



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

FIRST VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 18 November, 2021

1. The House met at 11.33 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Wednesday, 17 November, 2021.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcement**

(i) *Visitors in the Gallery:*

Mr Speaker recognised the presence of Staff and Students of *Kenford Academy*, Gwagwalada, Abuja.

(iii) *Notification of Vacancy in the Seat of Ogoja/Yala Federal Constituency:*

Honourable Members,

NOTIFICATION OF VACANCY IN THE SEAT OF OGOJA/YALA FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY, HELD BY HON. JARIGBE AGOM JARIGBE

I write to notify Honourable Members of the House of Representatives, pursuant to Section 68 (1) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, that the Seat of Ogoja/Yala Federal Constituency of Cross River State has become vacant.

2. *This vacancy is as a result of the election of Hon. Jarigbe Agom Jarigbe as Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria representing Cross River North Senatorial District. He was a member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).*

3. *This notification is in fulfilment of Section 68 (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, and for the records.*

(Signed)

Rt Hon. Femi Gbajabamila
Speaker, House of Representatives
18 November, 2021

5. **Petitions**

- (i) A petition from Promise Mbani (Barristers & Solicitors), on behalf of Eugene Onyekere Ugwu, on alleged refusal to grant him building approval and threat to demolish his property, by the Minister of Works and Housing, was presented and laid by Hon. Toby Okechukwu (Aninri/Awgu/Oji River Federal Constituency);
- (ii) A petition from Dokotri John and 1 other, on their retirement from service by Jos University Teaching Hospital, was presented and laid by Hon. Solomon Maren Bulus (Bokkos/Mangu Federal Constituency);
- (iii) A petition from Adegoke Olugbade, on the death of Adegoke Timothy Oluwadamilare at Hilton Hotels and Resorts, Ile-Ife, Oyo State, was presented and laid by Hon. Oluyemi Adewale Taiwo (Ibarapa East/Ido Federal Constituency).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

Deadly Gas Explosion in Mushin, Lagos State:

Hon. Yusuf Shittu Galambi (Gwaram Federal Constituency) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
- (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance — Agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Deadly Gas Explosion in Mushin, Lagos State:

The House:

Notes the massive explosion at Ladipo Market, Mushin, Lagos caused by a deadly gas explosion from a mechanic workshop within the market on Thursday, 16 November, 2021 resulting in the death of at least five (5) persons;

Aware that apart from the deaths recorded, other people sustained different degrees of injuries, while vehicles and buildings destroyed;

Also aware that Security operatives and emergency response team cordoned off the area as rescue operations and on-the-spot assessment continued;

Concerned that the affected persons will need the support of the government agencies responsible for emergencies cases;

Convinced of the need to urge the National Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and other agencies responsible for emergencies in Lagos State to act swiftly by providing material support to the victims of the gas explosion;

Resolves to:

Urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other agencies responsible for emergencies to immediately provide material support for victims of gas explosion in Mushin (*Hon. Yusuf Shitu Galambi — Gwaram Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 128/11/2021).

Motion referred to the Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5)

7. **Priority Bills**

Mr Speaker noted that the following Bills for priority legislations are pending before Committees, and ordered that the Committees have up to 10 December, 2021 to present their reports or stand discharged of their responsibilities:

- (1) National Social Investment Programmes (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1153)
- (2) National Emergency Management Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1155)
- (3) National Security Trust Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1298)
- (4) North-East Development Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1152)
- (5) Police Service Commission Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1112)
- (6) Armed Forces Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1405)
- (7) Nigeria Police Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1406)
- (8) National Security and Civil Defence Corps Act 2003 (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1407)
- (9) National Security and Civil Defence Corps Act, 2007 (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1408)
- (10) Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1409)
- (11) Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1410)
- (12) The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1412)
- (13) ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials (Ratification and Enforcement) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1413).

8. **Presentation of Bills**

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1659).
- (2) National Broadcasting Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1688).
- (3) Treasury Single Account Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1692).
- (4) Federal College of Agriculture, Kabba (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1693).

