



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA  
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

Thursday, 22 April, 2021

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1. The House met at 11.35 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, 21 April, 2021.

*The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.*

4. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**  
***Need to Investigate Jailbreaks Across the Country With a View to Forestalling Reoccurrence:***  
Hon. Ifeanyi Chudy Momah (*Ihiala 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 Jailbreaks Across the Country with a View to Forestalling Reoccurrence:**

The House:

*Notes with concern the spate of attacks on Correctional facilities across the country in recent times which is a source of threat to the internal security of the country;*

*Also notes that in the last couple of years, over 20 cases of jailbreaks, instigated by both internal and external forces, have been recorded across the nation, especially the Correctional Centres in*

Borno, Enugu, Oko, Koton-Karfe, Oyo, Kano, Edo, Ondo and Owerri amongst others which have been attacked and a huge number of inmates released;

*Aware* that recent jailbreaks, particularly the Owerri case where 1,844 inmates were released and operational tools completely destroyed, have heightened insecurity in the country;

*Concerned* that the forewarning of the jailbreak was, allegedly, not acted upon by concerned security agencies to prevent the attack despite proximity to the Correctional Centre;

*Also concerned* that this pattern of jailbreak and the audacity and sophistication with which it was carried out portends great danger for the country;

*Further concerned* that the armed squad of the Nigerian Correctional Service in its present form and character is not adequately equipped to deal with these challenges, hence the need for the Service to strengthen its security architecture;

*Cognizant* that occurrence of jailbreaks is mostly consequential effects of poor prison management and government neglect, a situation that best describes the Nigerian Correctional Facilities and an indication of failing prison system;

*Also cognizant* that the Nigerian Correctional Service Act, 2019 which repealed the Nigerian Prison Service Act, 2004 provides for the rehabilitation and reformation of inmates and eventual reintegration into the society as well as for measures to eliminate overcrowded correctional facilities, which in itself instigates violence and jailbreaks;

*Observes* that by the provisions of the Act, the Controller General of the Nigerian Correctional Service is not a member of the Nigeria Security Council and therefore does not benefit from effective intelligence sharing and collaboration among security agencies;

*Equally concerned* about the general insecurity in the country and the increasing concern for safety of lives and properties which has been aggravated by recent jailbreaks across the country;

*Worried* that if the continuous violation of Correctional facilities is not checked, it could lead to further deterioration of current insecurity in the country;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Controller General of the Nigerian Correctional Service to immediately reinforce the armed squad of the Service as part of measures to prevent reoccurrence of jailbreaks across the country;
- (ii) call for effective collaboration between the Federal and States Governments to tackle threats to those facilities by beefing up security around them;
- (iii) also urge the Nigerian Correctional Service and other Security agencies to intensify efforts to recapture escapees in view of the danger it portends;
- (iv) amend the relevant law to enable membership of the Controller General of the Service in the National Security Council; and
- (v) mandate the Committee on Reformatory Institutions to investigate those jailbreaks and general violation of Correctional Facilities across the country and report back within sixty (60) days (*Hon. Ifeanyi Chudy Momah — Ihiala Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

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

“Also mandate the Committee on Reformatory Institutions to carry out security status in other Correctional Centres across the country” (*Hon. Bagos Dachung Musa — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.*

*Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* with concern the spate of attacks on Correctional facilities across the country in recent times which is a source of threat to the internal security of the country;

*Also noted* that in the last couple of years, over 20 cases of jailbreaks, instigated by both internal and external forces, have been recorded across the nation, especially the Correctional Centres in Borno, Enugu, Oko, Koton-Karfe, Oyo, Kano, Edo, Ondo and Owerri amongst others which have been attacked and a huge number of inmates released;

*Aware* that recent jailbreaks, particularly the Owerri case where 1,844 inmates were released and operational tools completely destroyed, have heightened insecurity in the country;

*Concerned* that the forewarning of the jailbreak was, allegedly, not acted upon by concerned security agencies to prevent the attack despite proximity to the Correctional Centre;

