



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 28 April, 2021

1. The House met at 11.39 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 Tuesday, 27 April, 2021.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcement**
By leave of the House, Hon. Ibrahim Hamza (*Soba Federal Constituency*), informed the House that 28 April every year is marked as Annual World Day for Safety and Health at Work, and to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally. He therefore urged the House to join the world in commemorating the 2021 World Day for Safety and Health at Work.
 5. **Petitions**
 - (i) A petition from CSP Uwem Uyoh (*rtid*) and 9 others, on behalf of the Nigerian Police Retirees, on the inclusion of pre-2004 enlisted police officers into the contributory pension scheme, was presented and laid by Hon. Chinedu Ogah (*Ikwo/Ezza South Federal Constituency*);
 - (ii) A petition from Nasiru Bolarinwa and 1 other, on behalf of Joint Community Development Association, Ogun State, on the devastating environmental pollution caused by the activities of Monarch Steel and 7 other companies operating in Ogijo and environs in Sagamu, Ogun State, was presented and laid by Hon. Otunba Adewunmi Onanuya (*Ikenna/Sagamu/Remo North Federal Constituency*);
 - (iii) A petition from I. H. Ngada & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Lt Col. Okoi Stephen, on the disappearance of his sister, Mary Stephen Okoi whose last known location was the palace of HRH Igwe Ugbome II of Okpai Kingdom, Ndokwa East Local Government Area of Delta State, was presented and laid by Hon. Alex Egbona (*Abi/Yakurr Federal Constituency*);
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- (iv) The following Petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Dederi Haruna Isa (*Karaye/Rogo Federal Constituency*):
- (a) Revenue Civil Watch Group Nigeria, on alleged sharp practices and violation of Procurement Act by the Account, Human Resources, and Procurement Departments of Federal Polytechnic, Uwana, Afikpo, Ebonyi State from 2015 - 2021;
 - (b) Revenue Civil Watch Group Nigeria, on alleged unwholesome practices of various Health Management Organisations (HMOs) in the use of funds released to them by the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) from 2014 - 2020;
- (v) A petition by Agbateyimiro Weyimi, on behalf of Itsekiri National Youth Council (INYC), on alleged marginalization of Itsekiris in the Presidential Amnesty Programme, was presented and laid by Hon. Thomas Ereyitomi (*Warri South/Warri West/Warri North Federal Constituency*);
- (vi) The following Petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Ferdinand Dozie Nwankwo (*Njikoka/Dunukofia/Anaocha Federal Constituency*):
- (a) Ayuba Promise, on the non-payment of her late husband's death benefits, by the Nigeria Police Force;
 - (b) W. Chuks Obikwelu, on the alleged illegal custody of his four (4) children, and the remains of his late wife by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- (vii) A petition from N. N. Nwosu, on the termination of his appointment by First Bank of Nigeria Plc, was presented and laid by Hon. Samuel Ifeanyi Onuigbo (*Ikwuano/Umuahia North/South Federal Constituency*); and
- (viii) A petition from Sesan Adeleke and 4 others, on behalf of Ijoun Traditional Council of Chiefs, Ogun State, on the alleged illegal extension of territorial boundary beyond the pillar by Republic of Benin, was presented and laid by Hon. Jimoh Aremu Olaifa (*Egbado North/Imeko-Afon Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

Need to Investigate the 500 Million Naira Chibok School Rehabilitation Fund:

Hon. Satomi Ahmed (*Jere 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 500 Million Naira Chibok School Rehabilitation Fund:

The House:

Recalls the unfortunate incident in 2014 of the abduction of 230 school girls from Government Secondary School, Chibok by Boko Haram insurgents who also destroyed the school;

Also recalls that the abduction of the Chibok School Girls attracted national and international condemnation and led to the formation of the “Bring Back Our Girls (BBOG)” movement by coalitions of Civil Society and Human Rights Organisations;