- (5) Nigeria Army School of Finance and Administration, Apapa, Lagos State (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1694).
- (6) Federal College of Education (Technical) Gwaram (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1695).
- (7) Board for Technology Business Incubator Centre (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1699).
- (8) Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1700).
- (9) Nigeria Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research, Victoria Island (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1701).
- (10) Federal College of Orthopaedic Technology, Igbobi (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1702).
- (11) Educational Correspondence Colleges Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1703).
- (12) National Technical and Vocational Institute, Ikare-Akoko, Ondo State (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1704).
- (13) Federal College of Dental Technology and Therapy, Talasse, Gombe State (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1710).
- (14) Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1711).
- (15) Federal Institute of Aviation Engineering and Technology, Oghara, Delta State (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1646).

9. **Presentation of Reports**

(i) **Committee on Science and Technology:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Science and Technology on a Bill for an Act to Establish National Renewable Energy Development Agency charged with Responsibility of Promoting the use of Renewable Energy Resources; and for Related Matters (HB.1241)" (*Hon. Beni Lar — Langtang North/Langtang South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) **Committee on Science and Technology:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Science and Technology on Bill for an Act to Amend the Energy Commission of Nigeria Act. Cap. E 10, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make it Compulsory for the Federal Government through the Commission to Harness, Explore and Utilize Other Sources of Energy other than Hydro and Gas Energy Sources in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 243 & HB. 446)" (*Hon. Beni Lar — Langtang North/Langtang South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Agriculture, Jalingo, to make Comprehensive Provisions for Management and Administration of the University; and for Related Matters (HB. 750) — Third Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Agriculture, Jalingo, to make Comprehensive Provisions for Management and Administration of the University; and for Related Matters (HB. 750) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader*).
- Agreed to.*
- Bill read the Third Time and passed.*
11. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal University of Agriculture and Technology, Aboh; and for Related Matters (HB. 1590) — Third Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal University of Agriculture and Technology, Aboh; and for Related Matters (HB. 1590) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader*).
- Agreed to.*
- Bill read the Third Time and passed.*
12. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of Education (Technical) Aghoro, Bayelsa State; and for Related Matters (HB. 1649) — Third Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of Education (Technical), Aghoro, Bayelsa State; and for Related Matters (HB. 1649) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader*).
- Agreed to.*
- Bill read the Third Time and passed.*
13. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Education, Bende to Provide Full-Time Courses, Teaching, Instruction and Training in Technology, Applied Sciences, Commerce, Arts, Social Sciences, Humanities and Management and to carry out Research in the Development and Adaptation of Techniques; and also make Provision for the Appointment of a Provost and the Officials of the College to carry out the Administration and Discipline of Students of the College; and for Related Matters (HB. 852) — Third Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Education, Bende to Provide Full-Time Courses, Teaching, Instruction and Training in Technology, Applied Sciences, Commerce, Arts, Social Sciences, Humanities and Management and to carry out Research in the Development and Adaptation of Techniques; and also make Provision for the Appointment of a Provost and the Officials of the College to carry out the Administration and Discipline of Students of the College; and for Related Matters (HB. 852) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader*).
- Agreed to.*
- Bill read the Third Time and passed.*
14. **A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 and the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Third Alteration) Act, 2011 to Provide for Establishment of the Code of Conduct Tribunal as part of the Judicature under the Constitution to ensure its Independence; and for Related Matters (HB. 961 and HB. 999) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 and the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Third Alteration)

Act, 2011 to Provide for Establishment of the Code of Conduct Tribunal as part of the Judicature under the Constitution to ensure its Independence; and for Related Matters (HB. 961 and HB. 999) be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Olajide Olatumbosun — Saki East/Saki West/Atisbo Federal Constituency and 11 other*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Special Ad-hoc Committee on the Review of 1999 Constitution.

15. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Federal Colleges of Education Act, Cap. F8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Federal Colleges of Education Bill; and for Related Matters (HB. 1455) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Federal Colleges of Education Act, Cap. F8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Federal Colleges of Education Bill; and for Related Matters (HB. 1455) be read a Second Time" (Hon. Aminu Suleiman — Fagge Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services.

16. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Orthopaedic Hospitals Management Board Act, Cap. O10, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Establish the National Orthopaedic Hospital, Abuja; and for Related Matters (HB. 1479) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

17. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Agriculture, Geidam, Yobe State to Provide Full- Time Courses leading to the Award of Diploma, Higher National Diploma in Agriculture and Allied Disciplines and be Responsible for the Due Administration of the College; and for Related Matters (HB. 1277) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Agriculture, Geidam, Yobe State to Provide Full- Time Courses leading to the Award of Diploma, Higher National Diploma in Agriculture and Allied Disciplines and be Responsible for the Due Administration of the College; and for Related Matters (HB. 1277) be read a Second Time" (Hon. Lawan Shettima Ali — Bursari/Geidam/Yunusari Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Agricultural Institution and Services.

18. Need to Upgrade Correctional Centres in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the recent cases of jailbreaks across the country which destroyed Correctional Centres and their security systems:

Also notes that Correctional Centres are where convicted criminals are kept to make the society safe, thus it is dangerous for such convicts to be let loose;

Concerned that if adequate steps are not taken to re-arrest the escaped convicts and provide adequate security in Correctional Centres, some of the criminals who escaped may become more emboldened to the point of forming terrorist groups that would put the country in jeopardy;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to rehabilitate and upgrade the Correctional Centres with the latest and sophisticated arms such as GPMG and automatic machine guns and latest security electric fence wires attached with shocking gadgets and highly sophisticated CCTV Cameras
- (ii) also urge Federal Government to take over the payment of electricity bills of the Correctional Centres in Nigeria or exempt the Centres from paying electricity bills;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Appropriations to include the rehabilitation and upgrade of the Correctional Centres in the 2022 budget estimates (*Hon. Muhammed Gudaji Kazaure — Bursari/Geidam/Yunusari Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the recent cases of jailbreaks across the country which destroyed Correctional Centres and their security systems:

Also noted that Correctional Centres are where convicted criminals are kept to make the society safe, thus it is dangerous for such convicts to be let loose;

Concerned that if adequate steps are not taken to re-arrest the escaped convicts and provide adequate security in Correctional Centres, some of the criminals who escaped may become more emboldened to the point of forming terrorist groups that would put the country in jeopardy;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to rehabilitate and upgrade the Correctional Centres with the latest and sophisticated arms such as GPMG and automatic machine guns and latest security electric fence wires attached with shocking gadgets and highly sophisticated CCTV Cameras
- (ii) also urge Federal Government to take over the payment of electricity bills of the Correctional Centres in Nigeria or exempt the Centres from paying electricity bills;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Appropriations to include the rehabilitation and upgrade of the Correctional Centres in the 2022 budget estimates (**HR. 129/11/2021**).

19. Need to Address the Rising Spate of Suicide Cases in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the prevalence of suicide cases in Nigeria, especially among youths between the ages of 15-29 years;

Also notes the statistics showing that one-fifth of suicide cases are of persons aged 13-19 years and over 50% of the crisis calls received through hotlines are from youth aged 13-29 and 27.8% of them are students;

Informed that according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), suicides and attempted suicide cases recorded in the 36 States of the Federation, including the FCT, were 333 and 196 respectively as of 2017, while other reports show that about 80 persons ended their lives between April 8, 2017, and May 12, 2019;

Aware that socio-economic factors contribute largely to mental illness such as depression, anxiety disorders etc. which are on the increase and are the leading causes of suicide in Nigeria;

Concerned that the level of awareness of the Nigerian public on mental issues is very low as depression is one of the most ignored and misunderstood forms of mental disorders;

Also concerned that although Nigeria has the highest number of mental cases in Africa, it has one of the lowest numbers of psychiatrists in the world with only about 250 of them providing mental health care in the entire country;

Disturbed that the only form of legislation on mental health is the Lunacy Ordinance enacted in 1916 that assumed the status of law in 1958;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health to come up with a national strategy to address mental problems in Nigeria;
- (ii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to review extant mental health laws to provide for proper care of affected persons in Nigeria and expedite action on measures aimed at protecting the rights of persons with a mental disorder, ensure equal access to treatment and care, discourage stigma and discrimination and set standards for psychiatric practice in Nigeria (*Hon. Gaza J. Gbefwi — Karu/Keffi/Kokona Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the prevalence of suicide cases in Nigeria, especially among youths between the ages of 15-29 years;