*Also concerned* that this pattern of jailbreak and the audacity and sophistication with which it was carried out portends great danger for the country;

*Further concerned* that the armed squad of the Nigerian Correctional Service in its present form and character is not adequately equipped to deal with these challenges, hence the need for the Service to strengthen its security architecture;

*Cognizant* that occurrence of jailbreaks is mostly consequential effects of poor prison management and government neglect, a situation that best describes the Nigerian Correctional Facilities and an indication of failing prison system;

*Also cognizant* that the Nigerian Correctional Service Act, 2019 which repealed the Nigerian Prison Service Act, 2004 provides for the rehabilitation and reformation of inmates and eventual reintegration into the society as well as for measures to eliminate overcrowded correctional facilities, which in itself instigates violence and jailbreaks;

*Observed* that by the provisions of the Act, the Controller General of the Nigerian Correctional Service is not a member of the Nigeria Security Council and therefore does not benefit from effective intelligence sharing and collaboration among security agencies;

*Equally concerned* about the general insecurity in the country and the increasing concern for safety of lives and properties which has been aggravated by recent jailbreaks across the country;

*Worried* that if the continuous violation of Correctional facilities is not checked, it could lead to further deterioration of current insecurity in the country;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Controller General of the Nigerian Correctional Service to immediately reinforce the armed squad of the Service as part of measures to prevent reoccurrence of jailbreaks across the country;

- (ii) call for effective collaboration between the Federal and States Governments to tackle threats to those facilities by beefing up security around them;
- (iii) also urge the Nigerian Correctional Service and other Security agencies to intensify efforts to recapture escapees in view of the danger it portends;
- (iv) amend the relevant law to enable membership of the Controller General of the Service in the National Security Council;
- (v) mandate the Committee on Reformatory Institutions to investigate those jailbreaks and general violation of Correctional Facilities across the country and report back within sixty (60) days; and
- (vi) also mandate the Committee on Reformatory Institutions to carry out security status in other Correctional Centres across the country (**HR. 78/04/2021**).

**5. Privilege (Order Six, Rules 1 & 2)**

Hon. Ahmad Usman Jaha (*Chibok/Dambo/Gwoza Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the publication in the online media of Thursday, 22 April, 2021, alleging that the House refused to debate a motion presented by the Minority Leader, Hon. Ndudi Godwin Elumelu on Wednesday, 21 April, 2021, calling for the resignation of the Minister of Communication and Digital Economy due to his alleged past unpatriotic activities. He noted the publication as false and misrepresentation of the facts as there was no motion for debate before the House and that the publication was a breach of his privilege and that of the House.

*Mr Speaker urged the media to always provide accurate report of the House proceedings and not mislead members of the public.*

**6. Presentation of Bills**

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) National Security Trust Fund (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1298).
- (2) Federal College of Education, Lissam (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1299).
- (3) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1300).
- (4) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1301).
- (5) National Centre for Stroke Management Bill, 2021 (HB. 1302).
- (6) Bank Employees, etc. (Declaration of Assets) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1303).
- (7) Patents and Designs Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1304).
- (8) National Youth Service Corps Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1305).
- (9) Nigerian Defence Academy Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1306).
- (10) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1307).
- (11) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1308).
- (12) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1311).
- (13) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1312).

- (14) Nigeria Police Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1313).

(15) National Emergency Management Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1314).

(16) Federal Capital Territory Rent Tribunal (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1315).

(17) Nigeria Pesticide Council (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1316).

**7. A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Broadcasting Commission Act, Cap. N11, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Strengthen the Commission and make it more Effective to Regulate Broadcasting in Nigeria, to Provide for payment of all monies received by the Commission into the Federation Account in accordance with Section 162 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 and Encourage Liberal Openness and Favourable Competition in the Industry; and for Related Matters (HB.332) — *Second Reading***

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Broadcasting Commission Act, Cap. N11, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Strengthen the Commission and make it more Effective to Regulate Broadcasting in Nigeria, to Provide for payment of all monies received by the Commission into the Federation Account in accordance with Section 162 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 and Encourage Liberal Openness and Favourable Competition in the Industry; and for Related Matters (HB.332) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Odeunmi Olusegun — Oga-Oluwa/Surulere Federal Constituency and 2 other*).