Aware that the Federal Government under the Administration of President Goodluck Jonathan announced a 500 million Naira fund to rebuild the Government Secondary School in Chibok, Borno State;

Also aware that in March 2015, the then Minister of Finance, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, launched the 500 million Naira school rebuilding project under the “Safe School Initiative” programme at the Chibok school;

Informed that the school, when rebuilt and fully rehabilitated was expected to have a state of the art library, a laboratory, a computer and ICT Centre, a sports arena and a clinic;

Worried that seven years after the foundation laying ceremony of the “Safe School Initiative” and announcement of a 500 Million Naira Fund by the government for the rehabilitation of the Chibok School, nothing has been done in the school which has remained closed;

Recognizes the need for a detailed investigation of what happened to the 500 million Naira Rebuilding Fund and the Safe School Initiative;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the status of the 500 Million Naira Chibok School Rehabilitation Fund and the Safe School Initiative and report back within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Satomi Ahmed — Jere Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Recalled the unfortunate incident in 2014 of the abduction of 230 school girls from Government Secondary School, Chibok by Boko Haram insurgents who also destroyed the school;

Also recalled that the abduction of the Chibok School Girls attracted national and international condemnation and led to the formation of the “Bring Back Our Girls (BBOG)” movement by coalitions of Civil Society and Human Rights Organisations;

Aware that the Federal Government under the Administration of President Goodluck Jonathan announced a 500 million Naira fund to rebuild the Government Secondary School in Chibok, Borno State;

Also aware that in March 2015, the then Minister of Finance, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, launched the 500 million Naira school rebuilding project under the “Safe School Initiative” programme at the Chibok school;

Informed that the school, when rebuilt and fully rehabilitated was expected to have a state of the art library, a laboratory, a computer and ICT Centre, a sports arena and a clinic;

Worried that seven years after the foundation laying ceremony of the “Safe School Initiative” and announcement of a 500 Million Naira Fund by the government for the rehabilitation of the Chibok School, nothing has been done in the school which has remained closed;

Recognized the need for a detailed investigation of what happened to the 500 million Naira Rebuilding Fund and the Safe School Initiative;

Resolved to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the status of the 500 Million Naira Chibok School Rehabilitation Fund and the Safe School Initiative and report back within four (4) weeks (**HR. 83/04/2021**).

Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the 500 Million Naira Chibok School Rehabilitation Fund:

Mr Speaker named the *Ad-hoc* Committee Members as follows:

(1)	Hon. Jaha Ahmadu Usman	—	<i>Chairman</i>
(2)	Hon. Ganiyu Johnson	—	<i>Member</i>
(3)	Hon. Samuel Godday Odagboyi	—	<i>Member</i>
(5)	Hon. Ugonna Ozuriugbo	—	<i>Member</i>
(6)	Hon. Beni Lar	—	<i>Member</i>
(7)	Hon. Hassan Bello Shinkafi	—	<i>Member</i>
(8)	Hon. Obinna Chidoka	—	<i>Member</i>
(9)	Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga	—	<i>Member</i>
(10)	Hon. Salisu Isansi	—	<i>Member</i>
(11)	Hon. Muda Lawal	—	<i>Member</i>
(12)	Hon. Shehu Kakale	—	<i>Member</i>
(13)	Hon. Abubakar Abdullahi	—	<i>Member</i>
(14)	Hon. Oseke Preye Goodluck	—	<i>Member</i>
(15)	Hon. Ise Idehen	—	<i>Member</i>
(16)	Hon. Zayyad Ibrahim	—	<i>Member</i>
(17)	Hon. Mubarak Gambo	—	<i>Member</i>
(18)	Hon. Bulus Solomon Maren	—	<i>Member</i>
(19)	Hon. Micha Jiba Yohanna	—	<i>Member</i>