Also noted the statistics showing that one-fifth of suicide cases are of persons aged 13-19 years and over 50% of the crisis calls received through hotlines are from youth aged 13-29 and 27.8% of them are students;

Informed that according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), suicides and attempted suicide cases recorded in the 36 States of the Federation, including the FCT, were 333 and 196 respectively as of 2017, while other reports show that about 80 persons ended their lives between April 8, 2017, and May 12, 2019;

Aware that socio-economic factors contribute largely to mental illness such as depression, anxiety disorders etc, which are on the increase and are the leading causes of suicide in Nigeria;

Concerned that the level of awareness of the Nigerian public on mental issues is very low as depression is one of the most ignored and misunderstood forms of mental disorders;

Also concerned that although Nigeria has the highest number of mental cases in Africa, it has one of the lowest numbers of psychiatrists in the world with only about 250 of them providing mental health care in the entire country;

Disturbed that the only form of legislation on mental health is the Lunacy Ordinance enacted in 1916 that assumed the status of law in 1958;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health to come up with a national strategy to address mental problems in Nigeria;
- (ii) set up an Ad-hoc Committee to review extant mental health laws to provide for proper care of affected persons in Nigeria and expedite action on measures aimed at protecting the rights of persons with a mental disorder, ensure equal access to treatment and care, discourage stigma and discrimination and set standards for psychiatric practice in Nigeria (HR. 130/11/2021).

20. Need to Strengthen Traditional Medicine for Sustainable Health Care Delivery in Nigeria

Order read: deferred by leave of the House.

21. Need to Relocate the Federal Training Centre from Kaduna to Maiduguri

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Training Centre was first established in Lagos in 1957 to facilitate a deliberate policy of Nigerianization of the Public Service, as well as accelerating the pace of training of clerical and secretarial staff in the Public Service generally;

Also notes that in 1960, when Nigeria became independent, the first batch of staff trained in the Lagos Federal Training Centre had made an impact in various government offices, departments and agencies;

Aware that the Kaduna Federal Training Centre was established in 1960 to cater for Federal Institutions and Departments in defunct Northern Nigeria; to motivate and encourage Public Servants of Northern Nigeria to undergo professional training to fill up several vacancies that became vacant with the gradual withdrawal of expatriate staff in the various levels of the Public Service;

Also aware that in 1976, additional Centres were established in Ilorin, Enugu in 1977, Maiduguri in 1978 and Calabar in 1982 in the bid to meet manpower requirements of the Federal Public Service and to reflect Federal character;

Further aware that the Federal Training Centre has become the first choice Training Institute in Nigeria in the field of Management and Administration through excellent, academic, professional and entrepreneurial education;

Cognizant that the Federal Training Centres are generally charged with the following mandates to:

- (a) develop, organize and run an appropriate course for clerical, secretarial and management skills for serving junior and middle-level public officers (Grade Levels 01 - 07),
- (b) alleviate the acute shortage of manpower in these cadres, thus enabling them to respond positively and significantly to challenges of the new dispensation,
- (c) engage in continuous education and training programmes to meet manpower needs in the junior and middle-level cadres,
- (d) enhance productivity and effective job performance among the rank and file of Junior and middle-level staff thus providing the vital link and service' to the management cadres.
- (e) develop new job skills and refresh old in all areas of operation;

Concerned that in February 2012 due to the impact of insurgency in the North-East geopolitical zone, the Maiduguri Centre was temporarily relocated to Kaduna pending the return of normalcy;

Disturbed that many participants and students drawn from various states of the North-East are compelled to take the risk of travelling to Kaduna for training at the Centre;

Worried by the rising level of insecurity in Kaduna State due to the activities of bandits, kidnappers, criminals and terrorists and the risk being taken by students undergoing courses at the Kaduna Centre from the North-East States;