*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, National Orientation, Ethics and Values.*

**8. A Bill for an Act to Alter the Provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to Specify the Time Frame for the Conduct of National Population Census; and for Related Matters (HB.740) — *Second Reading***

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Alter the Provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to Specify the Time Frame for the Conduct of National Population Census; and for Related Matters (HB.740) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Babajimi Benson — Ikorodu Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

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

*Bill read the Second Time.*

*Bill referred to the Special Ad-hoc Committee on the Review of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999.*

**9. A Bill for an Act to Provide the Legal Framework to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Mgbakwu; and for Related Matters (HB. 811) — *Second Reading***

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide the Legal Framework to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Mgbakwu; and for Related Matters (HB. 811) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Chinedu Sam Onwuaso — Awka North/Awka South 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.*

10. **A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (First Alteration) Act, 2010 and the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Second Alteration) Act, 2010 to make all Appeals to the Supreme Court to be by Leave in order to Reduce Workload on the Court, Expedite Hearing and Determination of Appeals, and Encourage Efficiency and Quality; and for Related Matters (HB.1144) — *Second Reading***  
*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (First Alteration) Act, 2010 and the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Second Alteration) Act, 2010 to make all Appeals to the Supreme Court to be by Leave in order to Reduce Workload on the Court, Expedite Hearing and Determination of Appeals, and Encourage Efficiency and Quality; and for Related Matters (HB.1144) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Luke Onofiok Akpan — Etinan/Nsit Ibom/Nsit Ubuim Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Question that the Bill be now read a Second Time — **Negatived.***

11. **A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 with a view to Normalizing the Status of Abuja in Relation to the Federal Capital Territory; and for Related Matters (HB. 1067) — *Second Reading***  
*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 with a view to Normalizing the Status of Abuja in Relation to the Federal Capital Territory; and for Related Matters (HB. 1067) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Awaji -Inombek Dagomie Abiante — Andoni-Opobo/Nkoro Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Question that the Bill be now read a Second Time — **Negatived.***

12. **A Bill for an Act to provide for the Establishment of Federal College of Forestry Management and Tourism, Idanre; and for Related Matters (HB. 687) — *Second Reading***  
*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to provide for the Establishment of Federal College of Forestry Management and Tourism, Idanre; and for Related Matters (HB. 687) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Tajudeen Adeyemi Adefisoye — Idanre/Ifedore 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 Colleges and Institutions.***

13. **Completion of the Abandoned Federal Low-Cost Housing Estate at Ezianya Isiala Mbano Local Government Area and Rehabilitation of the Existing Infrastructure at Federal Low-Cost Housing Estate at Ubaha, Okigwe Local Government Area and Umuelemai, Isiala Mbano Local Government Area of Imo State:**  
*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that Nigeria has a housing deficit of about 17 million houses as at August 2012 and requires 700,000 houses annually to offset the deficit, compared to less than 100,000 being constructed;

*Also notes* that public housing programmes have been criticized for failing to generate tangible and sustainable housing projects with acceptable distribution and acquisition mechanisms to meet the increasing housing demands, particularly by low-income earners;

*Recalls* that through the National Development Plan, a National Housing Program was launched to deliver housing units across the country under which the Federal Housing Estate, Ezianya and Umuelemai, Isiala Mbano Local Government Area and Federal Low-cost Housing Estate, Ubaha,

Okigwe Local Government Area were conceived but while those of Okigwe Local Government Area and Umuelemai, Isiala Mbano Local Government Area were completed and occupied, the Ezianya, Isiala Mbano Housing Estate had been abandoned with over 1000 housing units;

