



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

## FIRST VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Friday, 16 July, 2021

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1. The House met at 10.37 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayer.
  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 Thursday, 15 July, 2021.  
  
*The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.*
  4. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Electoral Act No. 6, 2010 and Enact the Electoral Act 2021, to Regulate the Conduct of Elections in the Federal, State and Area Councils in the Federal Capital Territory; and for Related Matters (HB. 981)**  
Mr Speaker recalled that on Thursday, 15 July, 2021, the House resolved to invite the Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), and the Executive Vice Chairman Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) to brief the House on provision of Clause 52 (2) of the Bill.
  5. **Admittance into the Chamber**  
*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do admit into the Chamber, Officials of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) to brief the House on provision of Clause 52 (2) of the Electoral Bill, 2021, pursuant to Order Twenty-One, Rule 8 (2) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives” (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).
- Agreed to.*
6. **Briefing by the Executive Vice Chairman, Nigerian Communications Commission**  
The Representatives of the Executive Chairman of the Commission, informed the House that the Commission has the capacity to analyse the network coverage at the National and State levels and that the data analysis in 2018 revealed that out of 119, 000 polling units across the country, 109,000 had network coverage, leaving about 8,000 polling units without coverage. However, they maintained that about half of the areas analysed had 3G network, leaving the other half with 2G network or no coverage at all.

They stressed that 3G network coverage can guarantee full electronic transmission of election results. On whether election results transmitted electronically can be hacked, they stated that any network can be hacked as evidenced in the United States' election.

**7. Presentation of Report**

***Report of the Conference Committee on Petroleum Industry Bill:***

*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That the House do receive the Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Provide Legal, Governance, Regulatory and Fiscal Framework for the Nigerian Petroleum Industry, the Development of Host Communities and for Related Matters" (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

**8. Consideration of Reports**

**(i) *Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management:***

*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That the House do consider the Interim Report of the Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management on the Proposed 2018-2020 External Borrowing (Rolling) Plan" (*Hon. Ahmed Dayyabu Safana — Batsari/Safana/Damusa Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

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

**(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY)**

*(Mr Speaker in the Chair)*

***Recommendation (i):***

Approve the under listed ongoing negotiations of external borrowing of \$8,325,526,537 (Eight Billion, Three Hundred and Twenty-Five Million, Five Hundred and Twenty-Six Thousand, Five Hundred and Thirty-Seven United States Dollars) and €490,000,000 (Four Hundred and Ninety Million Euro) under the 2018-2020 External Borrowing (Rolling) Plan:

<i>Funding Agency</i>	<i>USD (\$)</i>	<i>Euro (€)</i>
A. World Bank (WB)	796,000,000	
B. China EXIM Bank	2,901,026,509	
C. Industrial Commercial Bank of China	2,484,555,304	
D. Africa Development Bank (AFDB)	104,200,000	
E. Africa Growing together Fund (AGTF)	20,000,000	
F. French Development Agency (AFD)		240,000,000
G. European Investment Bank		250,000,000
H. European ECA/KFW/IPEX/AFC	1,959,744,724	
I. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	60,000,000	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$8,325,526,537</b>	<b>€490,000,000</b>

(as more Particularly Described in the Attached Schedule of Approved Projects)

**SCHEDULE OF APPROVED PROJECTS**

**2018-2020 EXTERNAL BORROWING ROLLING PLAN**

<b>A.</b>	<b>World Bank-Supported Projects Approved</b>	
	Second Africa Higher Education Centre's of Excellence for Development Impact Project (Second ACE Impact)	\$75,000,000
	Sustainable Procurement, Environment and Social Standards Enhancement project (SPESSE)	\$80,000,000
	Nigeria Digital Identity for Development Project	\$115,000,000
	Multi-Sectoral Crises Recovery Project for the North East — Additional funding	\$176,000,000
	Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project	\$200,000,000
	Edo Basic Education Sector and Skills Transformation Operation (EDO BEST)	\$70,000,000
	Ogun State Economic Transformation Project	\$250,000,000
<b>B.</b>	<b>China Exim Bank-Supported Projects Approved</b>	
	Construction of Lafia Bypass Road and the Dualization of 9th Mile (Enugu) -Otukpo-Makurdi Road Project (Keffi PhaseII)	\$845,753,419
	Construction of Akwanga Jos-Bauchi-Gombe Carriageway Project	\$1,333,000,000
	Four (4) Airport Terminal Expansion Projects (Phase II)	\$208,905,162
	Ancillary Works on Four (4) Airport Expansion Projects	\$183,621,057
	Supply of Rolling Stock and Depot Equipment's for Abuja Light Rail Project	\$157,001,050
	e-Border Solution	\$172,745,821
<b>C.</b>	<b>Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Supported Projects Approved</b>	
	Port Harcourt to Maiduguri with Branches to Yola and Damaturu Railway Lines (1,408km)	\$2,484,555,304
<b>D.</b>	<b>Africa Development Bank</b>	
	Nigeria Urban Water Reform and Akure Water Sanitation Project	\$104,200,000
<b>E.</b>	<b>Africa Growing Together Fund</b>	
	Nigeria Urban Water Reform and Akure Water Sanitation Project	\$20,000,000
<b>F.</b>	<b>French Development Agency</b>	
	Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project	€200,000,000
	Second Africa Higher Education Centre's of Excellence for Development Impact Project (Second ACE Impact)	€40,000,000
<b>G.</b>	<b>European Investment Bank</b>	
	Nigeria Digital Identity for Development Project	€250,000,000
<b>H.</b>	<b>European ECA/KWF/IPEX/AFC</b>	
	Kano-Maradi SGR with Branch to Dutse	\$1,959,744,724
<b>I.</b>	<b>International Fund for Agricultural Development</b>	
	Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprise Project	\$60,000,000
	<i>(Hon. Ahmed Dayyabu Safana — Batsari/Safana/Damusa Federal Constituency).</i>	

*Agreed to.*

**Recommendation (ii):**

That the terms and conditions of the loan from the funding agencies, be forwarded to the National Assembly prior to the execution of same for concurrence and proper documentation (*Hon. Ahmed Dayyabu Safana — Batsari/Safana/Damusa Federal Constituency*).

**Agreed to.**

*Chairman to report proceedings.*

**(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of Supply considered the Report of the Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management on the Proposed 2018-2020 External Borrowing (Rolling) Plan and approved Recommendations (i) - (ii) of the Report.

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

**(ii) Committee on Electoral Matters:**

*Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do resume consideration of the Report of the Committee on Electoral Matters on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Electoral Act No. 6, 2010 and Enact the Electoral Act 2021, to Regulate the Conduct of Elections in the Federal, State and Area Councils in the Federal Capital Territory; and for Related Matters (HB. 981)” (Hon. Aisha Dukku Jibril — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency).*

**Agreed to.**

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

**(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)**

*(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)*

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO REPEAL THE ELECTORAL ACT, NO. 6, 2010 AND ENACT THE ELECTORAL ACT, 2021, TO REGULATE THE CONDUCT OF FEDERAL, STATE AND AREA COUNCILS IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ELECTIONS; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 981)

**Committee’s Recommendation:****Clause 55: Accidental destruction or marking of ballot papers.**

A voter who by accident deals with his or her ballot paper in such a manner that it may not be conveniently used for voting, may deliver it to the Presiding Officer and if the Presiding Officer is satisfied that the ballot paper is spoilt he or she shall issue another ballot paper to the voter in place of the ballot paper delivered up, and the spoilt ballot paper shall be immediately marked cancelled by the Presiding Officer (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 55 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee’s Recommendation:****Clause 56: Visually impaired and incapacitated voters.**

(1) A Voter with visual impairment or other form of disability who is otherwise unable to distinguish symbol or who suffers from any other physical disability may be accompanied into the polling unit by a person chosen by him or her and that person shall, after informing the Presiding Officer of the disability, be permitted to accompany the voter into the voting compartment and assist the voter to make his or her mark in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Commission.

- (2) The Commission shall take reasonable steps to ensure that persons with disabilities, special needs and vulnerable persons are assisted at the polling place by the provision of suitable means of communication, such as Braille, Large embossed print or electronic devices or sign language interpretation, or off-site voting in appropriate cases (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 56 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 57: Personal attendance.**

No voter shall record his or her vote otherwise than by personally attending at the polling unit or voting centres and recording his or her vote in the manner prescribed by the Commission (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 57 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 58: Voting at appropriate polling unit.**

No person shall be permitted to vote at any polling unit other than the one to which he or she is allotted (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 58 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 59: Impersonation by applicant to vote.**

- (1) If at the time a person applies to vote and before he or she has left the polling unit, a polling agent, polling unit official or security agent informs the Presiding Officer that he or she has reasonable cause to believe that the person is under the age of 18 years or has committed the offence of impersonation and gives an undertaking on a prescribed form to substantiate the charge in a court of law, the Presiding Officer may order a police officer to arrest that person and the Presiding Officer's order shall be sufficient authority for the police officer so to act.
- (2) A person in respect of whom a polling agent, polling official, or security agent gives an information in accordance with the provision of subsection (1) shall not by reason of the information, be prevented from voting, but the Presiding Officer shall cause the words "protested against for impersonation" to be placed against his or her name in the marked copy of the register of voters or part of the register of voters.
- (3) Where a person in respect of whom a declaration is made under subsection (2), admits to the Presiding Officer that he or she is not the person he or she held themselves out to be, he or she shall not be permitted to vote and shall be handed over to the Police or security agent.
- (4) A person arrested under the provisions of this section shall be deemed to be a person taken into custody by a police officer (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 60 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 61: Conduct at polling units.**

- (1) The Presiding Officer shall regulate the admission of voters to the polling unit and shall exclude all persons other than the candidates, polling agents, poll clerks and persons lawfully entitled to be admitted including accredited observers, and the Presiding Officer shall keep order and comply with the requirements of this Bill at the polling unit.
- (2) The Presiding Officer may order a person to be removed from a polling unit, who behaves in a disorderly manner or fails to obey a lawful order.
- (3) A person removed from a polling unit under this section shall not, without the permission of the Presiding Officer, again enter the polling unit during the day of the election, and if charged with the commission of an offence in that polling unit, the person shall be deemed to be a person taken into custody by a police officer for an offence in respect of which he may be arrested without a warrant.
- (4) The provisions of subsection (3) shall not be enforced so as to prevent a voter who is otherwise entitled to vote at a polling unit from having an opportunity of so voting.
- (5) In the absence of the presiding officer, the Poll Clerk shall enjoy and exercise all the powers of the Presiding Officer in respect of a Polling Unit (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 61 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 62: Closing of poll.**

At the prescribed hour for the close of poll, the Presiding Officer shall declare the poll closed and no more person shall be admitted into the Polling unit and only those already inside the Polling unit shall be allowed to vote (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 62 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 63: Counting of votes and forms.**

- (1) The Presiding Officer shall, after counting the votes at the polling unit, enter the votes scored by each candidate in a form to be prescribed by the Commission as the case may be.
- (2) The form shall be signed and stamped by the Presiding Officer and counter signed by the candidates or their polling agents where available at the Polling unit.
- (3) The Presiding Officer shall give to the Polling Agents and the police officer where available a copy each of the completed Forms after it has been duly signed as provided in subsection (2).
- (4) The Presiding Officer shall count and announce the result at the Polling unit.

- (5) The Presiding officer shall transmit the results including total number of accredited voters and the results of the ballot in a manner as prescribed by the Commission.
- (6) A Presiding Officer who willfully contravenes any provision of this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not more than ₦100,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of at least six months (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 63 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 64: Recount.**

A candidate or a Polling Agent may, where present at a polling unit when counting of votes is completed by the Presiding Officer, demand to have the votes recounted provided that the Presiding Officer shall cause the votes to be so recounted only once (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 64 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 65: Post-election procedure and collation of election results.**

- (1) After the recording and announcement of the result, the presiding officer shall deliver same along with election materials under security and accompanied by the candidates or their polling agents, where available, to such person as may be prescribed by the Commission.
- (2) The Commission shall compile, maintain and update, on a continuous basis, a register of election results to be known as the National Electronic Register of Election Results which shall be a distinct database or repository of polling unit by polling unit results, including collated election results, of each election conducted by the Commission in the Federation, and the Register of Election Results shall be kept in electronic format by the Commission at its national headquarters.
- (3) Any person or political party may obtain from the Commission, on payment of such fees as may be determined by the Commission, a certified true copy of any election result kept in the National Electronic Register of Election Results for a State, Local Government, Area Council, Registration Area or Electoral Ward or Polling Unit, as the case may be, and the certified true copy may be in printed or electronic format (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 65 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 66: Rejection of ballot paper without official mark.**

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), a ballot paper which does not bear official mark prescribed by the Commission shall not be counted.
- (2) If the Returning Officer is satisfied that a ballot paper which does not bear the official mark was from a book of ballot papers which was furnished to the Presiding Officer of the polling unit in which the vote was cast for use at the election in question, he or she shall, notwithstanding the absence of the official mark, count that ballot paper (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 66 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 67: Endorsement on rejected ballot paper without official mark.**