7. Presentation of Reports

(i) *Committee on Healthcare Services:*

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Healthcare Services on a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control Act, Cap. N1, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to provide for the Payment of all Monies received by the Agency into the Federation Account in accordance with Section 162 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and for Related Matters (HB. 168 and HB. 990)” (*Hon. Samuel Adejare Babatunde — Agege Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) *Committee on Healthcare Services:*

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Healthcare Services on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Compulsory Treatment and Care for Victims of Gunshots Act, to Expand and bring the Long Title in Conformity with the actual Intendment of the Bill, Provide Stiff Punitive Measure to Checkmate Violations; and for Related Matters (HB. 728)” (*Hon. Samuel Adejare Babatunde — Agege Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iii) *Committees on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora:*

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora on Retreat Organized by the House of Representatives on the Review of Nigeria’s Foreign Policy which was held from 19-21 April, 2021 at the Muhammadu Buhari Conference Centre, National Intelligence Agency Headquarters, Asokoro, Abuja” (Hon. Yusuf Buba Yakub — Gombi/Hong Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

8. Consolidation of Bills

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Chartered Institute of Cooperatives and Social Enterprise Management to Regulate, Control and Determine the Standards of Knowledge to be Attained by Persons Seeking to become Chartered Cooperators and Social Entrepreneurs; and for Related Matters (HB. 1166); and a Bill for an Act to Establish the Institute of Co-operative Professionals of Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 1265) be now consolidated” (Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

9. A Bill for an Act to Alter the Provision of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to create Additional Special Seats for Women in the Federal and States Legislative Houses; and for Related Matters (HB.1301) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Alter the Provision of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to create Additional Special Seats for Women in the Federal and States Legislative Houses; and for Related Matters (HB.1301) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency and 85 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 Review of the 1999 Constitution.

10. A Bill for an Act to Regulate the Profession of Forestry in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 801) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Regulate the Profession of Forestry in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 801) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Johnson Egwakhide Oghuma — Etsako East/Etsako West/Etsako Central 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 Environment.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Public Service Institute of Nigeria charged with the Responsibility for Organizing Training Programmes and Refresher Courses for Civil and Public Servants in the Employment of the Federal Government; and for Related Matters (HB. 867) — *Second Reading***

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Public Service Institute of Nigeria charged with the Responsibility for Organizing Training Programmes and Refresher Courses for Civil and Public Servants in the Employment of the Federal Government; and for Related Matters (HB. 867) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Dozie Ferdinand Nwankwo — Njikoka/Dunukofia/Anaocha 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 Public Service Matters.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Compulsory Teaching of Vocational Studies in the Syllabuses of Secondary Schools in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 882) — *Second Reading***

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Compulsory Teaching of Vocational Studies in the Syllabuses of Secondary Schools in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 882) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Joseph Asuku Bello — Adavi/Okehi 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 Basic Education and Services.

13. **A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to Provide for Appropriation of not less than 15 percent of the Federal and States Governments Budgets for the Health Sector for the Purpose of improving Healthcare Services to International Best Practices; and for Related Matters (HB. 1057) — *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 Provide for Appropriation of not less than 15 percent of the Federal and States Governments Budgets for the Health Sector for the Purpose of improving Healthcare Services to International Best Practices; and for Related Matters (HB. 1057) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Balarabe Kakale Shehu — Bodinga/Tureta/D/Shuni Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Debate adjourned.

14. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Medical Center, Rano; and for Related Matters (HB. 1083) — *Second Reading***

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Medical Center, Rano; and for Related Matters (HB. 1083) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Kabiru Alhassan Usman Rurum — Rano/Bunkure/Kibiya 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 Health Institutions.

