



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

House of Reps Tuesday, 4 May, 2021

1. The House met at 11.31 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 *Second Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 29 April, 2021.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcement**

Bereavement:

- (i) Mr Speaker announced the demise of a former Member, Hon. Samuel Gbadegesin Laosibikan (*Ayetorol/woIolaoluwa Federal Constituency, 1979 - 1983*).
- (ii) Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Uchechuku Nnam-obi (*Ahoada West/Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of his father, Dr Chukwumela Nnam Obi II, the Oba (*Eze-Ogba*) of Ogba, Rivers State.

5. **Petitions**

- (i) A petition from Falana & Falana's Chamber (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Abiodun Emmanuel Ilesanmi, on his unlawful detention by officers of the Department of State Services, Shangisha, Lagos State, was presented and laid by Hon. Oluwarotimi Agunsoye Ojo (*Kosofe Federal Constituency*); and
- (ii) A petition from Andy Egbe and 8 other members of the Senior Staff Association of Universities, Teaching Hospitals, Research Institutes and Associated Institutions (SSAUTHRIAI), on their alleged suspension from duty by Ededet Eyoma, Director of Administration, University of Calabar Teaching Hospital (UCTH), Calabar, was presented and laid by Hon. Eta Mbora (*Calabar Municipal/Odukpani Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

6. Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**(i) Call for Investigation and Prosecution of the Perpetrator(s) of the Kidnapping, Sexual and Physical Assaults and Heinous Killing of Miss Iniubong Ephraim Umoren and the Need to Protect Her Family Members:**

Hon. Unyime Idem (*Ukanafun/Oruk Anam 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.

Call for Investigation and Prosecution of the Perpetrator(s) of the Kidnapping, Sexual and Physical Assaults and Heinous Killing of Miss Iniubong Ephraim Umoren and the Need to Protect Her Family Members:

The House:

Informed that on Friday, 30 April, 2021, the Anti-kidnapping Squad of Akwa Ibom State Command of the Nigeria Police Force received a report on the disappearance of Miss Iniubong Ephraim Umoren, a graduate of University of Uyo who left her house on the fateful day in search of employment;

Notes available information that she received a phone call from the alleged assailant who pretentiously invited her for an interview for a non-existent advertised job;

Also notes that the dead body of Miss Umoren was, following wide reportage of her disappearance exhumed by officers of the Nigeria Police Force from a shallow grave where she was buried by her assailant;

Cognizant of report that the assailant upon his arrest by the police and subsequent voluntary confession to the killing, boasted that he is well connected and will be released from Police custody in a matter of days;

Also informed that family members of the deceased have reportedly raised an alarm about receiving strange phone calls and threats of various degrees asking them to withdraw the case;

Aware that the Nigeria Police Force has been reporting a surge in the cases of rape and gender violence violation across the country with many unreported, all of which are gross violation of human rights to dignity, life and sexuality;

Also cognizant of public outrage against rape and other violent crimes against women and the girl child which should not go unpunished to serve as deterrent to perpetrators and others nursing the thought to forestall future occurrence;

Resolves to:

- (i) condemn, in strong terms, the acts of sexual assault and gruesome murder of Miss Iniubong Ephraim Umoren which were barbaric and inhuman;

- (ii) call on the Inspector General of Police to immediately commission to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of the heinous crime and also ensure the protection of her family members from harassment, intimidation and harm;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Women Affairs and Social Development to follow up with the investigation and prosecution and report back to the House; and
- (iv) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased and other victims of this nefarious act (*Hon. Unyime Idem — Ukanafun/Oruk Anam Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Informed that on Friday, 30 April, 2021, the Anti-kidnapping Squad of Akwa Ibom State Command of the Nigeria Police Force received a report on the disappearance of Miss Iniubong Ephraim Umoren, a graduate of University of Uyo who left her house on the fateful day in search of employment;

Noted available information that she received a phone call from the alleged assailant who pretentiously invited her for an interview for a non-existent advertised job;

Also noted that the dead body of Miss Umoren was, following wide reportage of her disappearance exhumed by officers of the Nigeria Police Force from a shallow grave where she was buried by her assailant;

Cognizant of report that the assailant upon his arrest by the police and subsequent voluntary confession to the killing, boasted that he is well connected and will be released from Police custody in a matter of days;

Also informed that family members of the deceased have reportedly raised an alarm about receiving strange phone calls and threats of various degrees asking them to withdraw the case;

Aware that the Nigeria Police Force has been reporting a surge in the cases of rape and gender violence violation across the country with many unreported, all of which are gross violation of human rights to dignity, life and sexuality;

Also cognizant of public outrage against rape and other violent crimes against women and the girl child which should not go unpunished to serve as deterrent to perpetrators and others nursing the thought to forestall future occurrence;

Resolved to:

- (i) condemn, in strong terms, the acts of sexual assault and gruesome murder of Miss Iniubong Ephraim Umoren which were barbaric and inhuman;
- (ii) call on the Inspector General of Police to immediately commission to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of the heinous crime and also ensure the protection of her family members from harassment, intimidation and harm;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Women Affairs and Social Development to follow up with the investigation and prosecution and report back to the House; and

- (iv) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased and other victims of this nefarious act (**HR. 95/05/2021**).

A minute silence observed observed in honour of the deceased.