- (1) The Presiding Officer shall endorse the word "rejected" on the ballot paper rejected under section 52 (1) of this Bill and for any other reason, and the ballot papers shall not be counted except otherwise allowed by the Returning Officer who may overrule the Presiding Officer.
- (2) If an objection to the decision of a Presiding Officer to reject a ballot paper is raised by a candidate or a polling agent at the time the decision is made, the Presiding Officer shall add to the word "rejected", the phrase "but objected to".
- (3) The Presiding Officer shall prepare a statement on rejected ballot papers, stating the number rejected, the reason for rejection and their serial number, and he or she shall on request, allow a candidate or a polling agent to copy the statement.
- (4) A Collation Officer or Returning Officer at an election shall collate and announce the result of an election, subject to his or her verification and confirmation that the —
  - (a) number of accredited voters stated on the collated result are correct and consistent with the number of accredited voters recorded and transmitted directly from polling units under section 47 (2) of this Bill.
  - (b) the votes stated on the collated result are correct and consistent with the votes or results recorded and transmitted directly from polling units under section 60 (4) of this Bill.
- (5) Subject to subsection (1), a Collation Officer or Returning Officer shall use the number of accredited voters recorded and transmitted directly from polling units under section 47 (2) of this Bill and the votes or results recorded and transmitted directly from polling units under section 60 (4) of this Bill to collate and announce the result of an election if a collated result at his or a lower level of collation is not correct.
- (6) Where during collation of results, there is a dispute regarding a collated result or the result of an election from any polling unit, the Collation Officer or Returning Officer shall use the following to determine the correctness of the disputed result —
  - (a) the original of the disputed collated result for each polling unit where the election is disputed;
  - (b) the smart card reader or other technology device used for accreditation of voters in each polling unit where the election is disputed for the purpose of obtaining accreditation data directly from the Smart Card Reader or technology device;
  - (c) data of accreditation recorded and transmitted directly from each polling unit where the election is disputed as prescribed under section 47 (2) of this Bill;



- (d) the votes and result of the election recorded and transmitted directly from each polling unit where the election is disputed, as prescribed under section 60 (4) of this Bill.
- (7) If the disputed result under subsection (3) were otherwise found not to be correct, the Collation Officer or Returning Officer shall re-collate and announce a new result using the information in subsection (3) (a)-(d).
- (8) Where the dispute under subsection (3) arose at the level of collation and the Returning Officer has satisfied the provision of subsection (3), the Returning Officer shall accordingly declare the winner of the election.
- (9) A Returning Officer or Collation Officer, as the case may be, commits an offence if he or she intentionally collates or announces a false result and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of at least three years or a fine of ₦5,000,000.00, or both (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 67 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 68: Decision of returning officer on ballot paper.**

- (1) The decision of the Returning Officer shall be final on any question arising from or relating to —
- (a) unmarked ballot paper;
- (b) rejected ballot paper; and
- (c) declaration of scores of candidates and the return of a Candidate:

Provided that the Commission shall have the power within seven days to review the declaration and return where the Commission determines that the said declaration and return was not made voluntarily or was made contrary to the provisions of the Law, Regulations and Guidelines, and Manual for the election.

- (2) A decision of the Returning Officer under subsection (1) may be reviewed by a Election Tribunal or Court of competent jurisdiction in an election petition proceedings under this Bill (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 68 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 69: Declaration of result.**

In an election to the office of the President or Governor whether or not contested and in any contested election to any other elective office, the result shall be ascertained by counting the votes cast for each candidate and subjected to the provisions of sections 133, 134 and 179 of the Constitution, the candidate that receives the highest number of votes shall be declared elected by the appropriate Returning Officer (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 69 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 70: Equality of votes.**

Where two or more candidates' poll equal number of votes being the highest in an election, the Returning Officer shall not return any of the candidates and a fresh election shall be held for the candidates who polled equal number of votes on a date to be appointed by the Commission (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 70 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 71: Posting of results.**

The Commission shall cause to be posted on its notice board and website, a notice showing the candidates at the election and their scores; and the person declared as elected or returned at the election (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 71 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 72: Custody of documents.**

The Chief Electoral Commissioner or any officer authorised by him or her shall keep official custody of all the documents, including statement of results and ballot papers relating to the election, which are returned to the Commission by the Returning Officers (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 72 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 73: Step by step recording of poll.**

Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Commission shall issue and publish in the Gazette, guidelines for the elections which shall make provisions, among other things, for the step-by-step recording of the poll in the electoral forms as may be prescribed beginning from the polling unit to the last collation centre for the ward or constituency where the result of the election shall be declared (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 73 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 74: Result forms to be signed and countersigned.**

Every result form completed at the ward, local government, state and national levels in accordance with the provisions of this Bill or any Guidelines issued by the Commission shall be stamped, signed and countersigned by the relevant officers and polling agents at those levels and copies given to the police officers and the polling agents, where available (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 74 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 75: Certificate of Return.**

(1) A sealed Certificate of Return at an election in a prescribed form shall be issued within 14 days to every candidate who has been returned by the returning officer in an election under this Bill:

Provided that where the Court of Appeal or the Supreme Court being the final appellate court in any election petition, as the case may be, nullifies any candidate's Certificate of Return, the Commission shall within 48 hours after receipt of the court's order, issue the successful candidate with a valid Certificate of Return.

- (2) Where the Commission fails, refuses, or neglects to issue the certificate of return under subsection (1), a certified true copy of the order of the court shall, by that very fact, be sufficient for the purpose of swearing-in a candidate declared as the winner of the election by that court (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 75 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 76: Forms for use at elections.**

- (1) The forms to be used for the conduct of elections under this Bill shall be determined by the Commission.
- (2) An election conducted at a polling unit without the prior recording in the forms prescribed by the Commission of the quantity, serial numbers and other particulars of results sheets, ballot papers and other sensitive electoral materials made available by the Commission for the conduct of the election shall be invalid.
- (3) A Presiding Officer who intentionally announces or signs any election result in violation of subsection (2) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of ₦200,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of at least one year or both (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 76 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 77: Access to election documents.**

- (1) The Resident Electoral Commissioner in a State where an election is conducted shall, within 14 days after an application is made to him by any of the parties to an election petition, cause a certified true copy of such document to be issued to the said party.
- (2) Any Resident Electoral Commissioner who willfully fails to comply with the provisions in sub section (1) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦2,000,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months or both (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 77 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

PART V — POLITICAL PARTIES

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 78: Powers of the Commission to register political parties.**

- (1) Any political association that complies with the provisions of the Constitution and this Bill for the purposes of registration shall be registered as a political party:

Provided however, that such application for registration as a political party shall be duly submitted to the Commission not later than 12 months before a general election.

- (2) The Commission shall, on receipt of the documents in fulfillment of the conditions stipulated by the Constitution, immediately issue the applicant with a letter of acknowledgement stating that all the necessary documents had been submitted to the Commission.
- (3) If the Association has not fulfilled all the conditions under this section, the Commission shall within 90 days from the receipt of its application notify the Association in writing stating the reasons for non-registration.
- (4) A political association that meets the conditions stipulated in the Constitution and this Bill shall be registered by the Commission as a political party within 60 days from the date of receipt of the application, and if after the 60 days such association is not registered by the Commission, unless the Commission informs the association to the contrary, it shall be deemed to have been registered.
- (5) An association, its executive member or principal officers who gives false or misleading information, commit an offence and is liable on conviction, in the case of —
  - (a) the association to a fine of ₦5,000,000.00;
  - (b) each executive or principal officer of the association to a fine of ₦3,000,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of at least two years or both.
- (6) An application for registration as a political party shall not be processed unless there is evidence of payment of administrative fee as may be fixed from time to time by the Commission (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 78 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 79: Decision of the Commission subject to judicial review.**

The decision of the Commission not to register any association as a political party may be challenged in the Federal High Court, provided that any legal action challenging the decision of the Commission shall be commenced within 14 days from the date of receipt of the decision on non-registration from the Commission (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 79 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 80: Political parties to be bodies corporate.**

- (1) A political party registered under this Bill shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in its corporate name.
- (2) Every registered political party shall maintain a register of its members in both hard and soft copy.

- (3) Each political party shall make such register available to the Commission not later than 30 days before the date fixed for the party primaries, Congresses or Convention (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 80 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 81: Contravention of section 227 of the 1999 Constitution.**

- (1) Any Political Party or association, which contravenes the provisions of section 227 of the Constitution, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of —
- (a) ₦5,000,000.00 for the first offence;
  - (b) ₦7,000,000.00 for any subsequent offence; and
  - (c) ₦500,000.00 for every day that the offence continues.
- (2) Any person or group of persons who aids or abets a political party in contravening the provisions of section 227 of the Constitution commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of ₦5,000,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of five years or both (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 80 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 81: Symbols of political parties.**

- (1) The Commission shall keep a register of symbols and name for use at elections.
- (2) The Commission shall register the symbol and name of a political party if it is satisfied that —
- (a) no other symbol and name of the same design is registered;
  - (b) the symbol and name is distinctive from any other symbol already registered; and
  - (c) its use will not be offensive or otherwise objectionable.
- (3) The Commission shall remove a symbol or name from the register of symbols and names if the —
- (a) Commission is of the opinion that the political party in whose name the symbol is registered has ceased to exist or to use the symbol "and names".
- (4) Nothing in this section shall authorise the allotment or registration for use at any election of a symbol or material as symbol of a party, if it portrays —
- (a) the Coat of Arms of the Federation;
  - (b) the Coat of Arms of any other country;

- (c) a device or emblem which in the opinion of the Commission is

normally associated with —

- (i) the official acts of Government,
  - (ii) any of the Armed Forces of the Federation or the Nigeria Police Force or other uniformed service,
  - (iii) the regalia of a Chief,
  - (iv) any tribe or ethnic group,
  - (v) any religion or cult, or
  - (vi) any portrait of a person living or dead; or
- (d) any symbol or part of a symbol which under the provision of this section continues to be registered by another political party.
- (5) Subject to the provisions of this section, the symbol allotted to a political party and in use immediately before the coming into force of this Bill shall continue to be available to, and be used by, that political party without payment of the fee.
- (6) Where a Political Party is deregistered, no political association shall be permitted to use the name, symbol, logo or acronym of the deregistered Political Party within five years of deregistration (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 82 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 83: Allocation of symbols.**

Where a symbol is registered by a political party in accordance with this Bill, the Commission shall allot the symbol to any candidate sponsored by the political party at any election (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 83 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 84: Merger of political parties.**

- (1) Any two or more registered political parties may merge on approval by the Commission following a formal request presented to the Commission by the political parties for that purpose.
- (2) Political Parties intending to merge shall each give to the Commission nine months' notice of their intention to do so before a general election.
- (3) The written request for merger shall be sent to the Chairman of the Commission and shall be signed jointly by the National Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer for the time being of the different Political Parties proposing the merger and shall be accompanied by —
  - (a) a special resolution passed by the national convention of each of the political parties proposing to merge, approving the merger;

- (b) the proposed full name and acronym, Constitution, manifesto, symbol or logo of the party together with the addresses of the national office of the party resulting from the merger; and
  - (c) evidence of payment of administrative fee as may be fixed by the Commission.
- (4) On receipt of the request for merger of political parties the Commission shall consider the request; and if the parties have fulfilled the requirements of the Constitution and this Bill, approve the proposed merger and communicate its decision to the Parties concerned before the expiration of 60 days from the date of receipt of the formal request:

Provided that where the Commission fails to communicate its decision within 60 days, the parties shall within 14 days thereafter challenge the decision of the Commission at the Court and establish by cogent and verifiable reason that they have met all the constitutional requirements for merger.
- (5) Where the request for the proposed merger is approved, the Commission shall withdraw and cancel the certificates of registration of all the Political Parties opting for the merger and substitute a single certificate of registration in the name of the party resulting from the merger (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 84 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

***Committee's Recommendation:***

**Clause 85: Notice of convention, congress, etc.**

- (1) Every registered political party shall give the Commission at least 21 days' notice of any convention, congress, conference or meeting convened for the purpose of "merger" and electing members of its executive committees, other governing bodies or nominating candidates for any of the elective offices specified under this Bill.
- (2) The Commission may, with or without prior notice to the political party attend and observe any convention, congress, conference or meeting which is convened by a political party for the purpose of —
  - (a) electing members of its executive committees or other governing bodies;
  - (b) nominating candidates for an election at any level; and
  - (c) approving a merger with any other registered political party.
- (3) The election of members of the executive committee or other governing body of a political party, including the election to fill a vacant position in any of the aforesaid bodies, shall be conducted in a democratic manner and allowing for all members of the party or duly elected delegates to vote in support of a candidate of their choice.
- (4) Notice of any congress, conference or meeting for the purpose of nominating candidates for Area Council elections shall be given to the Commission at least 21 days before such congress, conference or meeting.