15. Extension of time to Enable Two Ad-hoc Committees conclude their Assignments

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the under-listed Ad-hoc Committees were constituted on 24 February, 2021 and 21 December, 2020 respectively;

- (i) Ad-hoc Committee on the investigation of the ₦19.2 Billion Railway Rehabilitation Contract Awarded to Eser Contracting Industry Company Incorporated; and
- (ii) Ad-hoc Committee on the investigation of Capital Projects Executed, Funded and Repeated in Appropriation Acts from 2015 till date by Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of Government across the Nation;

Also notes the ruling from the Speaker that all Ad-hoc Committees should present their Reports on Friday, 30 April, 2021;

Aware that the two Ad-hoc Committees are yet to commence investigations as they have just written to various stakeholders for information/documents and responses are being received with some infractions;

Also aware that the subject matters for investigations are essential to strengthen the economy, hence the application to extend the periods for the Committees to conclude their Assignment;

Resolves to:

Grant the two Ad-hoc Committees an extension of two weeks to conclude their assignments (Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

16. Need for the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to Suspend the Deadline for Recapitalization of Micro-Finance Banks

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that in October 2018, the Central Bank of Nigeria(CBN) reviewed the minimum share capital requirement of the three categories of Micro-Finance Banks as follows:

- (a) Unit Micro-Finance Banks (MFBs), from ₦20 million to ₦200 million,
- (b) State Micro-Finance Banks (MFBs), from ₦100 Million to ₦1 Billion, and
- (c) National MFB from ₦2 billion to ₦5 billion;

Also notes that on 18 March, 2019, the CBN further reviewed the minimum capital requirements for the MFBs, allowing for installmental payment and categorization of Unit Micro-Finance into tiers 1 and 2, thus following the new capital requirement guideline, tier 1 MFBs (Urban) are to pay ₦200 million as a minimum capital requirement while tier 2 (Rural) are to pay ₦50 million as against the initial ₦20 million requirement in 2018;

Aware that in 2020, the CBN considered the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the economy and therefore revised the timeline for compliance with the minimum capital requirement for the MFBs by one year, which will be due by the end of April 2021;

Also aware of a survey conducted by the National Association of Micro-Finance Banks (NAMB), which indicated that out of 874 licensed MFBs, about 612 may be negatively affected by the recapitalisation policy as, according to findings, only 30 per cent of MFBs will be able to meet the April 2021 timeline while 70 per cent are likely to be out of business with severe consequences for the financial services industry;

Concerned that the MFBs may not be able to meet up with the recapitalisation requirement of the CBN within the proposed time due to the adverse effects of COVID-19 pandemic and other economic realities;

Recalls that in addition to the negative economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Nigeria's economy recently exited recession, the implication of which will be a significant slowdown in economic activities as the liquidity position of the government and businesses have been impacted negatively;

Cognizant that in times like this, economic thinkers advocate for injection of more liquidity into the economy to stimulate economic activities, encourage spending and prevent job losses as well as support indigenous businesses;

Worried that if the 612 MFBs which are equivalent to 70 per cent of the entire Nigerian MFBs, with the workforce of about 44,800 staff, are shut down, it will aggravate unemployment, compound the challenges of insecurity, youth restiveness, poverty, apathy and hopelessness across the country;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to suspend the planned recapitalization programme until the economy stabilizes and considered safe for a new deadline to be fixed;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to interface with the CBN to find a workable solution to the challenges associated with recapitalization of the MFBs in Nigeria and report back within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Saidu Musa Abdullahi — Bida/Gbako/Katcha Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that in October 2018, the Central Bank of Nigeria(CBN) reviewed the minimum share capital requirement of the three categories of Micro-Finance Banks as follows:

- (a) Unit Micro-Finance Banks (MFBs), from ₦20 million to ₦200 million,
- (b) State Micro-Finance Banks (MFBs),from ₦100 Million to ₦1 Billion, and
- (c) National MFB from ₦2 billion to ₦5 billion;

Also noted that on 18 March, 2019, the CBN further reviewed the minimum capital requirements for the MFBs, allowing for installmental payment and categorization of Unit Micro-Finance into tiers 1 and 2, thus following the new capital requirement guideline, tier 1 MFBs (Urban) are to pay ₦200 million as a minimum capital requirement while tier 2 (Rural) are to pay ₦50 million as against the initial ₦20 million requirement in 2018;