(ii) Need for Construction and Widening of Nkwerre-Nwangele Local Government Area's Failed Sections of Ihiala-Orlu-Umuduru-Oku Road:

Hon. Ugonna Ozurigbo (*Nkwerre/Isu/Nwangele/Njaba Federal Constituency*) Hon. Unyime Idem (*Ukanafun/Oruk Anam 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 for Construction and Widening of Nkwerre-Nwangele Local Government Area's Failed Sections of Ihiala-Orlu-Umuduru-Oku Road:

The House:

Aware of the negative impacts of bad roads and its attendant economic loses, incessant accidents, loss of lives, delayed movements, banditry and armed robbery;

Also aware that sections of Ihiala - Orlu - Umuduru - Oku road are dilapidated and have lots of potholes particularly the Nkwerre - Nwangele L.G.A's section of the road;

Worried that precisely on Saturday, 1 May, 2021, a horrifying and agonizing accident occurred at the Nkwerre - Nwangele section of the road, particularly at Nkwormiri market, Umuozu, which resulted in loss of many lives;

Notes that, the Federal Executive Council (FEC) has in the first week of December 2020 approved the immediate construction of the Ihiala - Orlu - Umuduru - Oku road. That despite this earlier approval by the Federal Executive Council, the Nkwerre - Nwangele section of the road is yet to receive attention of the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing which delay is grossly responsible for continued accidents and avoidable loss of lives on the road;

Convinced that, the urgent construction and widening of Nkwerre - Nwangele L.G.A's section of Ihiala - Orlu - Umuduru - Oku federal road will reduce the incessant road accidents, loss of lives and properties on the road will be a relief to the communities along the road, reduce the trauma of routine sights of the wounded and dead and also avert the hardships and social ills associated with bad roads;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to immediately commence construction and widening of the Nkwerre - Nwangele section of Ihiala - Orlu - Umuduru- Oku road;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning to release fund for the construction and widening of the Nkwerre - Nwangele section of Ihiala - Orlu - Umuduru - Oku road; and

- (iii) mandate the Committees on Works, and Finance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Ugonna Ozurigbo — Nkwerre/Isu/Nwangele/Njaba Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

The House:

Aware of the negative impacts of bad roads and its attendant economic losses, incessant accidents, loss of lives, delayed movements, banditry and armed robbery;

Also aware that sections of Ihiala - Orlu - Umuduru - Oku road are dilapidated and have lots of potholes particularly the Nkwerre - Nwangele L.G.A's section of the road;

Worried that precisely on Saturday, 1 May, 2021, a horrifying and agonizing accident occurred at the Nkwerre - Nwangele section of the road, particularly at Nkwormiri market, Umuozu, which resulted in loss of many lives;

Noted that, the Federal Executive Council (FEC) has in the first week of December 2020 approved the immediate construction of the Ihiala - Orlu - Umuduru - Oku road. That despite this earlier approval by the Federal Executive Council, the Nkwerre - Nwangele section of the road is yet to receive attention of the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing which delay is grossly responsible for continued accidents and avoidable loss of lives on the road;

Convinced that, the urgent construction and widening of Nkwerre - Nwangele L.G.A's section of Ihiala - Orlu - Umuduru - Oku federal road will reduce the incessant road accidents, loss of lives and properties on the road will be a relief to the communities along the road, reduce the trauma of routine sights of the wounded and dead and also avert the hardships and social ills associated with bad roads;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to immediately commence construction and widening of the Nkwerre - Nwangele section of Ihiala - Orlu - Umuduru - Oku road;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning to release fund for the construction and widening of the Nkwerre - Nwangele section of Ihiala - Orlu - Umuduru - Oku road; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Works, and Finance to ensure compliance (**HR. 96/05/2021**).

7. Personal Explanation (Order Eight, Rule 5)

(i) By leave of the House, Hon. Shehu Saleh (*Magama/Rijau Federal Constituency*), informed the House of the recent bandits attack in Inana, Warari, Gulbin Boka, Abure, Sahona and Attabo villages in Rijau Local Government Area, Niger State, living over 300 people dead and many others injured. He explained that the bandits carried out the attacks on Wednesday, 5 April, 2021, and remained unchallenged from the security agencies but curiously were being transported with helicopters which provided the bandits cover after operations. He noted that no support has been given to the displaced persons in the villages and therefore prayed the House to:

- (a) urge the Chief of Defence Staff, the Chief of Arm Staff, and the Chief of Air Staff to deploy men of the Nigerian Armed Forces to the affected areas so as to restore peace and order;

- (b) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other relevant agencies to provide relief materials to the victims of the affected areas; and
 - (c) mandate the Committee on Defence to ensure compliance.
- (ii) By leave of the House, Hon. Abejide Joseph (*Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro Federal Constituency*), informed the House of the gruesome killing of Hon. Adebayo Solomon, Commissioner of Kogi State Pensions Board and the abduction of Hon. Pius Kolawole, Chairman of Yagba West Local Government Area, on Saturday, 1 May, 2021 by armed bandits that opened fire on their vehicle at Eruku village, a border town between Kwara and Kogi States. He noted that Hon. Pius Kolawole is still in the kidnapper's den with threats to his life if their ransom demand is not met. He expressed concern over the constant and unchecked movement of people into the surrounding bushes in Yagba West Local Government Area of Kogi State and therefore prayed the House to:
- (a) urge the Inspector-General of Police to deploy all necessary means at his disposal to urgently secure the safe release of Hon. Pius Kolawole, Chairman of Yagba west Local Government Area from the den of kidnappers;
 - (b) urge the Federal Government to ensure the presence of the Nigerian Security apparatus at the daily flashpoints along Ilorin - Egbe road and to ensure documentation and identification of strange settlers in the buses around Yagba West Local Government Area.