- (5) Failure of a political party to notify the Commission as stated in subsection (1) shall render the convention, congress, conference or meeting invalid (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 85 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

***Committee's Recommendation:***

**Clause 86: Monitoring of political parties.**

- (1) The Commission shall keep records of the activities of all the registered political parties.
- (2) The Commission may seek information or clarification from any registered political party in connection with any activities of the political party which may be contrary to the provisions of the Constitution or any other law, guidelines, rules or regulations made pursuant to an Act of the National Assembly.
- (3) The Commission may direct its enquiry under subsection (2) to the Chairman or Secretary of the Political Party at the National, State, Local Government or Area Council or Ward level, as the case may be.
- (4) A Political Party which fails to provide the required information or clarification under subsection (2) or carry out any lawful directive given by the Commission in conformity with the provisions of this section is liable to a fine not more than ₦1,000,000.00 (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 86 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

***Committee's Recommendation:***

**Clause 87: Nomination of candidates by parties.**

- (1) A political party seeking to nominate candidates for elections under this Bill shall hold direct or indirect primaries for aspirants to all elective positions, which may be monitored by the Commission.
- (2) The procedure for the nomination of candidates by political parties for the various elective positions shall be by direct or indirect primaries.
- (3) A political party that adopts the direct primaries procedure shall ensure that all aspirants are given equal opportunity of being voted for by members of the party.
- (4) A political party that adopts the system of indirect primaries for the choice of its candidate shall adopt the procedure outlined below —
- (a) in the case of nominations to the position of presidential candidate, a political party shall —
- (i) hold a special presidential convention at a designated centre in the Federal Capital Territory or any other place within the Federation that is agreed to by the National Executive Committee of the party where delegates shall vote for each of the aspirants, and



- (ii) the aspirant with the highest number of votes at the end of voting, shall be declared the winner of the Presidential primaries of the political party and the aspirant name shall be forwarded to the Commission as the candidate of the party;
  - (b) in the case of nominations to the positions of Governorship candidate, a political party shall, where it intends to sponsor candidates —
    - (i) hold a special congress in the State Capital or any other place within the State with delegates voting for each of the aspirants at the congress to be held on a specified date appointed by the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the party, and
    - (ii) the aspirant with the highest number of votes at the end of voting shall be declared the winner of the primaries of the party and the aspirant's name shall be forwarded to the Commission as the candidate of the party, for the particular State;
  - (c) in the case of nominations to the position of a candidate to the Senate, House of Representatives and State House of Assembly, a political party shall, where they intend to sponsor candidates —
    - (i) hold special congresses in the Senatorial District, Federal Constituency and the State Assembly constituency respectively, with delegates voting for each of the aspirants in designated centre on specified dates, and
    - (ii) the aspirant with the highest number of votes at the end of voting shall be declared the winner of the primaries of the party and the aspirant's name shall be forwarded to the Commission as the candidate of the party; and
  - (d) in the case of the position of a Chairmanship candidate of an Area Council, a political party shall, where it intends to sponsor candidates —
    - (i) hold special congresses in the Area Council, with delegates voting for each of the aspirants at designated centres on a specified date, and
    - (ii) the aspirant with the highest number of votes at the end of voting shall be declared the winner of the primaries of the party and the aspirant's name shall be forwarded to the Commission as the candidate of the party.
- (5) In the case of a Councillorship candidate, the procedure for the nomination of the candidate shall be by direct primaries in the ward and the name of the candidate with the highest number of votes shall be submitted to the Commission as the candidate of the party.

- (6) Where there is only one aspirant in a political party for any of the elective positions mentioned in subsection (4) (a), (b), (c) and (d), the party shall convene a special convention or congress at a designated centre on a specified date, for the confirmation of such aspirant and the name of the aspirant shall be forwarded to the Commission as the candidate of the party.
- (7) A political party that adopts the system of indirect primaries for the choice of its candidate shall clearly outline in its constitution and rules the procedure for the democratic election of delegates to vote at the convention, congress or meeting, in addition to delegates already prescribed in the constitution of the party.
- (8) A political appointee at any level shall not be an automatic voting delegate at the convention or congress of any political party for the purpose of nomination of candidates for any election, except where such a political appointee is also an officer of a political party.
- (9) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Bill or rules of a political party, an aspirant who complains that any of the provisions of this Bill and the guidelines of his political party has not been complied with in the selection or nomination of a candidate of the political party for election, may apply for redress to the Federal High Court of State or FCT within whose territorial jurisdiction the election was conducted.
- (10) Nothing in this section shall empower the courts to stop the holding of primaries or general election or the processes thereof under this Bill pending the determination of the suit (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

**Amendment Proposed:**

In Subclause (1), line 2, *leave out* the words “or indirect” and any where it appears in the Bill (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — Surulere I Federal Constituency*).

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

*Question that Clause 87 as amended, stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee’s Recommendation:**

**Clause 88: Offences in relation to finances of a political party.**

Any political Party that —

- (a) holds or possesses any fund outside Nigeria in contravention of section 225 (3) (a) of the Constitution, commits an offence and shall on conviction forfeit the funds or assets purchased with such funds to the Commission and in addition may be liable to a fine of at least ₦5,000,000.00; or
- (b) retains any fund or other asset remitted to it from outside Nigeria in contravention of section 225 (3) (a) of the Constitution is guilty of an offence and shall on conviction forfeit the funds or assets to the Commission and in addition may be liable to a fine of at least ₦5,000,000.00 (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 88 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 89: Period to be covered by annual statement.**

- (1) Every Political Party shall submit to the Commission a detailed annual statement of Assets and Liabilities and analysis of its sources of funds and other assets, together with statement of its expenditure including hard and soft copy of its list of members or in such a form as the Commission may from time to time require.
- (2) Any official of the political party who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable to fine of ₦1,000,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of six months or both.
- (3) A political party shall grant to any officer authorised in writing by the Commission, access to examine the records and audited accounts kept by the political party in accordance with the provisions of this Bill and the political party shall give to the officer all such information as may be requested in relation to all contributions received by or on behalf of the party.
- (4) The Commission shall publish the report on such examinations and audit in two National Newspapers and Commission's website within thirty (30) days of receipt of the results (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 89 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 90: Power to limit contribution to a political party.**

- (1) The Commission shall have power to place limitation on the amount of money or other assets which an individual can contribute to a Political Party or candidate and to demand such information on the amount donated and source of the funds.
- (2) Any individual, candidate or political party who exceeds the limit placed by the Commission in subsection (1), commits an offence and is liable on conviction to —
  - (a) in case of a political party, a fine not more than ₦10,000,000.00 and forfeiture of the amount donated; and
  - (b) in case of an individual, a fine of five times the amount donated in excess of the limit placed by the Commission (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 90 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 91: Limitation on election expenses.**

- (1) Election expenses shall not exceed the sum stipulated in subsections (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) and (7).
- (2) The maximum election expenses to be incurred by a candidate at a presidential election shall not exceed ₦5,000,000,000.00.
- (3) The maximum amount of election expenses to be incurred by a candidate in respect of governorship election shall not exceed ₦1,000,000,000.00.

- (4) The maximum amount of election expenses to be incurred by a Candidate in respect of Senatorial and House of Representatives seat shall not exceed ₦100,000,000.00 and ₦70,000,000.00 respectively.
- (5) In the case of State Assembly election, the maximum amount of election expenses to be incurred by a candidate shall not exceed ₦30,000,000.00.
- (6) In the case of a chairmanship election to an Area Council, the maximum amount of election expenses to be incurred by a candidate shall not exceed ₦30,000,000.00.
- (7) In the case of Councillorship election to an area Council, the maximum amount of election expenses to be incurred by a candidate shall not exceed ₦5,000,000.00.
- (8) No individual or other entity shall donate to a candidate more than ₦50,000,000.00.
- (9) A candidate who knowingly acts in contravention of this section, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of 1% of the amount permitted as the limit of campaign expenditure under this Bill or imprisonment for a term not more than 12 months or both.
- (10) Any individual who knowingly acts in contravention of subsection (9) is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦500,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of nine months or both.
- (11) An Accountant who falsifies, or conspires or aids a candidate to forge or falsify a document relating to his expenditure at an election or receipt or donation for the election or in any way aids and abets the contravention of the provisions of this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of ₦3,000,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of three years or both (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 91 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

***Committee's Recommendation:***

**Clause 92: Election expenses of political parties.**

- (1) For the purposes of an election, "election expenses" means expenses incurred by a political party within the period from the date notice is given by the Commission to conduct an election up to and including, the polling day in respect of the particular election.
- (2) Election expenses incurred by a political party for the management or the conduct of an election shall be determined by the Commission in consultation with the political parties.
- (3) Election expenses of a political party shall be submitted to the Commission in a separate audited return within six months after the election and such return shall be signed by the political party's auditors and counter-signed by the Chairman of the party and be supported by a sworn affidavit by the signatories as to the correctness of its contents.
- (4) A political party which contravenes subsection (3) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦1,000,000.00 and in the case of failure to submit an accurate audited return within the stipulated period,

the court may impose a maximum penalty of ₦200,000.00 per day on any party for the period after the return was due until it is submitted to the Commission.

- (5) The return referred to in subsection (3) shall show the amount of money expended by or on behalf of the party on election expenses, the items of expenditure and commercial value of goods and services received for election purposes.
- (6) The political party shall cause the return submitted to the Commission pursuant to subsection (4) to be published in at least two National Newspapers an official website of the party.
- (7) Any political party that incurs election expenses beyond the limit set in subsection (2) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦1,000,000.00 and forfeiture to the Commission, of the amount by which the expenses exceed the limit set by the Commission.
- (8) The Commission shall make available for public inspection during regular business hours at its headquarters and state offices the audit returns of the political parties required by subsection (3) which shall include the names, addresses, occupation, and amount contributed by each contributor to a party (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 92 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 93: Disclosure by political parties.**

- (1) A political party shall not accept or keep in its possession any anonymous monetary or other contributions, gifts or property, from any source.
- (2) A political party shall keep an account and asset book into which shall be recorded —
  - (a) all monetary and other forms of contributions received by the party; and
  - (b) the name and address of any person or entity that contributes any money or asset which exceeds ₦1,000,000.00.
- (3) A political party shall not accept any monetary or other contribution which is more than ₦50,000,000.00 unless it can identify the source of the money or other contribution to the Commission.
- (4) A political party sponsoring the election of a candidate shall, within three months after the announcement of the results of the election, file a report of the contributions made by individuals and entities to the Commission (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 93 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 94: Conduct at political rallies, and processions, etc.**

- (1) The Commissioner of Police in each State of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, shall provide adequate security for proper and peaceful conduct of political rallies and processions in their respective jurisdictions and, for this purpose, the Police may be supported by the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps and any other security agency of the Federal Government.
- (2) For the purpose of subsection (1), a person shall be deemed to be acting in pursuance of a lawful duty if he is acting in his capacity as a police officer or as a member of a security agency authorised to carry arms and is specifically posted to be present at that political rally or procession.
- (3) Notwithstanding any provision in the Police Act, the Public Order Act and any regulation made thereunder or any other law to the contrary, the role of the Nigerian Police Force and the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps and any other security agency of the Federal Government in political rallies, processions and meetings shall be limited to the provision of adequate security as provided in subsection (1).
- (4) No registered political party in Nigeria, its aspirants or candidate shall be prevented from holding rallies, processions or meetings at any time for their constitutional political purposes, and the Police shall in a consultative manner, resolve any conflict of time and venue between and amongst parties where such arises (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 94 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 95: Prohibition of certain conduct, etc. at political campaigns.**

- (1) A political campaign or slogan shall not be tainted with abusive language directly or indirectly likely to injure religious, ethnic, tribal or sectional feelings.
- (2) Abusive, intemperate, slanderous or base language or insinuations or innuendoes designed or likely to provoke violent reaction or emotions shall not be employed or used in political campaigns.
- (3) Places designated for religious worship, police station, and public offices shall not be used —
  - (a) for political campaigns, rallies and processions; or
  - (b) to promote, propagate or attack political parties, candidates or their programmes or ideologies.
- (4) Masquerades shall not be employed or used by any political party, aspirant or candidate during political campaigns or for any other political purpose.
- (5) A political party, aspirant or candidate of a political party shall not retain, organise, train or equip any person or group of persons for the purpose of enabling them to be employed for the use or display of physical force or coercion in promoting any political objective or interests, or in such manner as to arouse reasonable apprehension that they are organised, trained or equipped for that purpose.

- (6) A political party, aspirant or candidate shall not keep or use armed private

security organisation, vanguard or any other group or individual by whatever name called for the purpose of providing security, assisting or aiding the political party or candidate in whatever manner during campaigns, rallies, processions or elections.

- (7) A political party, aspirant or candidate who contravenes any of the provisions of this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction —
- (a) in the case of an aspirant or candidate, to a maximum fine of ₦1,000,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months; and
  - (b) in the case of a political party, to a fine of ₦2,000,000.00 in the first instance, and ₦1,000,000.00 for any subsequent offence.
- (8) Any person or group of persons who aids or abets a political party, an aspirant or a candidate in contravening the provisions of subsection (5) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of ₦500,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of three years or both (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 95 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 96: Prohibition of use of force or violence during political campaign.**

- (1) A party, candidate, aspirant, or person or group of persons shall not directly or indirectly threaten any person with the use of force or violence during any political campaign in order to compel that person or any other person to support or refrain from supporting a political party or candidate.
- (2) Any political party, candidate, aspirant, or person or group of persons that contravenes the provisions of this section commits an offence and liable on conviction —
- (a) in the case of a candidate, aspirant, or person or group of persons, to a maximum fine of ₦1,000,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months; and
  - (b) in the case of a political party, to a fine of ₦2,000,000.00 in the first instance, and ₦500,000.00 for any subsequent offence (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 96 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 97: Effect on Elected Officer where Political Party Ceases to Exist.**

Where a political party ceases to exist in accordance with the Constitution and this Bill, a person elected on the platform of the political party in an election under this Bill shall remain validly elected, complete his tenure, and, for purposes of identification, be regarded as a member of the political party under which he was elected.

**Committee's Recommendation:**

*Leave out the provision of Clause 97 (Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency).*

**Agreed to.**

**Clause 98: Existing Political Parties.**

Any political party registered by the Commission in accordance with the provisions of any law in force immediately before the coming into force of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and this Bill shall be deemed to have been duly registered under this Bill

**Committee's Recommendation:**

*Leave out the provision of Clause 98 (Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency).*

*Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 99: Limitation on political broadcast and campaign by political parties.**

- (1) For the purpose of this Bill, the period of campaigning in public by every political party shall commence 150 days before polling day and end 24 hours prior to that day.
- (2) A registered political party which through any person acting on its behalf during the 24 hours before polling day —
  - (a) advertises on the facilities of any broadcasting undertaking; or
  - (b) procures for publication or acquiesces in the publication of an advertisement in a Newspaper, for the purpose of promoting or opposing a particular candidate, commits an offence under this Bill and is liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of ₦500,000.00  
(Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency).