Desirous of the need to relocate the Federal Training Centre from Kaduna to Maiduguri following the return of normalcy and the level of peace presently experienced in Maiduguri even much more than Kaduna;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Head of Service of the Federation to direct the relocation of the Federal Training Centre from Kaduna to Maiduguri;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Public Service Matters, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Ahmed Sa'omi — Jere Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Federal Training Centre was first established in Lagos in 1957 to facilitate a deliberate policy of Nigerianization of the Public Service, as well as accelerating the pace of training of clerical and secretarial staff in the Public Service generally;

Also noted that in 1960, when Nigeria became independent, the first batch of staff trained in the Lagos Federal Training Centre had made an impact in various government offices, departments and agencies;

Aware that the Kaduna Federal Training Centre was established in 1960 to cater for Federal Institutions and Departments in defunct Northern Nigeria, to motivate and encourage Public Servants of Northern Nigeria to undergo professional training to fill up several vacancies that became vacant with the gradual withdrawal of expatriate staff in the various levels of the Public Service;

Also aware that in 1976, additional Centres were established in Ilorin, Enugu in 1977, Maiduguri in 1978 and Calabar in 1982 in the bid to meet manpower requirements of the Federal Public Service and to reflect Federal character;

Further aware that the Federal Training Centre has become the first choice Training Institute in Nigeria in the field of Management and Administration through excellent, academic, professional and entrepreneurial education;

Cognizant that the Federal Training Centres are generally charged with the following mandates to:

- (a) develop, organize and run an appropriate course for clerical, secretarial and management skills for serving junior and middle-level public officers (Grades Level 01 - 07),
- (b) alleviate the acute shortage of manpower in these cadres, thus enabling them to respond positively and significantly to challenges of the new dispensation,
- (c) engage in continuous education and training programmes to meet manpower needs in the junior and middle-level cadres,
- (d) enhance productivity and effective job performance among the rank and file of Junior and middle-level staff thus providing the vital link and service' to the management cadres,
- (e) develop new job skills and refresh old in all areas of operation;

Concerned that in February 2012 due to the impact of insurgency in the North-East geopolitical zone, the Maiduguri Centre was temporarily relocated to Kaduna pending the return of normalcy;

Disturbed that many participants and students drawn from various states of the North- East are compelled to take the risk of travelling to Kaduna for training at the Centre;

Worried by the rising level of insecurity in Kaduna State due to the activities of bandits, kidnappers, criminals and terrorists and the risk being taken by students undergoing courses at the Kaduna Centre from the North-East States;

Desirous of the need to relocate the Federal Training Centre from Kaduna to Maiduguri following the return of normalcy and the level of peace presently experienced in Maiduguri even much more than Kaduna;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Head of Service of the Federation to direct the relocation of the Federal Training Centre from Kaduna to Maiduguri;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Public Service Matters, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (HR. 131/11/2021).

22. Call to Rehabilitate Amansea- Uguwoaba Road Axis of Enugu -Onitsha Expressway

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

23. **Need to Provide Adequate Security Measures in Federal Government and Private Schools in Nigeria**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

24. **Consideration of Reports**

- (i) ***A Bill for an Act to Abolish and Prohibit Dichotomy and Discrimination between First Degree and Higher National Diploma (HND) in the same Profession/Field for the Purpose of Employment; and for Related Matters (HB. 1466 and HB. 579) (Committee of the Whole):***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Abolish and Prohibit Dichotomy and Discrimination between First Degree and Higher National Diploma (HND) in the same Profession/Field for the Purpose of Employment; and for Related Matters (HB. 1466 and HB. 579)" (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader).

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 ABOLISH AND PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN FIRST DEGREE AND HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA (HND) FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMPLOYMENT AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Clause 1: Equity of First Degree and Higher National Diploma in Nigeria.

- (1) Notwithstanding any provision in any legislation, circular, regulation or policy guideline, First Degree and Higher National Diploma shall be deemed construed and treated as equivalent qualification for the purpose of employment and career progression at work place in the public and private sectors of the Nigeria Economy.
- (2) Any provision in laws, enactments, instruments, circulars, scheme of service, directives, or policies by whatsoever name called; which is inconsistent with the provisions of this Bill shall to the extent of the inconsistency be null and void, and of no effect.
- (3) Holders of the First Degree and the Higher National Diploma (HND) shall be given equal treatment and opportunity in career placements, career progression, admission to further studies and privileges whatsoever in consideration of status as graduates of Nigeria Tertiary Institutions of Higher learning (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 2: Prohibition of Discrimination between First Degree and Higher National Diploma.