8. Presentation of Report

Committee on Health Institutions:

Report of the Committee on Health Institutions on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Orthopaedic Hospitals Management Board Act, Cap. O10, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to provide for Establishment of Orthopaedic Hospitals, Benin, Edo State and Jalingo, Taraba State; and for Related Matters, 2020 (HB. 1284) (*Referred: 25/3/2021*).

Order read, deferred by leave of the House.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Provide a Legal Framework for Establishment of National Social Investment Programmes for the Assistance and Empowerment of the Poor and Vulnerable in Nigeria; and to Establish the National Social Investment Programmes Coordination Office within the Federal Ministry Responsible for Social Development to Manage the Implementation of the Programmes and National Social Investments Trust Fund to Alleviate Poverty among Vulnerable Nigerian Citizens through Targeted Programmes for the Aged, Infirm, Unemployed and Students; and for Related Matters (HB. 1153 and HB. 907) — *Second Reading***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide a Legal Framework for Establishment of National Social Investment Programmes for the Assistance and Empowerment of the Poor and Vulnerable in Nigeria; and to Establish the National Social Investment Programmes Coordination Office within the Federal Ministry Responsible for Social Development to Manage the Implementation of the Programmes and National Social Investments Trust Fund to Alleviate Poverty among Vulnerable Nigerian Citizens through Targeted Programmes for the Aged, Infirm, Unemployed and Students; and for Related Matters (HBs. 1153 and 907) be read a Second Time (*Hon. Mansur Manu Soro — Darazo/Ganjuwa and Eleven Others*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Special Committee on Legislative Agenda.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Capital Territory Signage and Advertisement Agency as the Regulatory Body for Outdoor Structures used for Signage and Advertisement to Protect the Environment from Potential adverse impact that may arise from Signage and Outdoor Advertisement and Visual Blights; and for Related Matters (HB. 1232) — *Second Reading***
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Capital Territory Signage and Advertisement Agency as the Regulatory Body for Outdoor Structures used for Signage and Advertisement to Protect the Environment from Potential adverse impact that may arise from Signage and Outdoor Advertisement and Visual Blights; and for Related Matters (HB. 1232) be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai 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 Federal Capital Territory.***

11. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Court of Appeal Act, Cap. C36, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Increase the Number of Justices of the Court and Provide for Appointment of a Minimum of Six Justices in every Judicial Division of the Court for Speedy and Efficient Justice Delivery and to Improve Citizens' Access to Justice; and for Related Matters (HB. 809) — *Second Reading***
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Court of Appeal Act, Cap. C36, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Increase the Number of Justices of the Court and Provide for Appointment of a Minimum of Six Justices in every Judicial Division of the Court for Speedy and Efficient Justice Delivery and to Improve Citizens' Access to Justice; and for Related Matters (HB. 809) be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Onofioke Luke — Etinan/Nsit Ibom/Nsit Ubiom 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 Judiciary.***

12. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Orerokpe, Delta State; and for Related Matters (HB. 1105) — *Second Reading***
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to the Establish Federal Medical Centre, Orerokpe, Delta State; and for Related Matters (HB. 1105) be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Oberuakpefe Anthony Afe =Okpe/Sapele/Uvwie 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.***

13. **Protest by Parents of the Twenty-Nine Abducted Students in Kaduna State**
By leave of the House, Hon. Babajimi Benson (*Ikorodu Federal Constituency*), informed the House that a delegation of the House addressed the protesting parents of the Twenty-Nine Abducted Students. He noted that the parents looked depressed and pleaded with the House to intervene in the

to a logical conclusion.

*Mr Speaker referred the matter to the **Special Security Committee** and urged the Committee to liaise with all relevant authorities including the Kaduna State Government to resolve the matter.*

14. Extension of Time to enable the *Ad-hoc* Committee on Investigation of the Failure of the Federal Government's 3.4 Billion Naira Powered Grid Projects in the Six Geopolitical Zones and the Federal Capital Territory to Conclude its Assignment

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the Failure of the Federal Government's 3.4 Billion Naira Powered Grid Projects in the Six Geopolitical Zones and the Federal Capital territory was constituted on Tuesday, 17 March, 2020 and late Hon. Ossy Prestige was appointed as its Chairman;

Also notes that the Committee couldn't commence any action because of the protracted sickness of the late Chairman, Hon. Ossy Prestige;

Further notes that following the death of the former Chairman, Hon. Edun Olanrewaju was appointed as the new Chairman, and therefore the Committee will require more time to commence operations, hence the application.