*Question that Clause 99 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 100: Campaign for election.**

- (1) A candidate and his or her party shall campaign for the elections in accordance with such rules and regulations as may be determined by the Commission.
- (2) State apparatus including the media shall not be employed to the advantage or disadvantage of any political party or candidate at any election.
- (3) Media time shall be allocated equally among the political parties or candidates at similar hours of the day.
- (4) At any public electronic media, equal airtime shall be allotted to all political parties or candidates during prime times at similar hours each day, subject to the payment of appropriate fees.
- (5) At any public print media, equal coverage and visibility shall be allotted to all political parties.
- (6) Any person who contravenes subsections (3) and (4) commits an offence and is liable on conviction, in a case of —
  - (a) a public media, to a fine of ₦2,000,000.00 in the first instance and ₦5,000,000.00 for subsequent conviction; and



- (b) principal officers and other officers of the media house, to a fine of ₦1,000,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of six months (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 100 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

***Committee's Recommendation:***

**Clause 101: Prohibition of broadcast, etc. 24 hours preceding or on polling day.**

- (1) A person, print or electronic medium that broadcasts, publishes, advertises or circulates any material for the purpose of promoting or opposing a particular political party or the election of a particular candidate over the radio, television, newspaper, magazine, handbills, or any print or electronic media whatsoever called within twenty four hours immediately preceding or on polling day commits an offence under this Bill.
- (2) Where an offence under subsection (1) is committed by a body corporate, the principal officers of that body shall be deemed to have equally committed the same offence.
- (3) A person convicted of an offence under this section is liable —
- (a) in the case of a body corporate to a maximum fine of ₦1,000,000.00; and
- (b) in the case of an individual to a maximum fine of ₦1,000,000.00 or to imprisonment for a term of six months or both (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 101 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

***Committee's Recommendation:***

**Clause 102: Campaign based on religion, tribe, etc.**

- (1) A candidate, person or association who engages in campaigning or broadcasting based on religious, tribal, or sectional reason for the purpose of promoting or opposing a particular political party or the election of a particular candidate, commits an offence under this Bill and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦1,000,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months or both.
- (2) In the case of political party to a maximum fine of ₦10,000,000.00 (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 102 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**PART VI — PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION TO AREA COUNCIL**

***Committee's Recommendation:***

**Clause 103: Powers of the Commission.**

- (1) The conduct of elections into the offices of Chairman, Vice Chairman and a member of an Area Council and the recall of a member of an Area Council shall be under the direction and supervision of the Commission in accordance with the provisions of this Bill.
- (2) The register of voters compiled and the polling units established by the Commission and any other regulations, guidelines, rules or manuals issued or made by the Commission shall be used for elections into the Area Councils or recall of a member (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 103 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 104: Election to offices of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Councilors.**

- (1) There shall be elected for each Area Council in the Federal Capital Territory a Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
- (2) There shall be a Councilor for each Electoral Ward in an Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 104 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 105: Division of Area Council into Registration Area.**

- (1) Subject to the provision of this section, the Commission shall divide each Area Council into Registration Areas or Electoral Wards not being less than 10 and not more than 20 as the circumstance of each Area Council may require.
- (2) The boundaries of each Registration Area or Electoral Ward shall be such that the number of inhabitants of the "Registration Area or Electoral Ward is as nearly equal to the population quota as is reasonably practicable.
- (3) The Commission shall review the division of every Area Council at intervals of not less than 10 years and may alter such Registration Area or Electoral Ward in accordance with subsection (1) to such extent as it may consider desirable in the light of the review.
- (4) Notwithstanding subsection (3), the Commission may, at any time, carry out such a review and alter the Electoral Ward in accordance with the provisions of this section to such extent as it considers necessary in consequence of any amendment to section 3 of the Constitution or any provision replacing that provision or by reason of the holding of a National Population Census or pursuant to an Act of the National Assembly (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 105 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 106: Qualification.**

A person shall be qualified for election under this part of this Bill if he or she —

- (a) is a citizen of Nigeria;
- (b) is registered as a voter;
- (c) has attained the age of 25 years for Councillor and 30 years for Chairman and Vice Chairman;
- (d) is educated up to at least School Certificate level or its equivalent; and
- (e) is a member of a political party and is sponsored by that party (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 106 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 107: Disqualification.**

- (1) A person shall not be qualified to contest an Area Council election under this Bill if —
  - (a) subject to the provisions of section 28 of the Constitution, he or she has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of a country other than Nigeria or, except in such cases as may be prescribed by the National Assembly, has made a declaration of allegiance to such a country;
  - (b) he or she is adjudged to be a lunatic or otherwise declared to be of unsound mind under any law in force in any part of Nigeria;
  - (c) he or she is under a sentence of death imposed on him or her by any competent court of law or tribunal in Nigeria;
  - (d) within a period of less than 10 years before the date of an election to the Area Council, he or she has been convicted and sentenced for an offence involving dishonesty or he or she has been found guilty of contravention of the Code of Conduct;
  - (e) he or she is an undischarged bankrupt, having been adjudged or otherwise declared bankrupt under any law in force in any part of Nigeria;
  - (f) he or she is a person employed in the public service of the Federation or of any State or Area Council (other than a person holding elective office) and he or she has not resigned, withdrawn or retired from such employment 30 days before the date of election;
  - (g) he or she is a member of any secret society;
  - (h) he or she has within the preceding period of 10 years presented a forged certificate to the Commission;
  - (i) he or she has been dismissed from the public service of the Federation, State, Local Government or Area council; or
  - (j) he or she has been elected to such office at any two previous elections in the case of Chairman.
- (2) Where in respect of any person who has been-
  - (a) adjudged to be a lunatic;
  - (b) declared to be of unsound mind;
  - (c) sentenced to death or imprisonment; or
  - (d) adjudged or declared bankrupt, any appeal against the decision is pending in any court of law in accordance with any law in force in Nigeria, subsection (1) shall not apply during a period beginning from the date when such appeal is lodged and ending on the date when the appeal is finally determined or as the case may be, the appeal lapses or is abandoned, whichever is earlier.

- (3) For the purpose of subsection (2), an "appeal" includes any application for an injunction or an order of certiorari, mandamus, prohibition, or habeas corpus, or any appeal from any such application (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 107 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 108: Date of Area Council elections and method of voting.**

- (1) Election into all the Area Councils shall be held on the same date and day throughout the Federal Capital Territory.
- (2) Bye-elections to fill vacancies that occur in Area Councils shall be held within 30 days from the date the vacancy occurred.
- (3) The date mentioned in subsection (1) shall not be earlier than one hundred and fifty days before and not later than 30 days before the expiration of the term of office of the last holder of that office.
- (4) Where a vacancy occurs more than three months before the day the Area Council stands dissolved there shall be a bye-election to fill the vacancy not later than 30 days from the date the vacancy occurred.
- (5) Voting shall be by open-secret ballot (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 108 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 109: Procedure for Area Council elections.**

The procedure for filing nominations and the casting and counting of votes for Area Council elections shall be the same as is applicable to other elections under this Bill (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 109 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 110: Procedure for nomination, etc.**

- (1) If after the expiration of time for the delivery of nomination papers and the withdrawal of candidates for election of Councillors under this Bill only one candidate remains duly nominated, that candidate shall be declared returned unopposed.
- (2) If after the expiration of time for the delivery of Nomination Papers and the withdrawal of candidates for election of Councillors under this section more than one candidate remains duly nominated, a poll shall be taken in accordance with the provisions of this Bill.
- (3) Where at the close of nomination for election to the office of Chairman, only one candidate —
  - (a) has been nominated; or
  - (b) remains nominated by reason of the disqualification, withdrawal, incapacitation, disappearance, or death of the other candidate, the Commission shall extend the time for nomination by seven days:

Provided that where after the extension, only one candidate remains validly nominated there shall be no further extension (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 110 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 111: Election of Area Council Chairman.**

- (1) A candidate for an election to the Office of Chairman shall be deemed to have been duly elected to the office where being the only candidate nominated for the election he or she has —
- (a) a majority of YES votes over NO votes cast at the election; and
  - (b) not less than one-third of the votes cast at the election in each of at least two-thirds of all the wards in the Area Council:

Provided that where the only candidate fails to be elected in accordance with this subsection then there shall be fresh nomination.

- (2) A candidate for an election to the office of the Chairman shall be deemed to have been elected where there being only two candidates for the election he has —
- (a) a majority of the votes cast at the election; and
  - (b) not less than one-quarter of the votes cast at the election in each of at least two-thirds of all the wards in the Area Council, as the case may be.
- (3) If no candidate is duly elected under subsection (2) of this section, the Commission shall within 14 days conduct a second election between the 2 candidates, and the candidate who scored the majority of votes cast at the election shall be deemed duly elected at the election.
- (4) A candidate for an election to the office of Chairman shall be deemed to have been duly elected where, there being more than two candidates for the election —
- (a) he or she has the highest number of votes cast at the election; and
  - (b) he or she has not less than one-quarter of the votes cast at the election in each of at least two-thirds of all wards in the Area Council, as the case may be.
- (5) If no candidate is duly elected in accordance with subsection (4) of this section, there shall be a second election in accordance with subsection (6) at which the only candidates shall be —
- (a) the candidate who scored the highest number of votes at the election held under subsection (4); and
  - (b) one among the remaining candidates who has the majority of votes in the highest number of wards so however that where there are more than one candidate, the one among them with the highest total

number of votes cast at the election shall be the second candidate for the election.

- (6) In default of a candidate duly elected under the foregoing subsections, the Commission shall within 14 days of the result of the election held under the said subsections arrange for another election between the two candidates and a candidate at such an election shall be deemed to have been duly elected to the office of a Chairman of the Area Council if he or she has —
- (a) a majority of the votes cast at the election; and
  - (b) not less than one-quarter of the votes cast at the election in each of at least two-thirds of all the wards in the Area Council, as the case may be.
- (7) If no candidate is duly elected under subsection (6), arrangements shall be made within 14 days of the result of the previous election, for another election between the two candidates specified in subsection (6), and a candidate at this last election shall be deemed duly elected to the office of Chairman of the Area Council if he scores a simple majority of votes cast at the election (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 111 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 112: Death of Chairman before oath of office.**

- (1) If a person duly elected as Chairman dies before taking and subscribing to the Oath of Allegiance and Oath of Office, the person elected with him or her as Vice-Chairman shall be sworn in as Chairman who shall then nominate and with the approval of a majority of the members of the Area Legislative Council appoint a new Vice-Chairman.
- (2) Where the Vice-Chairman is appointed from among the Councilors as the new Vice-Chairman, the Commission shall conduct a bye-election to fill the vacant seat created in the Ward from which the new Vice-Chairman has been appointed.
- (3) Where the persons duly elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of an Area Council die before taking and subscribing the Oath of Allegiance and Oath of Office during which period the Area Council has not been inaugurated the Commission shall within 21 days conduct an election to fill the vacancies.
- (4) If after the commencement of poll and before the announcement of the final result and declaration of a winner, a nominated candidate dies —
  - (a) the Commission shall, being satisfied of the fact of the death, suspend the election for a period not exceeding 21 days; and
  - (b) in the case of election into a legislative House, the election shall start afresh and the political party whose candidate died may, if it intends to continue to participate in the election, conduct a fresh primary within 14 days of the death of its candidate and submit the name of a new candidate to the Commission to replace the dead candidate:

Provided that in the case of Area Council Chairmanship election, the running mate of the deceased candidate shall continue with the election and nominate a new running mate (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 112 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 113: Dissolution of Area Council.**

- (1) An Area Council shall stand dissolved at the expiration of a period of four years commencing from the date when the —
  - (a) Chairman took the oath of office; or
  - (b) legislative arm of the council was inaugurated, whichever is earlier.
- (2) In the determination of the four years term, where a re-run election has taken place and the person earlier sworn in wins the re-run election, the time spent in office before the date the election was annulled, shall be taken into account (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 113 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 114: Vacation of seat of members.**

- (1) A member of an Area Council shall vacate his or her seat in the Council —
  - (a) on the date given in his or her letter of resignation;
  - (b) if he or she takes up full time paid employment at any level of the government or in the private sector;
  - (c) if he or she becomes a member of a secret society or does any other thing disqualifying him or her from holding the office of Chairman or Councillors under this Bill; or
  - (d) if the Leader of the Area Legislative Council receives a certificate under the hand of the Commission stating that the provisions of section 116 of this Bill have been complied with in respect of the recall of that member.
- (2) The Leader of the Area Legislative Council shall give effect to subsection (1), so that the Leader shall first present evidence satisfactory to the Area Council that any of the provisions of that subsection has become applicable in respect of that member (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 114 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 115: Removal of Chairman or Vice-Chairman.**

- (1) The Chairman or Vice-Chairman may be removed from office in accordance with the provision of this section.