*Concerned* that if urgent action is not taken to complete the Housing Estate that has become a hideout for criminals, thus increasing the rate of crime in the area, the intention of Government to provide affordable housing units for the people will not be realized;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to complete the abandoned Housing Estate in Ezianya, Isiala Mbano Local Government Area and also rehabilitate the dilapidated access roads at the Federal Low-cost Housing Estate in Ubaha, Okigwe Local Government Area and Umuelemai, Isiala Mbano Local Government Area;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Housing, and Works to ensure the provision of funds for completion of the Housing Estate and rehabilitation of dilapidated access roads in the 2022 budget estimates;
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Miriam Odimaka Onuoha — Onuimo/Okigwe/Isiala Mbano Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**(HR. 79/04/2021).**

*Motion referred to the Committees on Housing, Works, and Legislative Compliance, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).*

**14. Call to Address the Spate of Communal Clashes and Killings in Bali Local Government Area of Taraba State**

*Order read; deferred by leave of the House.*

**15. Need to Check the Activities of Oil Companies Flaring Gas in Nigeria**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that Nigeria gazetted the Flare Gas (Prevention of Waste and Pollution) Regulations, 2018 to reduce and eventually eliminate gas flare in Nigeria through monetization and investment in the gas flare ecosystem;

*Also notes* that paragraph 12 of the Policy increased penalties from \$0.30 to \$2.00IMSCF (one thousand standard cubic feet) on flared/vented gas volumes, while paragraph 21 stipulated a penalty of USD2.50 IMSCF (per thousand standard cubic feet) against a producer who fails to provide Flare Gas Data or supply accurate and complete Flare Gas Data;

*Concerned* that after the penalty regime stated the gas flare volumes reported by Nigeria was drastically reduced for 2018 and 2019 and created a huge discrepancy between the gas flare volumes reported by the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) Gas Flare Tracker (GFT) which is Satellite-based and the volumes declared by the Federal Government of Nigeria for the period;

*Aware* that the report from the Gas Flare Tracker via Satellite is used and accepted by the Petroleum Industry globally, both in developed and developing countries for gas flare volumes records, thus, it is only in Nigeria that discrepancies exist between the flared volume reported by the satellite and that of the government;

*Also aware* that the anomaly in flared volume reportage by the Nigerian Government has caused an outcry from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the Nigerian Media and the Coalition Against Gas Flare (CAGAF), an umbrella organ of CSOs in the gas flare ecosystem that is raising public awareness on the matter;

*Further aware* that FOSTER (DFID Sponsored -Facility for Oil Sector Transformation) informed the Committee on Gas Resources that the discrepancy, as currently determined, is 190bcf and IS0bcf in 2018 and 2019 respectively which potentially represent an aggregate revenue loss of \$680Million in unpaid penalties to the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2018 and 2019;

*Alarmed* that the loss to Nigeria may be higher when the penalties accruable from venting are determined and added to the money accruable from flared gas discrepancies and other losses in terms of power generation which is now estimated at 98 GWH for 2018 and 2019 respectively;

*Observes* that the discrepancies in the gas flare volumes between the figures declared by the Nigerian Government and the NOSDRA Gas Flare Tracker has huge economic, environmental, social, ethical and criminal implications and should be nipped in the bud;

*Also concerned* that the discrepancy will cost the government huge revenue loss from penalties (estimated at \$680 million & 98GWh for 2018 and 2019), and present a planning challenge in terms of inaccuracies in figures that may be presented for gas flare investments and will create difficulties when ascertaining the environmental consequences of gas flaring and attendant adverse health implication on man, animals and flora in the petroleum producing communities;

*Also alarmed* by the adverse consequences of the gas flare discrepancies and worried that there are grounds to suspect under-reporting by the government of Nigeria and the Oil Companies to evade the gas flare penalty imposed by the Flare Gas Regulations, 2018;

*Cognizant* of the need to take action to verify the discrepancy in the volume of gas flared in Nigeria;

*Resolves to:*

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the gas flare volume reported by the Nigerian Government and the NOSDRA Gas Flare Tracker and ascertain the amount of gas flared and the extent of the discrepancies and ascertain the amount of revenue due to the government from gas flare penalties (*Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Halims — Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