Resolves to:

Grant the Committee additional four weeks to conclude its assignment (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

15. Devastating Fire Outbreak at the Araromi Auto Spare Parts Market, Agodi Gate, Ibadan, Oyo State

Motion made and Question Proposed:

The House:

Notes that Araromi Auto Spare Parts Market, Agodi - Gate, Ibadan, Oyo State, the largest auto spare parts market in Oyo State, was engulfed by an inferno that consumed about 1,222 locked-up shops at Midnight on Friday, 2 April, 2021;

Also notes that the unfortunate incident was allegedly triggered by high voltage when electricity supply was restored to the market after several years of blackout;

Concerned that the inferno, the first in 50 years in the market, left a trail of destruction as thousands of auto spare parts, tyres, cables, trailer engines and other auto accessories worth millions of Naira were burnt to ashes, and about 20,000 traders displaced;

Also concerned that the inferno has left thousands of people and their dependents, who directly or indirectly earn their means of livelihood jobless and in a state of despair thus impacting adversely on the economic wellbeing of Oyo State;

Worried that despite the quick response and attempts by the men of Oyo State Fire Service to douse the inferno, their efforts were hampered by the obstruction of the access roads to the epi-centre of the inferno by goods evacuated from the affected shops by some volunteers;

Also worried that the inferno is one incident too many of such fire incidents in major cities in different States in Nigeria in the past 3 months, considering that there were similar incidents in the central markets of the cities of Katsina, Kaduna, Zamfara, etc.;

Disturbed that a market of that size and economic value, had no modern devices for detection, dousing or fighting of fire outbreak to stem it from spreading out of hand, as in the instant case;

Conscious that it is the primary responsibility of Government at all levels to formulate policies and adopt measures to protect lives and property of its citizens anywhere, including markets and other public places;

Resolves to:

- (i) sympathize with traders affected by the inferno at Araromi spare parts market, Agodi - Gate, Ibadan, and the Government of Oyo State;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Interior to liaise with Oyo State Government to investigate the cause of the inferno at the Araromi Spare Parts Market, Ibadan, Oyo State, to ascertain the losses of the affected traders, rehabilitate them and prevent reoccurrence;
- (iii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency to immediately provide palliatives to the affected traders and persons to enable them to renovate their shops and restart their businesses; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Interior, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Ajibola Muraina — Ibarapa Central/Ibarapa North Federal Constituency and 12 Others*)

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Araromi Auto Spare Parts Market, Agodi - Gate, Ibadan, Oyo State, the largest auto spare parts market in Oyo State, was engulfed by an inferno that consumed about 1,222 locked-up shops at Midnight on Friday, 2 April, 2021;

Also noted that the unfortunate incident was allegedly triggered by high voltage when electricity supply was restored to the market after several years of blackout;

Concerned that the inferno, the first in 50 years in the market, left a trail of destruction as thousands of auto spare parts, tyres, cables, trailer engines and other auto accessories worth millions of Naira were burnt to ashes, and about 20,000 traders displaced;

Also concerned that the inferno has left thousands of people and their dependents, who directly or indirectly earn their means of livelihood jobless and in a state of despair thus impacting adversely on the economic wellbeing of Oyo State;

Worried that despite the quick response and attempts by the men of Oyo State Fire Service to douse the inferno, their efforts were hampered by the obstruction of the access roads to the epi-centre of the inferno by goods evacuated from the affected shops by some volunteers;

Also worried that the inferno is one incident too many of such fire incidents in major cities in different States in Nigeria in the past 3 months, considering that there were similar incidents in the central markets of the cities of Katsina, Kaduna, Zamfara, etc.;

Disturbed that a market of that size and economic value, had no modern devices for detection, dousing or fighting of fire outbreak to stem it from spreading out of hand, as in the instant case;

Conscious that it is the primary responsibility of Government at all levels to formulate policies and adopt measures to protect lives and property of its citizens anywhere, including markets and other public places;

Resolved to:

- (i) sympathize with traders affected by the inferno at Araromi spare parts market, Agodi - Gate, Ibadan, and the Government of Oyo State;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Interior to liaise with Oyo State Government to investigate the cause of the inferno at the Araromi Spare Parts Market, Ibadan, Oyo State, to ascertain the losses of the affected traders, rehabilitate them and prevent reoccurrence;
- (iii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency to immediately provide palliatives to the affected traders and persons to enable them to renovate their shops and restart their businesses; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Interior, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 97/05/2021**).

16. Privilege

Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai drew the attention of the House to an incident in his office on Tuesday, 4 May, 2021, in which his Desktop Computer was missing. He viewed that as a breach of his privilege and urged the House to investigate the matter.

Mr Speaker noted the security lapses in the premises of the National Assembly and assured that it would be addressed.

17. Need to Investigate the Abuse of Expatriate Quota by Telecommunications Equipment Vendors and Service Providers in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Immigration Act, 2015 and the Immigration Service Regulations, 2017 are the principal laws governing the employment of expatriates in Nigeria, while the principal regulatory bodies are the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) and the Federal Ministry of Interior;

Also notes that the law empowers the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) to, from time to time, issue entry permits and expatriate quota to foreigners who intend to work in Nigeria for specifically approved jobs and for a specific period with a view to training Nigerians and transferring their requisite skills during their period of employment;

Further notes that the expatriate quota guides against the indiscriminate employment of expatriates where there are qualified Nigerians who can fit into those positions;

Aware that expatriate quota may be granted for an initial period of 3 years, and can be renewed further for a period of 2 years subject to a total life span of 10 years within which such relevant skills ought to have been transferred to Nigerians understudying such expatriates;

Also aware of a clause in the expatriate policy which provides for two Nigerians to understudy an expatriate, to promote the transfer of knowledge and technology, however, some of those foreign companies have taken advantage of this clause in active connivance with the Nigeria Immigration Service and other agencies to bring as many of their nationals as possible, sometimes illegally, in gross disregard for the law;

Worried that the abuse of expatriate quotas by those foreign companies is not deemed a national security issue by the Federal Government, particularly so at a time of record of youth unemployment and the age of terrorism;