- (2) Whenever a notice of any allegation of gross misconduct in writing signed by not less than one-third of the members of the Area Legislative Council stating that the holder of the office of Chairman or Vice-Chairman is guilty of misconduct in the performance of the functions of his office, detailed particulars of which shall be specified are presented to the Speaker of the Area Legislative Council.
- (3) The Leader of the Area Legislative Council shall, within seven days of the notice, cause a copy of the notice to be served on the holder of the office and on each member of the Area Legislative Council and shall also cause any statement made in reply to the allegation by the holder of the office to be served on each member of the Area Legislative Council.
- (4) Within 14 days of the presentation of the notice (whether or not any statement was made by the holder of the office in reply to the allegation contained in notice), the Area Legislative Council, shall resolve by motion without any debate whether or not the allegation shall be investigated.
- (5) A motion of the Area Legislative Council that the allegation be investigated shall not be declared as having been passed unless it is supported by the votes of not less than two-thirds majority of all the members of the Area Legislative Council.
- (6) Within seven days of the passing of a motion under subsection (4), the leader of the Area Legislative Council shall inform the Chief Judge of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, who shall appoint a Panel of seven persons who in the opinion of the Chief Judge are of unquestionable integrity not being members of —
  - (a) any public or civil service;
  - (b) a legislative house; or
  - (c) a political party, to investigate the allegation as provided in this section.
- (7) The holder of an office whose conduct is being investigated under this section shall have the right to defend his or herself in person or be represented before the Panel by a legal practitioner of his or her own choice.
- (8) A Panel appointed under this section shall —
  - (a) have such powers and exercise its functions in accordance with such procedure as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly; and
  - (b) within three months of its appointment, report its findings to the Area Legislative Council.
- (9) Where the Panel reports to the Area Legislative Council that the allegation has not been proven, no further proceedings shall be taken in respect of the matter.
- (10) Where the report of the Panel is that the allegation against the holder of the office has been proved, then within 14 days of the receipt of the report, the Area Legislative Council shall consider the report and if by a resolution of



the Area Council supported by not less than two-thirds majority of all its members the report of the Panel is adopted, then the holder of the office shall stand removed from office as from the date of the adoption of the report (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 115 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 115A: Permanent incapacity of Chairman or Vice-Chairman of an Area Council.**

- (1) The Chairman or Vice-Chairman of an Area Council shall cease to hold office if —
  - (a) by resolution passed by two-thirds majority of all members of the Executive Council of the Area Council, it is declared that the Chairman or Vice-Chairman is incapable of discharging the functions of his or her office; and
  - (b) the declaration in paragraph (a) is verified, after such medical examination panel established under subsection (4) in its report to the Speaker to the Area Legislative Council.
- (2) Where the medical panel certifies in its report that, in its opinion, the Chairman or Vice-Chairman is suffering from such infirmity of body or mind as renders him permanently incapable of discharging the functions of his office, a notice signed by the Speaker of the Area Legislative Council shall be published in the Official Gazette of the Area Council.
- (3) The Chairman or Vice-Chairman shall cease to hold office as from the date of publication of the notice of the medical report pursuant to subsection (2).
- (4) The medical panel to which this section relates shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Area Legislative Council and shall consist of five medical practitioners in Nigeria —
  - (a) one of whom shall be the personal physician of the holder of the office concerned; and
  - (b) four other medical practitioners who have, in the opinion of the Speaker of the Area Legislative Council, attained a high degree of eminence in the field of medicine relative to the nature of examination to be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this section.
- (5) In this section, the reference to "Executive Council of the Area Council" is a reference to the body of Supervisory Councilors of the Area Council, established by the Chairman and charged with such responsibility for the functions of government as the Chairman may direct" (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 115A stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 115B: Discharge of functions of Chairman or Vice-Chairman of an Area Council.**

- (1) The Vice Chairman of an Area Council shall hold the office of the Chairman of the Area Council if the office of the Chairman becomes vacant by reason of death, resignation, permanent incapacity or removal of the Chairman from office for any other reason in accordance with section 110 or 111 of this Bill.
- (2) Where any vacancy occurs in the circumstances mentioned in subsection (1) during a period when the office of Vice-Chairman of the Area Council is also vacant, the Speaker of the Area Legislative Council shall hold office of the Chairman of the Area Council for a period of not less than three months, during which there shall be an election of a new Chairman of the Area Council who shall hold office for the unexpired term of office of the last holder of the office.
- (3) Where the office of the Vice-Chairman becomes vacant —
  - (a) by reason of death, resignation, permanent incapacity or removal in accordance with section 110 or 111 of this Bill,
  - (b) by his assumption of the office of Chairman of an Area Council in accordance with subsection (1), or
  - (c) for any reason, the Chairman shall nominate and, with the approval of the legislative arm of the Area Council, appoint a new Vice-Chairman (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 115B stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 116: Recall.**

A member of an area council may be recalled as a member if —

- (a) there is presented to the chairman of the commission a petition in that behalf signed by not less than one-half of the persons registered to vote in that member's constituency alleging their loss of confidence in that member and which signatures are duly verified by the independent national electoral commission; and
- (b) the petition is thereafter approved in a referendum conducted by the commission within 90 days of the date of the receipt of the petition by a simple majority of the votes of the persons registered to vote in that member's constituency (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 116 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

## PART VIII — ELECTORAL OFFENCES

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 117: Offences in relation to registration, etc.**

A person who —

- (a) without authority, destroys, mutilates, defaces or remove or makes any alteration in any notice or document required for the purpose of registration under this Bill;
- (b) presents his or herself to be or does any act whereby he or she is by whatever name or description howsoever, included in the register of voters for a constituency in which he or she is not entitled to be registered or causes his or herself to be registered in more than one registration or revision centre;
- (c) publishes any statement or report which he or she knows to be false or does not believe to be true so as to prevent persons who are qualified to register from registering as voters;
- (d) makes in any record, register or document which he or she is required to prepare, publish or keep for the purpose of registration, any entry or statement which he or she knows to be false or does not believe to be true;
- (e) impedes or obstructs a Registration Officer or a Revision Officer in the performance of his or her duties;
- (f) without proper authority, wears the identification of a registration officer or assistant registration officer or wears any other identification purporting to be the identification of a registration officer or assistant registration officer;
- (g) forges a registration card; or
- (h) carries out registration or revision of voters at a centre or place not designated by the Commission, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦1,000,000.00 or to imprisonment for a term of 12 months or both (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 117 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 118: Offences in respect of nomination, etc.**

- (1) A person who —
  - (a) forges any nomination paper or result form;
  - (b) willfully defaces or destroys any nomination paper or result form;
  - (c) delivers to an electoral officer any nomination paper or result form knowing it to be forged;
  - (d) signs a nomination paper or result form as a candidate in more than one constituency at the same election;
  - (e) forges any ballot paper or official mark on any ballot paper or any certificate of return or result form;
  - (f) willfully destroys any ballot paper or official mark on any ballot paper or any certificate of return or result form;
  - (g) without authority gives a ballot paper or result form to any person;

- (h) willfully places in any ballot box any unauthorised paper or result form;
  - (i) willfully removes from a polling station any ballot paper or result form whether or not the ballot paper or result form was issued to him or her in that polling station;
  - (j) without authority destroys or in any other manner interferes with a ballot box or its contents or any ballot paper or result form then in use or likely to be used for the purpose of an election;
  - (k) signs a nomination paper consenting to be a candidate at an election knowing that he or she is ineligible to be a candidate at that election, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum term of imprisonment for 2 years.
- (2) A person who —
- (a) without proper authority prints a ballot paper or what purports to be or is capable of being used as a ballot paper or result form at an election;
  - (b) being authorised by the Commission to print ballot papers or result form prints more than the number or quantity the Commission authorised;
  - (c) without authority, is found in possession of a ballot paper or result form when he or she is not in the process of voting and at a time when the election for which the ballot paper or result form is intended is not yet completed;
  - (d) manufactures, constructs, imports into Nigeria, has in his or her possession, supplies to any election official or uses for the purpose of an election, or causes to be manufactured, constructed or imported into Nigeria, supplies to any election official for use for the purpose of any election, any ballot box including any compartment, appliance, voting device or mechanism or by which a ballot paper or result form may or could be secretly placed or stored in, or having been deposited during polling may be secretly diverted, misplaced or manipulated, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦50,000,000.00 or imprisonment for a term not less than 10 years or both.
- (3) An attempt to commit any offence under this section shall be punishable in the same manner as the offence itself (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 118 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 119: Disorderly behavior at political meetings.**

Any person who, at a political meeting —

- (a) acts or incites another to act in a disorderly manner for the purpose of preventing the transaction of the business for which the meeting was convened; or

- (b) has in his possession an offensive weapon or missiles; commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦500,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months or both (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 119 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 120: Improper use of voters cards.**

Any person who —

- (a) being entitled to a voters card, gives it to some other person for use at an election other than an officer appointed and acting in the course of his or her duty under this Bill;
- (b) not being an officer acting in the course of his or her duty under this Bill, receives any voters card in the name of some other person or persons for use at an election uses it fraudulently;
- (c) without lawful excuse has in his possession more than one voters card; or
- (d) buys, sells, procures or deals, with a voters card otherwise than as provided in this Bill, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦1,000,000 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months or both (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 120 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 121: Improper use of vehicles.**

- (1) No person shall provide for the purpose of conveying any other person to a registration office or to a polling unit any government vehicle or boat, or any vehicle or boat belonging to a public corporation except in respect of a person who is ordinarily entitled to use such vehicle or boat and in emergency in respect of an electoral officer.
- (2) Any person who contravenes the provisions of this section, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦500,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of six months or both (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 121 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 122: Impersonation and voting when not qualified.**

(1) Any person who —

- (a) applies to be included in any list of voters in the name of some other person, whether such name is that of a person living or dead or of a fictitious person;
- (b) having once to his or her knowledge been improperly included in a list of voters under this Bill as a voter entitled to vote at any election, applies, except as authorised by this Bill, to be included in any other list of voters prepared for any constituency as a voter at an election;

- (c) applies for a ballot paper in the name of some other person, whether such name is that of a person living or dead or of a fictitious person;
  - (d) having voted once at an election applies at the same election for another ballot paper;
  - (e) votes or attempts to vote at an election knowing that he or she is not qualified to vote at the election; or
  - (f) induces or procures any other person to vote at an election knowing that such other person is not qualified to vote at the election, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦500,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months or both.
- (2) Any person who commits the offence of impersonation or who aids, abets, counsels or procures the commission of that offence, is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦500,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months or both (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 122 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 123: Dereliction of duty.**

- (1) Any officer appointed for the purposes of this Bill, who without lawful excuse commits any act or omits to act in breach of his or her official duty commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦500,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months or both.
- (2) Any Polling official who fails to report promptly at his or her polling unit on an election day without lawful excuse commits an offence of dereliction of duty and is liable on conviction to maximum fine of ₦500,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months or both.
- (3) Any polling agent, political party or party agent who conspires to make false declaration of result of an election commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦500,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months or both.
- (4) Any person who announces or publishes an election result knowing same to be false or which is at variance with the signed certificate of return commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of 36 months.
- (5) Any Returning Officer or Collation Officer who delivers or causes to be delivered a false certificate of return knowing same to be false, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a maximum of three years without an option of fine.
- (6) Any person who delivers or causes to be delivered a false certificate of return knowing same to be false to any news media commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of three years (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 123 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 124: Bribery and conspiracy.**

- (1) Any person who does any of the following —
  - (a) directly or indirectly, by his or herself or by any other person on his or her behalf, corruptly makes any gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement or agreement to or for any person, in order to induce such person to procure or to endeavour to procure the return of any person as a member of a legislative house or to an elective office or the vote of any voter at any election;
  - (b) upon or in consequence of any gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement or agreement corruptly procures, or engages or promises or endeavours to procure, the return of any person as a member of a legislative house or to an elective office or the vote of any voter at any election;
  - (c) advances or pays or causes to be paid any money to or for the use of any other person, with the intent that such money or any part thereof shall be expended in bribery at any election, or who knowingly pays or causes to be paid any money to any person in discharge or repayment of any money wholly or in part expended in bribery at any election;
  - (d) after any election directly, or indirectly, by his or herself, or by any other person on his or her behalf receives any money or valuable consideration on account of any person having voted or refrained from voting, or having induced any other person to vote or refrain from voting or having induced any candidate to refrain from canvassing for votes for his or herself at any such election, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦500,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months or both.
- (2) A voter commits an offence of bribery where before or during an election directly or indirectly by his or herself or by any other person on his or her behalf, receives, agrees or contracts for any money, gift, loan, or valuable consideration, office, place or employment, for his or herself, or for any other person, for voting or agreeing to vote or for refraining or agreeing to refrain from voting at any such election.
- (3) Nothing in this section shall extend or apply to money paid or agreed to be paid for or on account of any lawful expenses bona fide incurred at or concerning any election.
- (4) Any person who commits the offence of bribery is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦500,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months or both.
- (5) Any person who conspires, aids or abets any other person to commit any of the offences under this part of this Bill commits the same offence and is liable to the same punishment thereto.
- (6) For the purposes of this Bill, a candidate shall be deemed to have committed an offence if it was committed with his or her knowledge and consent (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 124 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 125: Requirement of secrecy in voting.**

- (1) Every person in attendance at a polling unit including every officer charged with the conduct of an election and his or her assistants and every polling agent and candidate in attendance at a polling station or at the collation centre, as the case may be, shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of the voting.
- (2) No person in attendance at a polling booth under this section shall, except for some purpose authorised by law, communicate to any person information as to the name or number on the register of any voter who has or has not voted at the place of voting.
- (3) No person shall —
  - (a) interfere with a voter casting his or her vote, or by any other means obtain or attempt to obtain in a polling unit information as to the candidate for whom a voter in that place is about to vote for or has voted for; or
  - (b) communicate at any time to any other person information obtained in a polling unit as to the candidate to whom a voter is about to vote or has voted for.
- (4) Any person acting contrary to the provisions of this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦100,000.00 or to imprisonment for a term of three months or both (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 125 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 126: Wrongful voting and false statements.**

Any person who —

- (a) votes at an election or induces or procures any person to vote at an election, knowing that he or she or such person is prohibited from voting at the election;
- (b) before or during an election, publishes any statement of the withdrawal of a candidate at such election knowing it to be false or reckless as to its truth or falsity; or
- (c) before or during an election publishes any statement as to the personal character or conduct of a candidate calculated to prejudice the chance of election of the candidate or to promote or procure the election of another candidate and such statement is false and was published without reasonable grounds for belief by the person publishing it that the statement is true, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦100,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of six months or both (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 126 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*



**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 127: Voting by unregistered person.**

- (1) Any person who knowingly votes or attempts to vote in a constituency in respect of which his or her name is not on the register of voters commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦100,000.00 or to imprisonment for a term of six months or both.
- (2) Any person who knowingly brings into a polling unit during an election a voter's card issued to another person commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of ₦100,000.00 or to imprisonment for a term of six months or both (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 127 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 128: Disorderly conduct at elections.**

Any person who at an election acts or incites others to act in a disorderly manner commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦500,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months or both (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 128 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 129: Offences on election day.**

- (1) No person shall do any of the following acts or things in a polling unit or within a distance of 300 metres of a polling unit on the date on which an election is held —
  - (a) canvass for votes;
  - (b) solicit for the vote of any voter;
  - (c) persuade any voter not to vote for any particular candidate;
  - (d) persuade any voter not to vote at the election;
  - (e) shout slogans concerning the election;
  - (f) be in possession of any offensive weapon or wear any dress or have any facial or other decoration which in any event is calculated to intimidate voters;
  - (g) exhibit, wear or tender any notice, symbol, photograph or party card referring to the election;
  - (h) use any vehicle bearing the colour or symbol of a political party by any means whatsoever;
  - (i) loiter without lawful excuse after voting or after being refused to vote;
  - (j) snatch or destroy any election materials; and
  - (k) blare siren.