Aware that in 2020, the CBN considered the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the economy and therefore revised the timeline for compliance with the minimum capital requirement for the MFBs by one year, which will be due by the end of April 2021;

Also aware of a survey conducted by the National Association of Micro-Finance Banks (NAMB), which indicated that out of 874 licensed MFBs, about 612 may be negatively affected by the recapitalisation policy as, according to findings, only 30 per cent of MFBs will be able to meet the

April 2021 timeline while 70 per cent are likely to be out of business with severe consequences for the financial services industry;

Concerned that the MFBs may not be able to meet up with the recapitalisation requirement of the CBN within the proposed time due to the adverse effects of COVID-19 pandemic and other economic realities;

Recalled that in addition to the negative economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Nigeria's economy recently exited recession, the implication of which will be a significant slowdown in economic activities as the liquidity position of the government and businesses have been impacted negatively;

Cognizant that in times like this, economic thinkers advocate for injection of more liquidity into the economy to stimulate economic activities, encourage spending and prevent job losses as well as support indigenous businesses;

Worried that if the 612 MFBs which are equivalent to 70 per cent of the entire Nigerian MFBs, with the workforce of about 44,800 staff, are shut down, it will aggravate unemployment, compound the challenges of insecurity, youth restiveness, poverty, apathy and hopelessness across the country;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to suspend the planned recapitalization programme until the economy stabilizes and considered safe for a new deadline to be fixed;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to interface with the CBN to find a workable solution to the challenges associated with recapitalization of the MFBs in Nigeria and report back within four (4) weeks (**HR. 84/04/2021**).

17. Need to Investigate the Activities of the Great Green Wall Project

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

18. Need to Investigate the Implementation of the National Social Investment Programmes

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

19. Need to Rehabilitate the Collapsed Bridge Linking Kauran Wali North and South with Doka, Taba and Kudan Communities in Makarfi and Kudan Local Government Area of Kaduna State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Bridge linking Kauran Wali North and South, and Doka, Taba, Kudan and other communities has been causing pains for about three years now to motorists, farmers, road users and produces merchants hauling their produce to other States, due to its dilapidated state;

Worried that the damaged bridge is on the verge of cutting off Kauran Wali North and South from other communities in Makarfi and Kudan Local Government Area which may likely happen when the rainy season commences if it is not rehabilitated urgently;

Also worried that the deplorable state of the bridge has affected agricultural value chain supply in the area, thereby threatening the food security of the residents of Kaduna State and Nigeria in general;

Aware that well-meaning indigenes have undertaken palliative measures to cushion the effects of the dilapidated bridge on commuters, but the pressure on the road requires more technical and professional work to address the situation;

Also aware that the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency and the Federal Highway Department in the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing are responsible for, among other things, carrying out periodic inspection and repair of failed bridges and roads;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to commence urgent rehabilitation work on the collapsed bridge;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Works to ensure compliance (*Hon. Mukhtar Shehu Ladan — Makarfi/Kudan Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 85/04/2021).

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

20. Need to Ascertain the Level of Food Security in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Agricultural sector has witnessed policy changes since Vision 20:2020 (NV: 20:2020) was launched in 2009 and in August 2016, the Agriculture Promotion Policy known as Green Alternative was again launched and has reshaped the direction of agricultural development in Nigeria;

Also notes that as the nation experiences different phases of strategic plans, there has been no systematic framework of reviewing the performance of the sector vis-a-vis food security and global competitiveness as required under the Economic Communities of West African States Agriculture Policy (ECOWAP) which Nigeria is a signatory and a major player;

Aware that the Agricultural Sector is the fulcrum for food and nutrition security, rapid industrialization, employment generation, sustained economic growth, and poverty reduction which has become imperative as the prospect for reliance on crude oil reduces globally;

Also aware that Nigeria, with a population of close to 200 million and a further projection of over 350 million in 2050, the need for food security is imperative, given that the World Food Summit in 1996 agreed that food security exists when all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life;