Concerned that the practice of expatriate quota abuse was initially restricted to the Oil and Gas sector but has now been extended to the telecommunications sector in which there is a surfeit of local skills, many of the expatriates still retain their employments after their permits had expired and not been renewed as required by law;

Also concerned that the expatriates enjoy unimaginable pay and privileges while their Nigerian counterparts are paid less and treated with disdain in their own country and many competent Nigerians lose their jobs and the country loses multi-million dollars annually;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Telecommunications, and Interior to investigate the alleged expatriate quota abuse in the Telecommunications Sector and report back within six (6) weeks (*Hon. Bello Shinkafi — Shinkafi/Zumi Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Immigration Act, 2015 and the Immigration Service Regulations, 2017 are the principal laws governing the employment of expatriates in Nigeria, while the principal regulatory bodies are the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) and the Federal Ministry of Interior;

Also noted that the law empowers the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) to, from time to time, issue entry permits and expatriate quota to foreigners who intend to work in Nigeria for specifically approved jobs and for a specific period with a view to training Nigerians and transferring their requisite skills during their period of employment;

Further noted that the expatriate quota guides against the indiscriminate employment of expatriates where there are qualified Nigerians who can fit into those positions;

Aware that expatriate quota may be granted for an initial period of 3 years, and can be renewed further for a period of 2 years subject to a total life span of 10 years within which such relevant skills ought to have been transferred to Nigerians understudying such expatriates;

Also aware of a clause in the expatriate policy which provides for two Nigerians to understudy an expatriate, to promote the transfer of knowledge and technology, however, some of those foreign companies have taken advantage of this clause in active connivance with the Nigeria Immigration Service and other agencies to bring as many of their nationals as possible, sometimes illegally, in gross disregard for the law;

Worried that the abuse of expatriate quotas by those foreign companies is not deemed a national security issue by the Federal Government, particularly so at a time of record of youth unemployment and the age of terrorism;

Concerned that the practice of expatriate quota abuse was initially restricted to the Oil and Gas sector but has now been extended to the telecommunications sector in which there is a surfeit of local skills, many of the expatriates still retain their employments after their permits had expired and not been renewed as required by law;

Also concerned that the expatriates enjoy unimaginable pay and privileges while their Nigerian counterparts are paid less and treated with disdain in their own country and many competent Nigerians lose their jobs and the country loses multi-million dollars annually;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Telecommunications, and Interior to investigate the alleged expatriate quota abuse in the Telecommunications Sector and report back within six (6) weeks (**HR. 98/05/2021**).

18. Need to Review, Regulate and Monitor Collateral and Interest Rates on Loans by Commercial Banks

Order read, and deferred.

19. Need to Address the Humanitarian Crisis in Ikot Ekpene/Obot Akara/Essien Udim Local Government Areas of Akwa Ibom State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that on 22 February, 2021, hoodlums attacked and killed two policemen at a popular Ikpe Junction in Essien Udim Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom state and went away with their AK-47 Rifles;

Also notes that on 25 February, 2021, another set of hoodlums attacked and killed two Customs Officers at Ikot Afang along Ikot Ekpene-Aba Road in Essien Udim, burnt down their vehicles and went away with their rifles;

Aware that the Joint Task Force Team comprising the Army, Police and other security agencies sent from Uyo to arrest the situation was equally attacked and decimated by the same hoodlums leading to the killing of Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP), Benedict Okoh Ajide and 12 other members of the Task Force Team, burnt down a police station with fleets of cars parked at the premises as well as the residence of the village head;

Informed that the actions necessitated the deployment of the military by the Federal Government to the affected communities to enforce law and order and forestall further attacks from the hoodlums;

Concerned that the resultant effects of the hoodlums' attacks and the military response are the displacement of the people of the areas from their ancestral homes and communities and the creation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Camp;

Also concerned that the people at the IDP Camp who abandoned their means of livelihood such as farming, trading and other works are currently faced with food shortage, poor medical supplies and lack of potable water supply;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the Internally Displaced Persons;

- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to provide adequate security to the affected communities to ensure their eventual relocation back to their ancestral homes;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Disaster and Emergency Preparedness to ensure compliance (*Hon. Nsikak Ekong — Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on 22 February, 2021, hoodlums attacked and killed two policemen at a popular Ikpe Junction in Essien Udim Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom state and went away with their AK-47 Rifles;

Also noted that on 25 February, 2021, another set of hoodlums attacked and killed two Customs Officers at Ikot Afang along Ikot Ekpene-Aba Road in Essien Udim, burnt down their vehicles and went away with their rifles;

Aware that the Joint Task Force Team comprising the Army, Police and other security agencies sent from Uyo to arrest the situation was equally attacked and decimated by the same hoodlums leading to the killing of Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP), Benedict Okoh Ajide and 12 other members of the Task Force Team, burnt down a police station with fleets of cars parked at the premises as well as the residence of the village head;

Informed that the actions necessitated the deployment of the military by the Federal Government to the affected communities to enforce law and order and forestall further attacks from the hoodlums;

Concerned that the resultant effects of the hoodlums' attacks and the military response are the displacement of the people of the areas from their ancestral homes and communities and the creation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Camp;

Also concerned that the people at the IDP Camp who abandoned their means of livelihood such as farming, trading and other works are currently faced with food shortage, poor medical supplies and lack of potable water supply;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the Internally Displaced Persons;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to provide adequate security to the affected communities to ensure their eventual relocation back to their ancestral homes;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Disaster and Emergency Preparedness to ensure compliance (**HR. 99/05/2021**).