- (2) No person shall within the vicinity of a polling unit or collation centre on the day of which an election is held —
- (a) convene, hold or attend any public meeting during the hours of poll as may be prescribed by the Commission;
  - (b) unless appointed under this Bill to make official announcements, operate any megaphone, amplifier or public address apparatus; or
  - (c) wear or carry any badge, poster, banner, flag or symbol relating to a political party or to the election.
- (3) A person who contravenes any of the provisions of this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of ₦100,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of six months for every such offence.
- (4) Any person who snatches or destroys any election material or any election device, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of 24 months (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 129 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 130: Undue influence.**

A person who —

- (a) corruptly by his or herself or by any other person at any time after the date of an election has been announced, directly or indirectly gives or provides or pays money to or for any person for the purpose of corruptly influencing that person or any other person to vote or refrain from voting at such election, or on account of such person or any other person having voted or refrained from voting at such election; or
- (b) being a voter, corruptly accepts or takes money or any other inducement during any of the period stated in paragraph (a), commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of ₦100,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months or both (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 130 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 131: Threatening.**

A person who —

- (a) directly or indirectly, by his or herself or by another person on his or her behalf, makes use of or threatens to make use of any force, violence or restraint;
- (b) inflicts or threatens to inflict by his or herself or by any other person, any minor or serious injury, damage, harm or loss on or against a person in order to induce or compel that person to vote or refrain from voting, or on account of such person having voted or refrained from voting;

- (c) by abduction, duress, or a fraudulent device or contrivance, impedes or prevents the free use of the vote by a voter or thereby compels, induces, or prevails on a voter to give or refrain from giving his vote; or
- (d) prevents any political aspirant from free use of the media, designated vehicles, mobilization of political support and campaign at an election, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of ₦1,000,000 or imprisonment for a term of three years (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 131 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 132: Offences relating to recall.**

The offences referred to in this Bill shall apply to recall of a member of a Legislative House and a member of an Area Council mutatis mutandis (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 132 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

PART VIII — DETERMINATION OF ELECTION  
PETITIONS ARISING FROM ELECTIONS

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 133: Proceedings to question an election.**

- (1) No election and return at an election under this Bill shall be questioned in any manner other than by a petition complaining of an undue election or undue return (in this Bill referred to as an "election petition") presented to the competent tribunal or court in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution or of this Bill, and in which the person elected or returned is joined as a party.
- (2) In this part "tribunal or court" means —
  - (a) in the case of Presidential election, the court of Appeal; and
  - (b) in the case of any other elections under this Bill, the election tribunal established under the Constitution or by this Bill.
- (3) The election tribunals shall —
  - (a) be constituted not later than 30 days before the election; and
  - (b) when constituted, open their registries for business seven days before the election (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 133 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 134: Establishment of Area Council Election Tribunal.**

- (1) There is established for the Federal Capital Territory one or more Election Tribunals (in this Bill referred to as "the Area Council Election Tribunal") which shall, to the exclusion of any other court or tribunal, have original jurisdiction to hear and determine any question as to whether —

- (a) any person has been validly elected to the office of Chairman, Vice-Chairman or Councillor;
  - (b) the term of office of any person elected to the office of Chairman, Vice-Chairman or Councillor has ceased;
  - (c) the seat of a member of an Area Council has become vacant; and
  - (d) a question or petition brought before the Area Council Election Tribunal has been properly or improperly brought.
- (2) An Area Council Election Tribunal shall consist of a Chairman and two other members.
  - (3) The Chairman shall be a Chief Magistrate and two other members shall be appointed from among Magistrates of the Judiciary of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and legal practitioners of at least 10 years post-call experience, non-legal practitioners of unquestionable integrity or other members of the Judiciary of the Federal Capital Territory not below the rank of a Magistrate.
  - (4) The Chairman and other members of the Area Council Election Tribunal shall be appointed by the Chief Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.
  - (5) The Area Council Election tribunal shall —
    - (a) be constituted not later than 21 days before the election; and
    - (b) when constituted, open their registries for business not later than eight days before the election.
  - (6) An Area Council Election Tribunal shall deliver its judgement in writing within 90 days from the date of filing of the petition (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 134 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

***Committee's Recommendation:***

**Clause 135: Establishment of Area Council Election Appeal Tribunal.**

- (1) There shall be established for the Federal Capital Territory the Area Council Election Appeal Tribunal which shall to the exclusion of any other court or tribunal hear and determine appeals arising from the decision of the Area Council Election Petition Tribunal.
- (2) The decision of the Area Council Election Appeal Tribunal in respect of Area Council elections shall be final.
- (3) An Area Council Election Appeal Tribunal shall consist of a Chairman and two other members and the Chairman shall be a Judge of the High Court and the two other members shall be appointed from among Judges of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Kadis of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Judges of the Customary Court of Appeal or other members of the Judiciary of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja not below the rank of a Chief Magistrate.

- (4) The quorum of an Area Council Election Tribunal shall be the Chairman and one other member.
- (5) The Chairman and other members of the Area Council Election Appeal Tribunal shall be appointed by the Chief Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.
- (6) The Area Council Election Appeal Tribunal shall —
  - (a) be constituted not later than 14 days before the election; and
  - (b) when constituted, open their registries for business not later than 30 days after the election.
- (7) The quorum of the Area Council Election Appeal Tribunal when hearing any appeal from decisions of the Area Council Election Tribunal shall be all three members of the Appeal Tribunal.
- (8) An election petition shall be filed within 21 days after the date of the declaration of result of the elections.
- (9) The Tribunal shall deliver a judgement in writing within 180 days from the date of the filing of the petition.
- (10) An appeal from a decision of an Area Council Election Tribunal shall be heard and disposed of within 60 days from the date of the delivery of judgement of the Tribunal.
- (11) The court in all appeals from election tribunal may adopt the practice of first giving its decision and reserving the reason to a later date (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 135 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 136: Persons entitled to present election petitions.**

- (1) An election petition may be presented by one or more of the following persons —
  - (a) a candidate in an election; or
  - (b) a political party which participated in the election.
- (2) A person whose election is complained of is, in this Bill, referred to as the respondent.
- (3) If the petitioner complains of the conduct of an Electoral Officer, a Presiding or Returning Officer, it shall not be necessary to join such officers or persons notwithstanding the nature of the complaint and the Commission shall, in this instance, be —
  - (a) made a respondent; and
  - (b) deemed to be defending the petition for itself and on behalf its officers or such other persons (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 136 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 137: Grounds of petition.**

- (1) An election may be questioned on any of the following grounds —
  - (a) a person whose election is questioned was, at the time of the election, not qualified to contest the election;
  - (b) the election was invalid by reason of corrupt practices or non-compliance with the provisions of this Bill; or
  - (c) the respondent was not duly elected by majority of lawful votes cast at the election.
- (2) An act or omission which may be contrary to an instruction or directive of the Commission or of an officer appointed for the purpose of the election but which is not contrary to the provisions of this Bill shall not of itself be a ground for questioning the election.
- (3) With respect to subsection (1) (a), a person is deemed to be qualified for an elective office and his election shall not be questioned on grounds of qualification if, with respect to the particular election in question, he meets the applicable requirements of sections 65, 106, 131 or 177 of the Constitution and he is not, as may be applicable, in breach of sections 66, 107, 137 or 182 of the Constitution (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 137 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 138: Certain defects not to invalidate election.**

- (1) An Election shall not be liable to be invalidated by reason of non-compliance with the provisions of this Bill if it appears to the Election Tribunal or Court that the election was conducted substantially in accordance with the principles of this Bill and that the non-compliance did not affect substantially the result of the election.
- (2) An election shall not be liable to be questioned by reason of a defect in the title or want of title of the person conducting the election or acting in the office provided such a person has the right or authority of the Commission to conduct the election.
- (3) No election shall be questioned or cancelled by reason that there is a mistake, conflict or inconsistency in the date contained in the result of such election signed by a Returning Officer or any other officer of the Commission (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 138 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 139: Nullification of election by Tribunal or Court.**

- (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), if the Tribunal or the Court as the case may be, determines that a candidate who was returned as elected was not validly elected on any ground, the Tribunal or Court shall nullify the election

and order the Commission to conduct a fresh election not later than 90 days after the —

- (a) decision if an appeal is not filed against the decision; or
  - (b) nullification of the election by the court having final appellate jurisdiction in respect of the said election.
- (2) Where an election Tribunal or Court nullifies an election on the ground that the person who obtained the highest votes at the election was not qualified to contest the election, the election Tribunal or Court shall declare the person with the second highest number of valid votes cast at the election who satisfies the requirements of the Constitution and this Bill as duly elected:
- Provided that the person with the second highest number of valid votes cast at the election remains a member of the political party on which platform he contested the election; otherwise, the candidate with the next highest number of votes in the election and who satisfies the same conditions herein shall be declared the winner of the election.
- (3) If the Tribunal or the Court determines that a candidate who was returned as elected was not validly elected on the ground that he did not score the majority of valid votes cast at the election, the Election Tribunal or the Court, as the case may be, shall declare as elected the candidate who scored the highest number of valid votes cast at the election and satisfied the requirements of the Constitution and this Bill.
- (4) All objections filed in an election petition shall be determined at the time of final judgment (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 139 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 140: Effect of Non-participation in an Election.**

It shall not be necessary for a party who alleges non-compliance with the provisions of this Bill for the conduct of elections to call oral evidence if originals or certified true copies manifestly disclose the non-compliance alleged (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 140 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 141: Accelerated hearing of election petitions.**

It shall not be necessary for a party who alleges non-compliance with the provisions of this Bill for the conduct of elections to call oral evidence if originals or certified true copies manifestly disclose the non-compliance alleged (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 141 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 142: Person elected to remain in office pending determination of appeal.**

- (1) Where the election is nullified by the Court and notice of appeal against the decision is given within the stipulated period for appeal, the elected candidate shall, notwithstanding the contrary decision of the court, remain

in office and enjoy all the benefits that accrued to the office pending the determination of the appeal and shall not be sanctioned for the benefits derived while in office.