Concerned that despite hundreds of billions of naira appropriated to Agriculture over the years, the outputs in relations to production and food security is not commensurate with the amount spent and therefore the need to verify the current state of small, medium and large scale farming is necessary for the food stability and security of Nigeria's soaring population;

Recalls that in the 1960s, Agriculture accounted for 65-70% of total exports but fell to about 40% in the 1970s, and crashed to less than 2% in the late 1990s;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Agricultural Production and Services, and Finance to interface with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, the Nigeria Farmers Association and other relevant stakeholders to ascertain the level of food security in Nigeria and report back within eight (8) weeks (*Hon. Dennis Idahosa — Ovia North East/Ovia South West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Agricultural sector has witnessed policy changes since Vision 20:2020 (NV: 20:2020) was launched in 2009 and in August 2016, the Agriculture Promotion Policy known as Green Alternative was again launched and has reshaped the direction of agricultural development in Nigeria;

Also noted that as the nation experiences different phases of strategic plans, there has been no systematic framework of reviewing the performance of the sector vis-a-vis food security and global competitiveness as required under the Economic Communities of West African States Agriculture Policy (ECOWAP) which Nigeria is a signatory and a major player;

Aware that the Agricultural Sector is the fulcrum for food and nutrition security, rapid industrialization, employment generation, sustained economic growth, and poverty reduction which has become imperative as the prospect for reliance on crude oil reduces globally;

Also aware that Nigeria, with a population of close to 200 million and a further projection of over 350 million in 2050, the need for food security is imperative, given that the World Food Summit in 1996 agreed that food security exists when all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life;

Concerned that despite hundreds of billions of naira appropriated to Agriculture over the years, the outputs in relations to production and food security is not commensurate with the amount spent and therefore the need to verify the current state of small, medium and large scale farming is necessary for the food stability and security of Nigeria's soaring population;

Recalled that in the 1960s, Agriculture accounted for 65-70% of total exports but fell to about 40% in the 1970s, and crashed to less than 2% in the late 1990s;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Agricultural Production and Services, and Finance to interface with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, the Nigeria Farmers Association and other relevant stakeholders to ascertain the level of food security in Nigeria and report back within eight (8) weeks (**HR. 86/04/2021**).

21. Rehabilitation of Roads within the Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Aware that the Federal Capital Territory is made up of six Area Councils comprising Abaji, Abuja Municipal, Bwari, Gwagwalada, Kuje, Kwali, and while the FCT Administration administers the whole of the Federal Capital Territory, the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) manages the construction and infrastructural development of the territory;

Worried that most roads in the Area Councils are deplorable conditions with potholes, ditches, and some on the verge of collapse; a situation that is causing restricted transportation and hardship to motorists and other road users.

Also worried that if not urgently rehabilitated, the roads will worsen and could result to loss of lives and destruction of properties;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Chairmen of the six Area Councils to urgently rehabilitate the roads within the Area Councils;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Federal Capital Territory Area Councils and Ancillary Matters to ensure compliance (*Hon. Kolawole Taiwo Musibau Ajeromi Ifelodun Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 87/04/2021).

Motion referred to the Committee on Federal Capital Territory Area Councils and Ancillary Matters, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

22. Need to Examine the Revocation and Circumstances Surrounding the Reversal order on the Operating Licences of OML 123, 124, 126 and 137

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

23. Consideration of Reports

- (i) ***A Bill for an act to make Agricultural Science a Core and Compulsory Subject in Secondary Schools in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB.244) (Committee of the Whole):***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to make Agricultural Science a Core and Compulsory Subject in Secondary Schools in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB.244)" (Hon. Yusuf Buba Yakub — Gombi/Hong 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 TO MAKE AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE
A CORE AND COMPULSORY SUBJECT IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS
IN NIGERIA; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 244)

Clause 1: Establishment.