- (1) All forms of discriminations and or dichotomy between First Degree and Higher National Diplomas for the purpose of employment, transfer of service, conversion of cadre, career progression, promotion, and other related issues in the public and private sectors of the Nigerian Economy is hereby abolished.

- (2) No person, authority, entity (body or corporate) in whatsoever name call shall discriminate and or undertake any action in any form whatsoever which is construed as and or intended to give any preferential treatment in favour of and/or against holders of the First Degree or the Higher National Diploma (HND).
- (3) (a) Any person or entity in the public or private sectors of the Nigerian Economy who contravenes the provisions of this Bill, commits an offence under this Bill, and shall be liable upon conviction to a term of two years' imprisonment or a fine of ₦1,000,000.00 (One Million Naira) or both.
- (b) Any person or entity in the public or private sectors of the Nigerian Economy who design, prescribe and or specify any guidelines, terms or conditions of employment, career progression, and or any other instrument by whatsoever name called in violation of the provisions of this Bill shall be guilty of an offence under this Bill and liable upon conviction to a term of 1 year imprisonment or a fine of ₦500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) or both (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 3: Offences.

Any Person who induces or encourages any other person for the Violation of any of the provisions of this Bill shall be liable upon conviction to —

- (a) a fine of ₦500,000;
- (b) imprisonment for a term not exceeding 1 Year or; to both (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 4: Power to Receive Complaint Duty to Report.

- (1) It shall be the duty of the Chief Executive Officer of any entity private or public to —
- (a) receive complaints of discrimination on grounds specified in this Bill;
- (b) investigate all complaints and remedy any such violation within 30 days of receipt of such complaint in writing to the complainant;
- (c) report in a presented form on an annual basis but not later than 31st December, each year of full compliance of the provisions of this Bill to the Public Complaint Commission;
- (d) enforce the provisions of this Bill;
- (e) cause to be compiled and submitted to the appropriate authority for redress within 30 days of the receipt of complaints of discriminations in contravention to the provisions of this Bill;

- (f) ensure that the department or organ of any private or public organization charged with the responsibility of Appointment, Promotion and/or Career Development to give effect to any decision in pursuant to in clause 4 (1) hereof.
- (2) Where an Officer of any entity in the public or private sectors of the Nigerian economy fails to comply with the provisions of this Bill, he shall be guilty of an offence under this Bill and liable upon conviction to an imprisonment term of 6 months or a fine of ₦500,000.00 or both.
- (3) Where in any proceedings against any person for an offence under this Bill, it is established that any action constituting an offence under this Bill has been committed by an officer, it shall be presumed that the action was done with the motive or intent of committing an offence under this Bill as the case may be, until the contrary is proved (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 4 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 5: Presumptions.

Upon the commencement of this Bill, holders of Higher National Diplomas or First Degree in any field whatsoever shall be placed on the same status (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 5 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 6: Power to Prosecute.

- (1) Every prosecution for offence under this Bill shall be deemed to be done with the fiat and consent of the Attorney General of the Federation or State Attorney General as applicable.
- (2) The Federal High Court, the State High Court, Magistrate Courts and the National Industrial Court shall have concurrent jurisdiction to hear matters up to the Court of Appeal.
- (3) The appropriate authority may make regulations and guidelines to enforce and to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Bill and failure to comply with such regulations and guidelines shall be deemed an offence under clause 3.
- (4) Any person who fails to provide or comply with the request for information or fails to appear upon invitation or fails to cooperate with the appropriate authority during investigation and redress of complaints on violation of the provision of this Bill shall be liable upon conviction to —
- (a) a fine of ₦500,000.00;
- (b) imprisonment for a term not exceeding 1 year, or to both (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 6 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 7: Interpretation.

In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Employees" includes the Chief Executive, Permanent or Contract Staff, Casual Agents or Consultants of the organization (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

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

"Appropriate Authority" shall mean the Public Complaint Commission (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

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

Question that Clause 7 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 8: Short Title.