- (2) If the Election Tribunal or the Court, as the case maybe, determines that a candidate returned as elected was not validly elected, the candidate returned as elected shall, notwithstanding the contrary decision of the Election Tribunal or the Court, remain in office pending the expiration of the period of 21 days within which an appeal may be brought (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 142 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 143: Legal representation of Commission, etc.**

- (1) Where the Commission has been joined as a respondent in an election petition, a Legal Officer of the Commission or a Legal Practitioner engaged by the Commission shall represent the Commission at the Tribunal or Court.
- (2) A private Legal Practitioner or Legal Officer engaged by the Commission under subsection (1) shall be entitled to be paid such professional fees or honorarium, as the case may be, to be determined by the Commission (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 143 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 144: Rules of procedure for election petition.**

- (1) The rules of procedure to be adopted for election petitions and appeals arising therefrom shall be as set out in the First Schedule to this Bill.
- (2) The President of the Court of Appeal may issue practice directions to the —
- (a) Court of Appeal, in respect of pre-election and post-election appeals; and
- (b) Election Tribunal, in respect of post-election matters (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 144 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

PART X — MISCELLANEOUS

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 145: Persons Disqualified from Acting as Election Officers.**

No person holding an elective office to which this Bill relates or a registered member of a political party shall be eligible for or be appointed to carry out the duties of a Returning Officer, an Electoral Officer, Presiding Officer or a poll clerk; and any officer appointed to carry out any of those duties shall be ineligible for nomination as a candidate for election while he or she continues to hold any such appointment (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 145 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*



**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 146: Election expenses by the Commission.**

- (1) The Commission may prescribe a scale of —
  - (a) remuneration for officers appointed under this Bill for the conduct of elections; and
  - (b) maximum charges in respect of other expenses incurred by an Electoral Officer, a Presiding Officer or a Returning Officer in connection with an election, and may revise the scale as it thinks fit or expedient.
- (2) An Electoral Officer, Presiding Officer, or Returning Officer shall, in addition to any remuneration prescribed under subsection (1) (a), be entitled to such sums in respect of expenses not exceeding the prescribed scale, in connection with the conduct of an election as are reasonable.
- (3) The Commission may pay such honoraria as it may determine to all other persons and officers who may be involved in one way or the other in conducting an election under this Bill, or in carrying out any task in connection with an election or election petition arising therefrom.
- (4) All fees and other remunerations approved under subsection (1) shall be paid from the Fund established under section 3 (1) and shall be paid in such manner as the Commission deems fit (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 146 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 147: Secrecy of ballot.**

No person who has voted in any election under this Bill shall, in any legal proceedings arising out of the election, be required to say for whom he or she voted (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 147 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 148: Prosecution of offence disclosed in election petition.**

The Commission shall consider any recommendation made to it by a tribunal with respect to the prosecution by it of any person for an offence disclosed in any election petition (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 148 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 149: Trial of offences.**

- (1) An offence committed under this Bill shall be triable in a Magistrate Court or a High Court of a State in which the offence is committed, or the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.
- (2) A prosecution under this Bill shall be undertaken by legal officers of the Commission or any Legal Practitioner appointed by it (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 149 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 150: Inspection of documents.**

- (1) An order for inspection of a polling document or any other document or packet in the custody of the Chief National Electoral Commissioner or any other officer of the Commission may be made by an Election Tribunal or a Court of competent jurisdiction if it is satisfied that the order required is for the purpose of instituting, maintaining or defending an election petition.
- (2) A document other than a document referred to in subsection (1) relating to an election and which is retained by the Chief National Electoral Commissioner or any other officer of the Commission in accordance with this section shall be open for inspection on an order made by the Election Tribunal or the Court in exercise of its powers to compel the production of documents in legal proceedings.
- (3) Where there is a breach of an order of the Election Tribunal or the Court directed at the Commission, particularly order to produce, inspect or take copies of electoral documents or materials, the Commission shall first be summoned to show cause why it cannot comply with the order to establish disobedience before it can be deemed to have disobeyed the order.
- (4) Such disobedience where established, shall attract court sanctions, which shall include the committal by the Tribunal or Court of the Commission's official to whom the order is directed to summary conviction to imprisonment for at least two years, without an option of fine (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 150 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 151: Delegation of powers of the Commission.**

Without prejudice to other provisions of this Bill, the Commission may delegate any of its powers and functions to any National Electoral commissioner, Resident Electoral Commissioner, Electoral Officer, any other officer of the Commission or any other officer appointed under the provision of this Bill subject to any conditions or limitations which it may consider necessary or expedient to impose and no such delegation shall be construed to limit the right of the Commission to exercise such power, itself (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 151 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 152: Regulations.**

The Commission may, subject to the provisions of this Bill, issue regulations, guidelines, or manuals for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of this Bill and for its administration (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 152 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 153: Civic education by the Commission.**

The Commission shall have power to conduct civic education and enlightenment in the print and electronic media to enhance its functions.

**Committee's Recommendation:**

Leave out the provision of Clause 153 (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 154: Validation.**

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Bill, any defect or error arising from any actions taken by an official of the Commission in relation to any notice, form or document made or given or other things done by the official in pursuance of the provisions of the Constitution or of this Bill, or any rules made thereunder remain valid, unless otherwise challenged and declared invalid by a competent Court of Law or Tribunal (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 154 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 155: Procedure for Local Government Election in furtherance of paragraph 11 of Part II of the Second Schedule to the Constitution.**

- (1) In furtherance of the provision of Paragraph 11 of Part II of the Second Schedule to the Constitution, the procedure regulating elections conducted by the Commission to Area Councils in the Federal Capital Territory under this Bill shall be the same and apply with equal force as the procedure regulating elections conducted to Local Government Areas by any State Commission.
- (2) For the purpose of subsection (1), a State Commission shall be deemed to have and exercise the powers of the Commission in respect of the procedure regulating elections to Area Councils under this Bill.
- (3) Any election to a Local Government Area that is conducted by a State Commission in violation of subsection (1) shall be invalid.
- (4) Any official of a State Commission who contravenes the provision of subsection (1) commits an offence and shall be subject to prosecution as if he were an official of the Commission who committed the same offence under this Bill (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 155 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 156: Interpretation.**

In this Bill —

"Area Council" means Area Councils recognised and existing by virtue of section 3 (6) of the Constitution and as set out in Part II of the First Schedule thereof and any additional Area Council provided by an Act of the National Assembly in accordance with the Provisions of the Constitution (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Area Council" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"appointment" includes appointment to an office, confirmation of appointment, promotion or transfer (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the word "appointment" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Aspirant" means a person who aspires or seeks or strives to contest an election to a political office (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the word "Aspirant" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Association" means a body of persons (corporate or otherwise) who agree to act together for any common purpose and includes an association formed for any ethnic, social, cultural, occupational or religious purpose (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the word "Association" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Attorney-General of the Federation" means the Chief Law Officer of the Federation (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Attorney-General of the Federation" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Area Councils" means Area Councils in the Federal Capital Territory (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Area Councils" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Authority" includes government or government agency and corporate bodies (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the word "Authority" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Campaigning in public" referred to in section 94 means the campaign that commences after the publication of the notice of election by the commission pursuant to section 28 of this Bill (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Campaigning in public" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"candidate" means a person who has secured the nomination of a political party to contest an election for any elective office (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the word "candidate" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Chief Electoral Commissioner" means the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Chief Electoral Commissioner" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Civil Servant" means a person employed in the civil service of the Federation or of a State or Local government as contained in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 as (amended) (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Civil Servant" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Clerk" means the Clerk of the National Assembly, Clerk of the State House of Assembly, and Clerk of the Legislative House of the Local Government or Area Council or any person acting in that capacity (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the word "Clerk" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Commission" means the Independent National Electoral Commission established by the Constitution (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the word "Commission" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Constitution" means the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the word "Constitution" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Conviction" means a pronouncement by a Court or Tribunal that a person is guilty of an offence under this Bill or under the provisions of the Constitution whether or not any punishment is imposed on the person as a result of the conviction. Conviction further includes admission by a person in writing, verbally, or by conduct that he is guilty, or have committed or aided and abetted the commission of the offence or crime concerned (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the word "Conviction" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Conduct" referred to in the latter is, for instance, where a person reimburses the sums of money or any parts of it obtained through corrupt practice in order to avoid prosecution (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the word "Conduct" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Decision" means in relation to court or tribunal, any determination of that court or tribunal and includes a judgment, decree, conviction, sentence, order or recommendation (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the word "Decision" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Direct Primaries" means an election at which candidates for elective office are chosen by direct vote of political party members instead of by delegates at a convention or congress (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Direct Primaries" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Election" means any election held under this Bill and includes a referendum (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the word "Election" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Electoral Officer" means a staff of the Commission who is the head of the Commission's office at a Local Government Area or Area Council level (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Electoral Officer" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Electronic format" refers to the electronic version of the Register of Voters or National Electronic Register of Election Results, as the case may be, created, recorded, transmitted or stored in digital form or in other intangible forms by electronic, magnetic or optical means or by any other means that has capabilities for creation, recording, transmission or storage similar to those means and which may be converted to or reproduced in a paper document (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Electronic format" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Federation" means the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the word "Federation" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Function" includes power and duty (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the word "Function" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"General Election" means an election held in the Federation at large which may be at all levels, and at regular intervals to select officers to serve after the expiration of the full terms of their predecessors (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words “General Election” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Government" includes the Government of the Federation, of a State or of a Local Government Area or Area Council, or any person or organ exercising power or authority on its behalf (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the word “Government” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"House" or "Legislative House" means the Senate, House of Representatives, House of Assembly of a State and includes the Legislative House of a Local Government Area or Area Council (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words “House” or “Legislative House” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Indirect Primaries" means an intra-party election where a political party's delegates to a party convention or congress elect the party's candidates (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words “Indirect Primaries” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Leader of an association" means every person holding an executive position in that association, including in particular, the Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer of the association and every member of its committee management, however described (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words “Leader of an association” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Leader of a political party" means every person holding an executive position in that political party, including in particular, the Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer of the political party and every member of its committee of management, however described (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words “Leader of a political party” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Legal incapacity" means a person disqualified under the Constitution or the present Act or any other Law, Rules and Regulations from registering as a voter or from contesting elections (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words “Legal incapacity” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Local Government" means Local Government recognised and existing by section 3(6) of the Constitution and set out in Parts I and II of the First Schedule and any additional Local Government provided for by an Act of the National Assembly in accordance with section 8 (5) of the Constitution (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words “Local Government” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — **Agreed to.***

"National Assembly" means the Senate and the House of Representatives (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words “National Assembly” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — **Agreed to.***

"number of accredited voters" means number of intending voters accredited to vote in an election (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words “number of accredited voters” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — **Agreed to.***

"offensive weapon or missile" includes any cannon, gun, rifle, carbine, revolver, pistol or any other firearm, bow and arrow, spear, cutlass, knife, dagger, axe, cudgel, or any other thing capable of being used as an offensive weapon or missile, including teargas, acid, and any inflammable substance capable of injuring a person (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words “offensive weapon or missile” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — **Agreed to.***

"Office" or "Public Office" means any of the offices the occupation to which is by election or appointment under this Bill (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words “Office” or “Public Office” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — **Agreed to.***

"person with disability" means —

- (a) a person who has received temporary or permanent Certificate of Disability to have condition which is expected to continue permanently or for a considerable length of time which can reasonably be expected to limit the person's functional ability substantially, but not limited to seeing, hearing, thinking, ambulating, climbing, descending, lifting, grasping, rising and includes any related function or any limitation due to weakness or significantly decreased endurance so that it cannot perform his everyday routine, leaving and working without significantly increased hardship and vulnerability to everyday obstacles and hazards; and
- (b) a person with long time physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairment which interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on equal basis with others (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words “person with disability” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — **Agreed to.***

"person with special needs" means person who requires assistance for disabilities that may be medical, mental, emotional, physical or psychological (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).



*Question that the meaning of the words “person with special needs” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — **Agreed to.***

"Petition" means an election petition under this Bill (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the word “Petition” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — **Agreed to.***

"Polling Agent" means a person representing a political party or its candidate at the polling unit, ward, Local Government, Federal constituency, Senatorial district, State or Federal collation centres (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words “Polling Agent” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — **Agreed to.***

"Polling unit" means the place, enclosure, booth, shade or house at which voting takes place under this Bill (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words “Polling unit” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — **Agreed to.***

"Political party" includes any association of persons whose activities includes canvassing for votes in support of a candidate for election under this Bill and registered by the Commission (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words “Political party” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — **Agreed to.***

"Power" includes function and duty (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the word “Power” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — **Agreed to.***

"President" means the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the word “President” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — **Agreed to.***

"Presiding Officer" means a person appointed by the Commission to be in charge of the conduct of election in a polling unit or polling station, and this shall include persons who may be under different titles but who are charged by the Commission with the same responsibilities at a polling unit or polling station as a Presiding Officer (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words “Presiding Officer” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — **Agreed to.***

"Primaries" or "primary election" mean intra-party election by voters of a given political party to nominate candidates for elective office in accordance with a political party's constitution and the law (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Primaries" or "primary election" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Registrar" includes Chief Registrar, Deputy Chief Registrar and Registrar of other grades of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, Federal High Court and the High Court of a State (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the word "Registrar" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Registration Officer" includes supervisory assistant registration officer and assistant registration officer (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Registration Officer" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Resident Electoral Commissioner" means the Commissioner deployed for the time being to a State (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Resident Electoral Commissioner" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Return" means the declaration by a Returning Officer of a candidate in an election under this Bill as being the winner of that election (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the word "Return" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Returning Officer" means a person appointed by the Commission to be in charge of the conduct of election in a constituency, and this includes persons who may be under different titles but who are charged by the Commission with the same responsibilities in a constituency as a Returning Officer (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Returning Officer" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"School Certificate" has the meaning as defined in the Constitution (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "School Certificate" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Secret Society" has the meaning as defined in the Constitution (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Secret Society" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"State" when used otherwise than in reference to one of the component parts of the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall include government of a State and all references in this Bill to a State in the Federation shall, where appropriate, be deemed to include references to the Federal Capital Territory (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the word "State" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"State Commission" means State Independent Electoral Commission created under section 197 of the Constitution (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "State Commission" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Vulnerable person" means a woman, child or person living under extreme poverty, person with disability, the sick and the elderly, refugee, internally displaced person, migrant, person in detention or ethnic and religious minority groups (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Vulnerable person" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Ward Collation Officer" means Registration Area Collation Officer (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Ward Collation Officer" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

*Question that Clause 156 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 157: Repeal of the Electoral Act No. 6, 2010.**

The Electoral Act No. 6, 2010 is hereby repealed (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 157 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 158: Citation.**

This Bill may be cited as the Electoral Bill, 2021 (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 158 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Explanatory Memorandum:**

This Bill seeks to repeal the Electoral Act No. 6, 2010 and enact Independent National Electoral Commission Bill 2020, to regulate the conduct of Federal, State and Area Council elections and for related matters, to make provisions for the restriction of the qualification for elective office to relevant provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended); use of Card Readers and other technological devices in elections and Political Party Primaries, to provide a time line for the submission of list of candidates, criteria for substitution of candidates, limit of campaign expenses, and address the omission of names of candidates or logo of political parties (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

**Amendment Proposed:**

In line 5, *leave out* the words “and other technological devices” (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — Doguwa/Tudun Wada Federal Constituency*).