In the Prayer, *leave out* the words “Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee”, and *insert* the words “mandate the Committees on Gas Resources, and Environment” (*Hon. Miriam Odinaka Onuoha — Onuimo/Okigwe/Isiala Bmano Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.*



*Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that Nigeria gazetted the Flare Gas (Prevention of Waste and Pollution) Regulations, 2018 to reduce and eventually eliminate gas flare in Nigeria through monetization and investment in the gas flare ecosystem;

*Also noted* that paragraph 12 of the Policy increased penalties from \$0.30 to \$2.00IMSCF (one thousand standard cubic feet) on flared/vented gas volumes, while paragraph 21 stipulated a penalty of USD2.50 IMSCF (per thousand standard cubic feet) against a producer who fails to provide Flare Gas Data or supply accurate and complete Flare Gas Data;

*Concerned* that after the penalty regime stated the gas flare volumes reported by Nigeria was drastically reduced for 2018 and 2019 and created a huge discrepancy between the gas flare volumes reported by the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) Gas Flare Tracker (GFT) which is Satellite-based and the volumes declared by the Federal Government of Nigeria for the period;

*Aware* that the report from the Gas Flare Tracker via Satellite is used and accepted by the Petroleum Industry globally, both in developed and developing countries for gas flare volumes records, thus, it is only in Nigeria that discrepancies exist between the flared volume reported by the satellite and that of the government;

*Also aware* that the anomaly in flared volume reportage by the Nigerian Government has caused an outcry from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the Nigerian Media and the Coalition Against Gas Flare (CAGAF), an umbrella organ of CSOs in the gas flare ecosystem that is raising public awareness on the matter;

*Further aware* that FOSTER (DFID Sponsored -Facility for Oil Sector Transformation) informed the Committee on Gas Resources that the discrepancy, as currently determined, is 190bcf and 150bcf in 2018 and 2019 respectively which potentially represent an aggregate revenue loss of \$680Million in unpaid penalties to the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2018 and 2019;

*Alarmed* that the loss to Nigeria may be higher when the penalties accruable from venting are determined and added to the money accruable from flared gas discrepancies and other losses in terms of power generation which is now estimated at 98 GWH for 2018 and 2019 respectively;

*Observed* that the discrepancies in the gas flare volumes between the figures declared by the Nigerian Government and the NOSDRA Gas Flare Tracker has huge economic, environmental, social, ethical and criminal implications and should be nipped in the bud;

*Also concerned* that the discrepancy will cost the government huge revenue loss from penalties (estimated at \$680 million & 98GWh for 2018 and 2019), and present a planning challenge in terms of inaccuracies in figures that may be presented for gas flare investments and will create difficulties when ascertaining the environmental consequences of gas flaring and attendant adverse health implication on man, animals and flora in the petroleum producing communities;

*Also alarmed* by the adverse consequences of the gas flare discrepancies and worried that there are grounds to suspect under-reporting by the government of Nigeria and the Oil Companies to evade the gas flare penalty imposed by the Flare Gas Regulations, 2018;

*Cognizant* of the need to take action to verify the discrepancy in the volume of gas flared in Nigeria;

*Resolved to:*

Mandate the Committees on Gas Resources, and Environment to investigate the gas flare volume reported by the Nigerian Government and the NOSDRA Gas Flare Tracker and ascertain the amount of gas flared and the extent of the discrepancies and ascertain the amount of revenue due to the government from gas flare penalties (**HR. 80/04/2021**).

**16. Need to Beef-Up Security in Owan East and Owan West Local Government Areas to Mitigate against the Increase in Kidnapping Activities**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that Owan East and West Local Government Areas of Edo State, are currently besieged by kidnapers, who now pose a threat to the peaceful existence and security of lives and property in the area;

*Also notes* that as Local Government Areas with porous borders, bandits, kidnapers and other criminals fleeing from the actions of Amotekun Vigilante Group in Ondo State, have now fled to Owan to continue their nefarious activities;

*Further notes* that abductions and kidnappings have become more indiscriminate across the two local government areas as criminal gangs view victims as sources of income and therefore sad to note that the villagers have been largely ignored by the government;