20. Need to Address the Menace of Capital Flight in Nigeria:

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that capital flight has been one of the unresolved and persistent macroeconomic problems plaguing the nation for over four decades;

Also notes that ironically, Nigeria is ranked among the highest producers of crude oil in the world and earns a huge amount of foreign exchange from its exports but still falls short of capital to develop, maintain and upgrade her infrastructure due to the magnitude of capital flight from Nigeria when compared to accumulated domestic investments;

Further notes that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development estimated that about 88.6 billion dollars per year leave the continent through money laundry, tax evasion, diverted revenues, offshore investments and other forms of capital flights, with Nigeria accounting for an estimated 46% of the total capital flight or \$40.7 billion per year;

Aware of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Bulletin in 2015 which shows that the net flow of capital flight from Nigeria from 1986 to 2015 was quite worrisome, with Nigeria losing a colossal sum of over \$8.8 trillion;

Worried at the alarming rate of foreign medical services being sought by Nigerians, both private individuals and government officials, which amounts to more than 6.5 billion dollars based on the statistics released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2015, while expenses on foreign education amount to more than \$3 billion based on estimates released by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) in its 2014 annual report;

Cognizant of the recent series of pleas by successive governments to foreign banks and other international financial institutions to release and repatriate stolen and diverted funds in millions of dollars stockpiled abroad by corrupt leaders;

Concerned that capital flight exerts detrimental effects on both short and long term growth of the economy by reducing domestically available investible capital as it represents a foregone investment in manufacturing plants, infrastructure, social welfare, reduction of a country's tax base and a contribution to the high debt profile, among others;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to develop effective mechanism and strategy to prevent the persistent occurrence and address the menace of capital flight in Nigeria;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to partner with private institutions to go into public-private partnership contractual agreements to build world-class medical facilities in major cities in Nigeria or upgrade and equip the existing ones with adequate facilities based on build, operate and transfer by private investors in a way that will allow the investors to manage same for an agreed period;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Afolabi Rasheed Olalekan — Odo-Etin/Ifelodun/Boripe Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that capital flight has been one of the unresolved and persistent macroeconomic problems plaguing the nation for over four decades;

Also noted that ironically, Nigeria is ranked among the highest producers of crude oil in the world and earns a huge amount of foreign exchange from its exports but still falls short of capital to develop, maintain and upgrade her infrastructure due to the magnitude of capital flight from Nigeria when compared to accumulated domestic investments;

Further noted that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development estimated that about 88.6 billion dollars per year leave the continent through money laundry, tax evasion, diverted revenues, offshore investments and other forms of capital flights, with Nigeria accounting for an estimated 46% of the total capital flight or \$40.7 billion per year;

Aware of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Bulletin in 2015 which shows that the net flow of capital flight from Nigeria from 1986 to 2015 was quite worrisome, with Nigeria losing a colossal sum of over \$8.8 trillion;

Worried at the alarming rate of foreign medical services being sought by Nigerians, both private individuals and government officials, which amounts to more than 6.5 billion dollars based on the statistics released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2015, while expenses on foreign education amount to more than \$3 billion based on estimates released by the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) in its 2014 annual report;

Cognizant of the recent series of pleas by successive governments to foreign banks and other international financial institutions to release and repatriate stolen and diverted funds in millions of dollars stockpiled abroad by corrupt leaders;

Concerned that capital flight exerts detrimental effects on both short and long term growth of the economy by reducing domestically available investible capital as it represents a foregone investment in manufacturing plants, infrastructure, social welfare, reduction of a country's tax base and a contribution to the high debt profile, among others;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to develop effective mechanism and strategy to prevent the persistent occurrence and address the menace of capital flight in Nigeria;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to partner with private institutions to go into public-private partnership contractual agreements to build world-class medical facilities in major cities in Nigeria or upgrade and equip the existing ones with adequate facilities based on build, operate and transfer by private investors in a way that will allow the investors to manage same for an agreed period;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 100/05/2021**).

21. Need to Review the Modular Refinery Licenses Issued to Indigenous Firms

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that sometime in 2018, the Federal Government, through the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), issued 38 licenses to indigenous firms to set up modular refineries in different parts of the country;

Also notes that the decision to approve the setting up of the modular refineries was to prepare grounds for the full deregulation of the downstream sector and to checkmate the incessant cases of crude oil theft and piracy in the oil-producing communities and the high seas;

Further notes that approval for setting up of the modular refineries was in response to the outcry that government should intervene and address the perennial problems that were plaguing the oil and gas industry in the country;

Cognizant that the modular refineries, when operational, would be expected to close the gap of importation of petroleum products for local consumption;

Observes that of the 38 licenses issued, only two have been reported to be at advanced stages of completion preparatory for commencement of production;

Informed that the inability of the modular refineries to commence operations has continually forced the Federal Government to import petroleum products and sell to consumers at subsidized rates;

Concerned that with the deregulation of the downstream sector and final withdrawal of subsidy, Nigerians are being compelled to pay more on petroleum products;

Also concerned that COVID-19 pandemic was already having an effect on the citizens and the additional burden of paying more for petroleum products would make the already bad situation worse;

Also cognizant that the essence of issuing the licenses have been defeated as the beneficiaries have not been able to put them to proper use which is to refine petroleum products for local consumption and export;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to review the status of each of the licences, revoke and re-issue them to competent and reliable operators;
- (ii) also urge the NNPC to give technical assistance to those who have started construction work to enable them commence operation to meet up the demands of Nigerians;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Petroleum Resources (Upstream), and Petroleum Resources (Downstream) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Alex Egbona — Abi/Yakurr Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:

“Mandate the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream) to interface with the licencees with a view to resolving the bottleneck faced by them before the proposed review and revocation” (*Hon. Onofriok Luke — Etinan/Nsit Ubium/Nsit Ibom Federal Constituency*).