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

**Long Title:**

A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Electoral Act, No. 6, 2010 and Enact the Electoral Act, 2021, to Regulate the Conduct of Federal, State and Area Councils in the Federal Capital Territory Elections; and for Related Matters (HB. 981) (*Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Chairman to report Bill.*

**(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole resumed consideration of the Report of the Committee on Electoral Matters on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Electoral Act No. 6, 2010 and Enact the Electoral Act 2021, to Regulate the Conduct of Elections in the Federal, States and Area Councils in the Federal Capital Territory; and for Related Matters (HB. 981) and approved Clauses 55 - 86, approved Clause 87 as amended, approved Clauses 88 -96, rejected Clauses 97 - 98, approved Clauses 99 - 152, rejected Clause 153, approved Clauses 154 - 158, approved the Explanatory Memorandum as amended, and approved the Long Title of the Bill.

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

**(iii) Report of the Conference Committee on Petroleum Industry Bill:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do consider the Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Provide Legal, Governance, Regulatory and Fiscal Framework for the Nigerian Petroleum Industry, the Development of Host Communities and for Related Matters”(Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — *Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

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

**(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)**

*(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)*

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON A BILL FOR A ACT TO PROVIDE  
LEGAL, GOVERNANCE, REGULATORY AND FISCAL FRAMEWORK  
FOR THE NIGERIAN PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, THE DEVELOPMENT  
OF HOST COMMUNITIES AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

**Committee’s Recommendation:****Clause 9: Functions of the Commission for frontier basins.**

- (2) Where data acquired and interpreted under a petroleum exploration licence, in the judgment of the Commission, require testing and drilling of identifiable prospects and leads, and no commercial entity has publicly expressed an intention of testing or drilling such prospects, the Commission shall in line with the provisions of subsection 64 (k) request the services of

NNPC Limited to drill or test such prospect and leads on a service fee basis to be charged to the Frontier Exploration Fund pursuant to this Bill.

- (3) Where commercial discovery is made pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, NNPC limited shall have the first right of refusal in the award of the acreage for subsequent development and other petroleum operations in such frontier acreages pursuant to this Bill.
- (4) There shall be maintained, for the purpose of this section, a Frontier Exploration Fund. The Frontier Exploration Fund shall be 30% of NNPC Limited's profit oil and profit gas as in the production sharing, profit sharing and risk service contracts.
- (5) NNPC Limited shall transfer the 30% of profit oil and profit gas pursuant to subsection (4) of this section to the frontier exploration fund escrow account dedicated for the development of frontier acreages and utilize the funds to carry out exploration and development activities in the frontier acreages subject to appropriation by the National Assembly (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 9 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 29: Indemnity of officers of the Authority.**

- (1) There is established the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (the "Authority"), which shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal.
- (2) The Authority shall have the power to acquire, hold and dispose of property, sue and be sued in its own name.
- (3) The Authority shall be responsible for the technical and commercial regulation of midstream and downstream petroleum operations in the petroleum industry (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 29 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 32: Functions of the Authority.**

- (rr) regulate the domestic base price and the prices applicable to wholesale customers of the strategic sectors and gas distributors; and (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 32 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 33: Regulations by the Authority.**

- (u) regulating pricing regimes for midstream and downstream petroleum operations;
- (y) any other matters as may be determined by the Authority pursuant to this Bill which includes imposition of gas flare penalty arising from midstream operations which shall be for the credit of the Midstream and Downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund, and shall be utilized for midstream and down-

stream gas infrastructure investment within the Host Community of a designated facility (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 33 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 41: Authority Chief Executive and Executive Directors of the Authority.**

- (2) (g) Midstream and Downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 41 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 47: Fund of the authority.**

- (2) (a) money appropriated by the National Assembly for the Authority (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 47 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 48: Notice to the Authority.**

- (1) Any Government ministry, department or agency exercising any power or function or taking any action, which may have direct impact on midstream or downstream petroleum operations shall consult with the Authority prior to — (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 48 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 52: The midstream and downstream gas infrastructure fund.**

- (1) There is established a fund to be known and called the Midstream and Downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund subject to Appropriation of the National Assembly, which shall be
- (2) The Midstream and Downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund shall have the power to acquire, hold and dispose of property, sue and be sued in its corporate name.
- (4) (e) Executive Director Midstream and Downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund;
- (5) The Executive Director, Midstream and Downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund shall —
- (b) be responsible for project management and the day-to-day running of the affairs of the Midstream and Downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund.
- (7) The source of the Midstream and Downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund shall be as follows —

- 
- (a) 0.5% of the wholesale price of petroleum products and natural gas sold in Nigeria, which shall be collected from wholesale customers and such levy shall be in addition to the levy provided for under section 47 (2) (c);
- (b) funds and grants accruing from multilateral agencies, bilateral institutions and related sources dedicated partly or wholly for the development of infrastructure for midstream and downstream gas operations in Nigeria;
- (c) interest, if any, payable in respect of money in the Midstream and Downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund;
- (d) monies received from gas flaring penalties by the Commission pursuant to subsection 104 (4), shall be for the purpose of environmental remediation and relieve of the Host Communities of the settlor on which the penalties are levied; and
- (e) any other sum, freely donated or accruing to the Midstream and Downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund for development of infrastructure in midstream gas operations;
- (8) The Authority shall ensure the prompt payment of all such sums directly into the Midstream and Downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund's Account.
- (10) The purpose of the Fund shall be to make equity investments of Government owned participating or shareholder interests in infrastructure related to midstream and downstream gas operations aimed at —
- (b) encouraging private investment through risk sharing by participating initially in selected high risk projects and in such other equity investments that encourage investment in midstream and downstream gas infrastructure; and
- (12) The Transaction Advisor shall be selected on need basis through a competitive and transparent criteria specified by the Council and the selection process shall be managed by the Executive Director, Midstream and downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund subject to the approval of the Council.
- (14) The Midstream and downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund shall be managed as follows —
- (a) the Council shall at the beginning of every financial year, approve the Midstream and downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund's programme of action with its cost implications and the Accountant General of the Federation shall release the approved amount for that financial year, Subject to appropriation by the National Assembly;
- (b) the money in the Midstream and downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund's Account that is not utilised as prescribed under this Bill shall be held or invested as the Council may direct;

- (c) an annual statement of the Midstream and downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund shall be prepared and submitted to the Council and Minister of Finance after 3 months of the end of the financial year to which they relate;
  - (d) a certified annual audited accounts of the Midstream and downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund, together with a report on the operations of the Midstream and downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund, shall be submitted to the Council within 6 months of the end of the financial year to which they relate; and
  - (e) a certified annual audited accounts of the Midstream and downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund shall be published annually.
- (15) Earnings, interest and other income accruing from the equity investment made pursuant to subsection (10) shall be paid directly to the Midstream and downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund's Account.
- (16) Interest and other incomes accruing from the equity investment of the Midstream and downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund can be re-invested in other secured low risk investments as approved by the Governing Council.
- (17) The members of the Governing Council shall be paid such allowances from the funds of the Midstream and downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund in accordance with the approved guidelines by the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 52 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 64: Objects of NNPC limited.**

- (c) to lift and sell royalty oil and tax oil on behalf of the Commission and the Service respectively for an agreed commercial fee. In the case of profit oil and profit gas payable to the concessionaire, NNPC Limited shall promptly remit the proceeds of the sales of the profit oil and profit gas to the Federation less its 30% for management fee and Frontier Exploration Fund as specified in 9(4) of this Bill (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 64 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 79: Commercial discovery and field development plan.**

- (7) Where the licensee establishes and secures approval for an appraisal area or declares a commercial discovery, a petroleum prospecting licence shall, where required, be extended until the —
  - (a) grant of the petroleum mining lease; or
  - (b) decline of the approval for the appraisal area or commercial discovery.



- (8) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 78 (10) of this Bill, the holder of the retention area shall within 2 years after declaring a commercial discovery, submit to the Commission a field development plan that complies with the requirements in subsection (2) of this section (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 79 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 86: Duration and renewal of leases and licences.**

- (2) Where a petroleum mining lease does not initiate regular commercial production within the stipulated development period prescribed pursuant to subsection (4) of this section, the Commission shall recommend to the Minister to revoke the lease or license at the end of the stipulated development period, unless the lessee or licensee can provide to the Commission a valid reason(s) that in the Commission's opinion is substantial, in which case the Commission shall recommend to the Minister to extend the development period accordingly (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 86 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 94: Marginal field.**

- (8) (a) "marginal field" means a field or discovery which has been declared a marginal field prior to 1st January 2021 or which has been laying fallow without activity for seven years after its discovery prior to the effective date; and (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 94 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 104: Gas flaring penalties.**

- (4) Monies received from gas flaring penalties by the Commission pursuant to subsection 104 (4), shall be for the purpose of environmental remediation and relieve of the host communities of the settlers on which the penalties are levied (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 104 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 125: Activities requiring a licence for midstream and downstream gas operations.**

- (1) Except in accordance with an appropriate licence issued by the Authority, a person shall not undertake the following activities with respect to midstream and downstream gas operations — (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 125 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 160: Gas network code.**

- (2) The Authority may in consultation with stakeholders in midstream and downstream gas operations modify the network code or create other network codes for common carrier operations (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 160 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 240: Sources of funding for petroleum host communities development trust.**

- (2) Each settlor, where applicable through the operator, shall make an annual contribution to the applicable host community development trust fund of an amount equal to 3% of its actual annual operating expenditure of the preceding financial year in the upstream petroleum operations affecting the host communities for which the applicable host community development trust fund was established (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 240 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 310: Repeals.**

- (4) Any amount remaining in the Petroleum Equalisation Fund after the completion of the transactions under paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (3) and under subsection (4) shall be transferred to the Midstream and Downstream Gas Infrastructure Fund (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 310 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 315: Movement of staff of the institutions.**

- (b) Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation and any of its subsidiaries (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 315 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 317: Transitional and Savings Provisions related to Chapter Four.**

- (8) (1) The Authority may apply the Backward Integration Policy in the downstream petroleum sector to encourage investment in local refining.
- (2) Pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, licence to import any product shortfalls may be assigned to companies with active local refining licences or proven track records of international crude oil and petroleum products trading.
- (3) Import volume to be allocated between participants shall be based on criteria to be set by the Authority taking into account the respective refining output in the preceding quarter, share of active wholesale customers competitive pricing and prudent supply, storage and distribution track records.

- (4) To safeguard the health of Nigerians, imported petroleum products shall conform to the Afri-5 specification (50 ppm Sulphur) as per the ECOWAS declaration of February, 2020 on adoption of the Afri-Fuels Roadmap or as may be prescribed by regulation (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 317 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 318: Interpretation.**

"frontier basin" means basins where hydrocarbon exploration activities have not been carried out or previous commercial discovery oil and gas have not been made or an area that is undeveloped- Anambra, Dahomey, Bida, Sokoto, Chad and Benue trough or as may be declared by the Commission through a regulation (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "frontier basin" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"midstream and downstream gas infrastructure fund" means the fund established pursuant to section 52 of this Bill (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "midstream and downstream gas infrastructure fund" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"midstream and downstream gas operations" means activities downstream of the measurement points of petroleum mining leases, whether or not related to the petroleum mining lease, with respect to the construction and operation of natural gas transport or transmission pipelines, including the related compressor stations; construction and operations of facilities to compress, transport and deliver compressed natural gas ("CNG"); construction and operations of gas processing facilities and central processing facilities, producing ethane, propane, butane and natural gas liquids and marketable natural gas; construction and operation of underground or above ground facilities for the storage of natural gas; ethane extraction plants; construction and operation of gas to liquids ("GTL") plants; construction and operation of lubricant, petrochemical and fertilizer plants, construction and operation of liquefied natural gas ("LNG") plants, and related LNG terminals as well as storage and transport of LNG; acquisition, operation or chartering of LNG tankers for coastal and marine transportation; purchase and sale, trading, bartering, aggregating and marketing of natural gas transported by pipelines, compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, methane, ethane, propane, butane, natural gas Liquids and liquids from GTL plants with respect to wholesale customers and gas distributors and related administration and overhead (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "midstream and downstream gas operations" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"midstream and downstream petroleum operations" means midstream petroleum liquids operations; and midstream and downstream gas operations (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "midstream and downstream petroleum operations" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

*Question that the meaning of the Clause 318 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

*Chairman to report Bill.*

**(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Provide Legal, Governance, Regulatory and Fiscal Framework for the Nigerian Petroleum Industry, the Development of Host Communities and for Related Matters and approved the Conference Report.

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

**9. A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Electoral Act No. 6, 2010 and Enact the Electoral Act 2021, to Regulate the Conduct of Elections in the Federal, States and Area Councils in the Federal Capital Territory; and for Related Matters (HB. 981) — Third Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Electoral Act No. 6, 2010 and Enact the Electoral Act 2021, to Regulate the Conduct of Elections in the Federal, States and Area Councils in the Federal Capital Territory; and for Related Matters (HB. 981) be now read the Third Time” (Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader).*

*Agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third Time and passed.*

**10. A Bill for an Act to Provide Legal, Governance, Regulatory and Fiscal Framework for the Nigerian Petroleum Industry, the Development of Host Communities and for Related Matters — Third Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide Legal, Governance, Regulatory and Fiscal Framework for the Nigerian Petroleum Industry, the Development of Host Communities and for Related Matters be now read the Third Time” (Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader).*

*Agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third Time and passed.*

**11. Order of the Day**

*Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do set down items 3 - 14 on the Order Paper to another legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (3)” (Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency).*

*Agreed to.*

**12. Adjournment of First Sitting**

*That the House do adjourn the First Sitting till 1.30 p.m. (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader).*

*The House adjourned accordingly at 12.50 p.m.*

**Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila**  
*Speaker*