*Aware* that if this spate of kidnappings and abductions are not nipped in the bud, it has the potential of crippling socio-economic activities in the Local Government Areas;

*Also aware* of recent report by Bell Magazine of 14 April, 2021, that Dr Blessing Aidenoje, a medical microbiologist at Ambrose Ali University, Edo State was abducted along Ozalla-Sabo Road in Owan West Local Government Area, while in another development, a council worker and his child were abducted along Sabo-Uzebba Road and whisked off to unknown location;

*Further aware* that the Otuo-Ihievbe-Ogbe road as well as Uokha-Afuzo road in Owan East Local Government Area have become the operational grounds of the kidnapers, thereby making the villagers to live in constant fear for their lives;

*Cognizant* that Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of the government, alas there have been numerous loss of lives across the country largely due to lapses in security;

*Convinced* that proactive rather than reactive measures would go a long way in mitigating insecurity in various parts of the country;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to come up with a holistic implementable strategy, including immediate recruitment of officers, deployment of personnel, support for vigilante groups and local hunters as well as dialogue with critical stakeholders, to immediately address the incessant kidnappings and abductions in Owan East and West Local Government Areas;
- (ii) also urge the Inspector General of Police and the Director General of the Department of State Service to, as a matter of urgency, step up actions aimed at curtailing the incidents of kidnapping and banditry in Owan Federal Constituency as well as all over the country;

- (iii) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, and National Security and Intelligence to ensure

compliance (*Hon. Julius O. Ihombere — Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

***Agreed to.***

The House:

*Noted* that Owan East and West Local Government Areas of Edo State, are currently besieged by kidnappers, who now pose a threat to the peaceful existence and security of lives and property in the area;

*Also noted* that as Local Government Areas with porous borders, bandits, kidnappers and other criminals fleeing from the actions of Amotekun Vigilante Group in Ondo State, have now fled to Owan to continue their nefarious activities;

*Further noted* that abductions and kidnappings have become more indiscriminate across the two local government areas as criminal gangs view victims as sources of income and therefore sad to note that the villagers have been largely ignored by the government;

*Aware* that if this spate of kidnappings and abductions are not nipped in the bud, it has the potential of crippling socio-economic activities in the Local Government Areas;

*Also aware* of recent report by Bell Magazine of 14 April, 2021, that Dr Blessing Aidenoje, a medical microbiologist at Ambrose Ali University, Edo State was abducted along Ozalla-Sabo Road in Owan West Local Government Area, while in another development, a council worker and his child were abducted along Sabo-Uzebba Road and whisked off to unknown location;

*Further aware* that the Otuo-Ihievbe-Ogbe road as well as Uokha-Afuze road in Owan East Local Government Area have become the operational grounds of the kidnappers, thereby making the villagers to live in constant fear for their lives;

*Cognizant* that Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of the government, alas there have been numerous loss of lives across the country largely due to lapses in security;

*Convinced* that proactive rather than reactive measures would go a long way in mitigating insecurity in various parts of the country;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to come up with a holistic implementable strategy, including immediate recruitment of officers, deployment of personnel, support for vigilante groups and local hunters as well as dialogue with critical stakeholders, to immediately address the incessant kidnappings and abductions in Owan East and West Local Government Areas;
- (ii) also urge the Inspector General of Police and the Director General of the Department of State Service to, as a matter of urgency, step up actions aimed at curtailing the incidents of kidnapping and banditry in Owan Federal Constituency as well as all over the country;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, and National Security and Intelligence to ensure compliance (**HR. 81/04/2021**).