Question that admendment be made — Agreed to.

Main Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that sometime in 2018, the Federal Government, through the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), issued 38 licenses to indigenous firms to set up modular refineries in different parts of the country;

Also noted that the decision to approve the setting up of the modular refineries was to prepare grounds for the full deregulation of the downstream sector and to checkmate the incessant cases of crude oil theft and piracy in the oil-producing communities and the high seas;

Further noted that approval for setting up of the modular refineries was in response to the outcry that government should intervene and address the perennial problems that were plaguing the oil and gas industry in the country;

Cognizant that the modular refineries, when operational, would be expected to close the gap of importation of petroleum products for local consumption;

Observed that of the 38 licenses issued, only two have been reported to be at advanced stages of completion preparatory for commencement of production;

Informed that the inability of the modular refineries to commence operations has continually forced the Federal Government to import petroleum products and sell to consumers at subsidized rates;

Concerned that with the deregulation of the downstream sector and final withdrawal of subsidy, Nigerians are being compelled to pay more on petroleum products;

Also concerned that COVID-19 pandemic was already having an effect on the citizens and the additional burden of paying more for petroleum products would make the already bad situation worse;

Also cognizant that the essence of issuing the licenses have been defeated as the beneficiaries have not been able to put them to proper use which is to refine petroleum products for local consumption and export;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to review the status of each of the licences, revoke and re-issue them to competent and reliable operators;
- (ii) also urge the NNPC to give technical assistance to those who have started construction work to enable them commence operation to meet up the demands of Nigerians;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream) to interface with the licencees with a view to resolving the bottleneck faced by them before the proposed review and revocation; and
- (iii) also mandate the Committees on Petroleum Resources (Upstream), and Petroleum Resources (Downstream) to ensure compliance (**HR. 101/05/2021**).

22. Need to Investigate the Automated e-Ticketing Process of the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) for Abuja-Kaduna Train Services

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Abuja-Kaduna train services was officially commissioned by President Muhammadu Buhari on Tuesday, 26 July, 2016 to provide the much needed alternative means of transportation between Abuja and Kaduna;

Also notes that there has been a tremendous increase of passengers at Idu and Kubwa Train Stations in Abuja, as well as at Rigasa Station in Kaduna due to the increased security challenges on the Abuja and Kaduna Expressway;

Further notes that the increase in the number of passengers led to ticket-racketeering, an ugly practice that led to the arrest of five (5) suspected train ticket racketeers in 2019 by operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), and on 21 January, 2021, the Minister of Transportation officially launched the Automated e-Ticketing System to address complaints of ticket racketeering;

Aware that the Project, which is operated by a private firm named Secured 18 Company Limited under Public-Private-Partnership with the Federal Government, is valued at Nine Hundred Million Naira (₦900,000,000) and the Concessionaires are expected to be paid in ten (10) years;

Also aware that the e-Ticketing System for the Abuja-Kaduna Train Services enables commuters to book tickets online, thus curbing ticket racketeering and the stress of purchasing tickets at the Train Stations;

Concerned that ticket racketeering, which the e-Ticketing System sought to eradicate, is still going on unabated as tickets can no longer be adequately accessed online due to the mischievous activities of some people who racketeer the tickets and resell to passengers at exorbitant prices;

Cognizant that if the activities of racketeers are not curbed, passengers will continue to be denied the privilege of accessing the train services as, sometimes, a train may leave the station without carrying the required number of passengers, because the tickets are not accessible or affordable to majority of passengers;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Management of the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) and Secured 18 Company Limited to strengthen their internal mechanism with a view to eradicating ticket racketeering;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Land Transport to investigate the matter and report back within two (2) weeks (*Hon. Zayyad Ibrahim — Igabi Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Abuja-Kaduna train services was officially commissioned by President Muhammadu Buhari on Tuesday, 26 July, 2016 to provide the much needed alternative means of transportation between Abuja and Kaduna;

Also noted that there has been a tremendous increase of passengers at Idu and Kubwa Train Stations in Abuja, as well as at Rigasa Station in Kaduna due to the increased security challenges on the Abuja and Kaduna Expressway;

Further noted that the increase in the number of passengers led to ticket-racketeering, an ugly practice that led to the arrest of five (5) suspected train ticket racketeers in 2019 by operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), and on 21 January, 2021, the Minister of Transportation officially launched the Automated e-Ticketing System to address complaints of ticket racketeering;

Aware that the Project, which is operated by a private firm named Secured 18 Company Limited under Public-Private-Partnership with the Federal Government, is valued at Nine Hundred Million Naira (₦900,000,000) and the Concessionaires are expected to be paid in ten (10) years;

Also aware that the e-Ticketing System for the Abuja-Kaduna Train Services enables commuters to book tickets online, thus curbing ticket racketeering and the stress of purchasing tickets at the Train Stations;

Concerned that ticket racketeering, which the e-Ticketing System sought to eradicate, is still going on unabated as tickets can no longer be adequately accessed online due to the mischievous activities of some people who racketeer the tickets and resell to passengers at exorbitant prices;

Cognizant that if the activities of racketeers are not curbed, passengers will continue to be denied the privilege of accessing the train services as, sometimes, a train may leave the station without carrying the required number of passengers, because the tickets are not accessible or affordable to majority of passengers;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Management of the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) and Secured 18 Company Limited to strengthen their internal mechanism with a view to eradicating ticket racketeering;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Land Transport to investigate the matter and report back within two (2) weeks (**HR. 102/05/2021**).

