelu/Akinyele, Ibarapa East/Ido, Ibadan North, Oluyole, Atisbo/Saki East/Saki West, Ibadan North-West/South-West, Ibarapa Central/Ibarapa North, Afijio/Atiba/Oyo East/Oyo West, Ogo-Oluwa/Surulere, Oluyole, Ogbomosho-North/South/Orire and Olorunsogo/Orelope/Irepo;

Believed that to comply with the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, the number of State Constituencies in Oyo State should be 40, being the maximum threshold prescribed by the Constitution;

Concerned that since the inception of the present democratic dispensation on 29 May, 1999, INEC has failed to review the number of State Constituencies in Oyo State as prescribed by the Constitution which is the Supreme Law of the Federation and its provisions are binding on all authorities and persons in Nigeria;

Observed that the failure or refusal of INEC to comply with the provisions of the Constitution deprives the people of Oyo State of equitable and fair representation in the State House of Assembly;

Also aware that the discharge of this constitutional duty by INEC is subject to the consequential approval of the National Assembly, hence, the process should be commenced and concluded before the statutory period prescribed for the conduct of the next general election in Nigeria, which may hold in the first quarter of 2021;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to commence the process of reviewing upward the number of State Constituencies in Nigeria and particularly, by creating additional 8 State Constituencies in Oyo State to comply with the provisions of Sections 112 to 114 of the 1999 Constitution;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Electoral Matters to ensure compliance and report back within six (6) weeks (HR. 06/02/2021).

18. Order of the Day

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do set down items 9 - 10 on the Order Paper to another legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (3)" (Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

19. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 23 February, 2021 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.54 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila
Speaker