**17. Need to Investigate the Illicit Trade in Human Organs**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that about two weeks ago, acting on the information provided by an anonymous source, Chinese Authorities seized a cargo ship that sailed from Nigeria with 7,200 refrigerated penis which were found in 36 boxes labelled as plantain in the ship that harboured at the Shanghai port called Red Market;

*Also notes* that the Chinese General Administration of Customs had alerted that an increasingly large number of armed groups in Africa use trade in human organs, which are harvested in unsanitary conditions, to finance their nefarious activities;

*Recalls* that the media was awash, a few years ago, with horrifying stories of the harvest of organs of Nigerians and other Africans stranded in Libya for sale in Europe, the Middle East, America and China;

*Aware* that the increasing cases of missing persons, ritual killings and trafficking of persons out of the country may be linked to the Red Market which can be attributed to the trafficking of young men and women who end up being victims of human organ harvesting;

*Also aware* that the increased banditry, kidnappings and spiralling violence in several parts of the country today make those parts of the country vulnerable and provide safe havens and ready supply channels for those illicit activities;

*Concerned* that harvest of organs can only be done by medical surgeons with the aid of rogue public officials and the perpetrators of the illicit trade, by the year 2009, were generating between 600 million to 1.2 billion dollars profit annually and have been encouraged by poor security situations to use the third world as the major suppliers;

*Further aware* that as early as 1987, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared that the illegal trade violates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as taking unfair advantage of the poorest and most vulnerable groups in the world;

*Cognizant* that the International Community has made efforts to curb the menace of the Red Market or trade in human organs such as the Istanbul Declaration urging professionals to put an end to the unethical actions where organs of unfortunate victims of economic migration and human trafficking in Europe and the Middle East are ripped off, thereby constituting a gross abuse of the rights to life of those Nigerians;

*Convinced* that if nothing is done to curb these criminal acts, more people would set up shops dealing in human organs, taking advantage of the current insecurity in the country;

*Resolves to:*

Mandate the Committees on Human Rights, and National Security and Intelligence to investigate the whole gamut of this value chain known as Red Market or illicit market in human organs and report back within ten (10) weeks (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that about two weeks ago, acting on the information provided by an anonymous source, Chinese Authorities seized a cargo ship that sailed from Nigeria with 7,200 refrigerated penis which were found in 36 boxes labelled as plantain in the ship that harboured at the Shanghai port called Red Market;

*Also noted* that the Chinese General Administration of Customs had alerted that an increasingly large number of armed groups in Africa use trade in human organs, which are harvested in unsanitary conditions, to finance their nefarious activities;

*Recalled* that the media was awash, a few years ago, with horrifying stories of the harvest of organs of Nigerians and other Africans stranded in Libya for sale in Europe, the Middle East, America and China;

*Aware* that the increasing cases of missing persons, ritual killings and trafficking of persons out of the country may be linked to the Red Market which can be attributed to the trafficking of young men and women who end up being victims of human organ harvesting;

*Also aware* that the increased banditry, kidnappings and spiralling violence in several parts of the country today make those parts of the country vulnerable and provide safe havens and ready supply channels for those illicit activities;

*Concerned* that harvest of organs can only be done by medical surgeons with the aid of rogue public officials and the perpetrators of the illicit trade, by the year 2009, were generating between 600 million to 1.2 billion dollars profit annually and have been encouraged by poor security situations to use the third world as the major suppliers;

*Further aware* that as early as 1987, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared that the illegal trade violates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as taking unfair advantage of the poorest and most vulnerable groups in the world;

*Cognizant* that the International Community has made efforts to curb the menace of the Red Market or trade in human organs such as the Istanbul Declaration urging professionals to put an end to the unethical actions where organs of unfortunate victims of economic migration and human trafficking in Europe and the Middle East are ripped off, thereby constituting a gross abuse of the rights to life of those Nigerians;

*Convinced* that if nothing is done to curb these criminal acts, more people would set up shops dealing in human organs, taking advantage of the current insecurity in the country;

*Resolved to:*

Mandate the Committees on Human Rights, and National Security and Intelligence to investigate the whole gamut of this value chain known as Red Market or illicit market in human organs and report back within ten (10) weeks (**HR. 82/04/2021**).

#### **18. Need to Restore Nyamatsor State Constituency of Benue State**

*Motion withdrawn by leave of the House.*

**19. Adjournment**

*That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 27 April, 2021 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader).*

*The House adjourned accordingly at 1.32 p.m.*

**Femi Hakeem Gbajabamila**  
*Speaker*