This Bill may be cited as the Prohibition of Discrimination between First Degrees and Higher National Diplomas (HND) Bill, 2021 (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 8 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Abolish and Prohibit Discrimination Between First Degree and Higher National Diploma (HND) for the Purpose of Employment and for Related Matters (HB. 579 & HB. 1466) (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair. reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Abolish and Prohibit Dichotomy and Discrimination between First Degree and Higher National Diploma (HND) in the same Profession/Field for the Purpose of Employment; and for Related Matters (HB. 1466 and HB. 579) and approved Clauses 1 - 8, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

(ii) ***A Bill for an Act to Establish the Vigilante Group of Nigeria (VGN) charged with Responsibilities to, among others, Provide Community Policing, Maintenance of Law and Order and Community Service for Nigerians; and for Related Matters (HB. 437) (Committee of the Whole):***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do resume consideration the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Vigilante Group of Nigeria (VGN) charged with Responsibilities to, among others, Provide Community Policing, Maintenance of Law and Order and Community Service for Nigerians; and for Related Matters (HB. 437)" (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader).

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 ESTABLISH THE VIGILANTE GROUP OF NIGERIA WHICH SHALL BE CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR, AMONG OTHERS, PROVIDING COMMUNITY POLICING, ASSISTING THE NIGERIA POLICE FORCE AND OTHER SECURITY AGENCIES ESTABLISHED BY LAW TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER, AND COMMUNITY SERVICE IN NIGERIA; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 437)

PART I — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VIGILANTE GROUP AND ITS GOVERNING BOARD

Clause 1: Establishment of Vigilante Group.

- (1) There is established the Vigilante Group of Nigeria (in this Bill referred to as "the Vigilante Group").
- (2) The Vigilante Group:
 - (a) is a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal;
 - (b) may hold and dispose of property (moveable or immoveable);
 - (c) may sue and be sued in its corporate name; and
 - (d) shall have its Headquarters in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.
- (3) There is established in each of the geopolitical zone, State, Local Government Area, and Ward of the Federation, the Vigilante Group (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 2: Establishment of Governing Board and its membership.

- (1) There is established the Governing Board of the Vigilante Group of Nigeria (in this Bill referred to as "the Board") charged with the responsibility for the administration of the Vigilante Group.
- (2) The Board shall consist of:
 - (a) a person who has verse knowledge or experience in security matters, or Law, appointed by the Minister as Chairman,
 - (b) two other persons, not below the rank of an Assistant Director, each to represent the Ministries in charge of Police Affairs and Interior;
 - (c) the Commandant-General of the Vigilante Group;
 - (d) a Police Officer, not below the rank of a Commissioner of Police, appointed by the Inspector General of Police, to represent the Nigeria Police Force,

- (e) six persons, who are full-time members, one from each of the six geopolitical zones in the Federation, to represent public interest appointed by the President; and
- (f) Deputy Commander-General (Administration) of the Vigilante Group as the Secretary
- (3) The Chairman and other members of the Board, other than the *ex-officio* Members, shall hold office for a term of four years and may be eligible for re-appointment for another term of four years and no more.
- (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (3), a member of the Board other than an *ex-officio* member:
- (a) may resign his appointment by giving notice in writing of his resignation addressed to the Minister; and
- (b) shall vacate his office if the Minister is satisfied that the Member:
- (i) has absented himself from three consecutive meetings of the Board without permission from the Chairman.
- (ii) by reason of mental or physical infirmity or any other cause is incapable of discharging the duties of his office;
- (c) shall vacate his office if convicted of fraud or any offence involving dishonesty; and
- (e) shall vacate his office if declared bankrupt by a competent court of law or tribunal.

Schedule. Cap. 123: LFN, 2004.

- (S) The supplementary provisions set out in the Schedule to this Bill shall, in addition to the provisions contained in Section 27 of Interpretation Act have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Board under this Bill and the other matters contained in the Schedule (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 3: Powers of Board.