The Educational Research Institute shall provide for mandatory inclusion of Agricultural Science as a core and compulsory subject for all secondary schools in Nigeria (*Hon. Yusuf Yakub Buba — Gombi/Hong Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 2: Regulation/Implementation.

(1) The institute shall in liaison with the States Ministries of Education ensure the inclusion of Agricultural Science in the Junior Secondary Schools Curriculum.

(2) Agricultural Science shall be made a compulsory subject in Junior Secondary School in the States (*Hon. Yusuf Yakub Buba — Gombi/Hong Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 3: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Mandatory Inclusion of Agricultural Science in Secondary Schools Curriculum in Nigeria Bill, 2021 (*Hon. Yusuf Yakub Buba — Gombi/Hong Federal Constituency*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to provide for the inclusion of Agricultural Science as a core and compulsory subject in the curriculum of all secondary schools in Nigeria (*Hon. Yusuf Yakub Buba — Gombi/Hong Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Make Agricultural Science a Core and Compulsory Subject in Secondary Schools in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 244) (*Hon. Yusuf Yakub Buba — Gombi/Hong Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(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 make Agricultural Science a Core and Compulsory Subject in Secondary Schools in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB.244) and approved Clauses 1 - 3, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

- (ii) **Committees on Finance, North-East Development Commission, and Public Procurement:** Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report of the Committees on Finance, North-East Development Commission, and Public Procurement on the Investigation of the Alleged Misappropriation of the One Hundred Billion Naira (₦100,000,000,000.00) only, in the North-East Development Commission and approve the recommendations therein” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja 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)

Recommendation (i):

“That the allegation was unfounded and a misrepresentation of facts as no corrupt practices existed in the North East Development Commission” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Question that Recommendation (i) stands part of the Report — Agreed to.

Recommendation (ii):

“Commend the North East Development Commission for their due diligence in the execution of the projects” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Question that Recommendation (ii) stands part of the Report — Agreed to.

Recommendation (iii):

“Urge the Federal Ministry of Finance to release the outstanding sum of ₦52,704,089,014.25 (Fifty-Two Billion, Seven Hundred and Four Million, Eighty-Nine Thousand, Fourteen Naira, Twenty-Five Kobo) only, due to the Commission for effective execution of its projects” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words in Recommendation (iii) and *insert* as follows:

“Urge the Federal Ministry of Finance to release the outstanding sum due to the Commission for effective execution of the projects” (*Hon. Babaginda Ibrahim — Malumfashi/Kakur Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question that Recommendation (iii) as amended, stands part of the Report — Agreed to.

Recommendation (iv):

“That the Commission should expedite action in the utilization of the sum of ₦75,544,957,257.54 (Seventy-Five Billion, Five Hundred and Forty-Four Million, Nine Hundred and Fifty-Seven Thousand, Two Hundred and Fifty-Seven Naira, Fifty-Four Kobo) only, already released to the Commission during the 2020 fiscal year” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Question that Recommendation (iv) stands part of the Report — Agreed to.

Chairman to report proceedings.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committees on Finance, North-East Development Commission, and Public Procurement on the Investigation of the Alleged Misappropriation of the One Hundred Billion Naira (₦100,000,000,000.00) only, in the North-East Development Commission and approved Recommendations (i) - (ii), approved Recommendation (iii) as amended, and approved Recommendation (iv) of the Report.

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

24. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 29 April, 2021 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Akpatason Peter — Deputy House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.27 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila
Speaker

CORRIGENDUM

In the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 27 April, 2021, page 1814, item 5, Resolution (iv), *leave out* all the words *and*, and *insert* as follows:

“(iv) *urgently invite the National Security Adviser, Service Chiefs, and Paramilitary Chiefs, Comptroller General of the Nigerian Customs Service, the Managing Director, Nigerian Communication Satellite (NIGCOMSAT) and the Director-General, National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) to brief the House on the Security situation in the country*”.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila
Speaker