23. Need to Support Cocoa Processing Company, Ede and Other Cocoa Processing Firms in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Cocoa Processing Company, Ede, Osun State was established in 1982 to process and refine cocoa from harvest to finished products of high standard for exportation;

Also notes that from 200, Ede Cocoa Processing Company which was a model and one of the industrialization sectors of Osun State, but became moribund with equipment worth millions of naira abandoned;

Aware that in 2016, the Osun State Government, in partnership with Skyrun Cocoa Processing Company rejigged the industry for optimum performance, the partnership yielded positive results with a processing capacity of 20,000 tonnes of cocoa being processed to varieties of cocoa products;

Also aware that Ede Cocoa Processing Company, is one of the five cocoa processing industries that exports butter, cake, powder, and chocolate, it is one of the fastest-selling and most desirable agricultural commodities in the international market due to the rapid growth and expansion of chocolate confectioneries and other products;

Concerned that Ile Oluji Nigeria Limited, one of Nigeria's oldest cocoa processing firm can only process 2,000 metric tons of cocoa, which is far below its capacity of 30,000 metric tons daily;

Also concerned that FTN Cocoa Processors Plc, a company listed on the Nigerian Stock Exchange with a 20,000MT processing capacity showed that it can only process 600MT between January and June 2018;

Worried that Multi-Trex Integrated Foods Plc, Nigeria's largest cocoa processing factory with a production capacity of 65,000MT per annum, has since been shut down and taken over by the Asset Management Corporation Organisation of Nigeria (AMCON) over a ₦5 billion non-performing loan;

Also worried that Nigeria is currently one of the highest importers of cocoa products in the world and to stop this trend, there is need to resuscitate the comatose cocoa industries which will in turn create more jobs and generate revenue for the country;

Cognizant that if nothing is done to encourage the Ede Cocoa Processing Company and resuscitate the Ile Oluji Nigeria Limited, FTN Cocoa Processors Plc and Multi-Trex Integrated Foods Plc, Nigeria might revert back to its status of a cocoa exporting country instead of cocoa processing country, a status that can reduce unemployment and insecurity in Nigeria;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to Establish a National Cocoa Processing Intervention Fund and resuscitate the Nigerian Cocoa Processing Industry;

- (ii) mandate the Committees on Agricultural Production and Services, and Industry to interface with Ede Cocoa Processing Company and other cocoa processing companies to collate basic challenges that are hindering the smooth operations of the Companies and report back within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Bamidele Salam — Ede North/Ede South/Egbedore/Ejigbo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Cocoa Processing Company, Ede, Osun State was established in 1982 to process and refine cocoa from harvest to finished products of high standard for exportation;

Also noted that from 200, Ede Cocoa Processing Company which was a model and one of the industrialization sectors of Osun State, but became moribund with equipment worth millions of naira abandoned;

Aware that in 2016, the Osun State Government, in partnership with Skyrun Cocoa Processing Company rejigged the industry for optimum performance, the partnership yielded positive results with a processing capacity of 20,000 tonnes of cocoa being processed to varieties of cocoa products;

Also aware that Ede Cocoa Processing Company, is one of the five cocoa processing industries that exports butter, cake, powder, and chocolate, it is one of the fastest-selling and most desirable agricultural commodities in the international market due to the rapid growth and expansion of chocolate confectioneries and other products;

Concerned that Ile Oluji Nigeria Limited, one of Nigeria's oldest cocoa processing firm can only process 2,000 metric tons of cocoa, which is far below its capacity of 30,000 metric tons daily;

Also concerned that FTN Cocoa Processors Plc, a company listed on the Nigerian Stock Exchange with a 20,000MT processing capacity showed that it can only process 600MT between January and June 2018;

Worried that Multi-Trex Integrated Foods Plc, Nigeria's largest cocoa processing factory with a production capacity of 65,000MT per annum, has since been shut down and taken over by the Asset Management Corporation Organisation of Nigeria (AMCON) over a ₦5 billion non-performing loan;

Also worried that Nigeria is currently one of the highest importers of cocoa products in the world and to stop this trend, there is need to resuscitate the comatose cocoa industries which will in turn create more jobs and generate revenue for the country;

Cognizant that if nothing is done to encourage the Ede Cocoa Processing Company and resuscitate the Ile Oluji Nigeria Limited, FTN Cocoa Processors Plc and Multi-Trex Integrated Foods Plc, Nigeria might revert back to its status of a cocoa exporting country instead of cocoa processing country, a status that can reduce unemployment and insecurity in Nigeria;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to Establish a National Cocoa Processing Intervention Fund and resuscitate the Nigerian Cocoa Processing Industry;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Agricultural Production and Services, and Industry to interface with Ede Cocoa Processing Company and other cocoa processing companies to collate basic challenges that are hindering the smooth operations of the companies and report back within four (4) weeks (**HR. 103/05/2021**).

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 5 May, 2021 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.44 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabamila
Speaker