- (1) The Board is responsible for:
- (a) the overall management and general administration of the Vigilante Group;
- (b) appointing, promoting and disciplining of regular or volunteer members of the Vigilante Group;
- (c) making regulations for uniforms and their use;
- (d) making regulations on the use of equipment including safety measures in handling sensitive equipment;
- (f) making regulation on training standards for regular and volunteer members.

- (g) organizing basic development and refresher courses for regular and volunteer members of the Vigilante Group;
 - (h) determining, with the approval of the Minister, the conditions of service of the regular and volunteer members of the Vigilante Group and
 - (i) determining the rules of engagements for volunteer members.
- (2) The Board may do such other things which, in the opinion of the Board, are necessary to ensure the efficient performance of the functions of the Vigilante Group (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

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

PART II — FUNCTIONS OF THE VIGILANTE GROUP

Clause 4: Functions and community service.

- (1) The Vigilante Group, in the maintenance of law and order, shall:
- (a) assist the Nigeria Police Force and other security agencies in the prevention and detection of crime, apprehension of suspects, protection of lives and property and preservation of law and order;
 - (b) assist the Nigeria Police Force and the relevant security agencies in the protection and preservation of public utilities supplying electricity, gas, water, sewerage and similar community services/facilities;
 - (c) assist the Nigeria Police Force and relevant security agencies in maintaining law and order in social gatherings and events;
 - (d) assist the Nigeria Police Force and relevant security agencies in gathering intelligence information from the community and if circumstances warrant such, disseminate such information to residents of host communities for their own safety and benefits
 - (e) assist the Nigeria Police Force and relevant security agencies in check-mating pick-pocket, swindlers, illicit drug dealers, and dealers in substandard and expired products;
 - (f) assist the Nigeria Police and relevant security agencies raising public awareness against abduction, kidnapping, cultism, banditry, cattle rustling and violence against women and children;
 - (g) prior to the intervention of the Nigeria Police Force and other security agencies, on its own or under the directives of the Nigeria Police Force and relevant security agencies respond to security or social emergencies, and
 - (h) carry out any other functions or duties as may be assigned to it by the Nigeria Police Force or another security agencies established by law.
- (2) *The Vigilante Group*, with the approval of the Nigeria Police Force shall :

- (a) assist host communities and relevant public agencies in clearing of drainages and sewages;
- (b) assist host communities and relevant public agencies to minimize or prevent flooding;
- (c) assist host communities and relevant public agencies to prevent erosion;
- (d) assist host communities and relevant public agencies to counter drought and desertification;
- (e) assist host communities and relevant public agencies to prevent bush-burning, spreading of wild fire and other fire incidences;
- (f) assist host communities and relevant public agencies to prevent drowning in rivers, lakes, beaches, wells and other water bodies;
- (g) assist host communities and relevant public agencies in clearing and maintaining roads and foot paths;
- (h) assist host communities and relevant public agencies in clearing of oil spillage in oil producing communities;
- (i) assist host communities and relevant public agencies in instilling and engendering security awareness or consciousness;
- (j) assist host communities and relevant public agencies in the provision of security in markets, shopping malls, trade fare centers, shops and other trading venues;
- (k) assist host communities and relevant public agencies securing places of worship within the communities;
- (l) assist host communities and relevant public agencies to secure schools and academic institutions;
- (m) assist host communities and relevant public agencies to advocating for and instilling national values and ethics of discipline, integrity, dignity of labor, social justice, religious tolerance, self-reliance and patriotism in residents of host communities; and
- (n) assist host communities and relevant public agencies to encourage environmental sanitation and prevention of water pollution (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 4 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 5: Roles in conflicts and disasters.

The Vigilante Group, with the approval of the Nigeria Police Force and relevant public agencies shall:

- (a) be involved in preventing and managing conflicts and disasters through:

(i) public enlightenment on the possible causes of conflicts, especially on issues of witchcraft, ethnic crisis, land disputes, religious crisis, ritual killings, cultism, farmer-herdsman crisis, religious extremism or militancy

(ii) prevent rumor-mongering, misinformation, misguidance or anything likely to ignite violence or conflict in whatever form host communities,

(iii) establish Early Warning Signs and Vulnerability Indices for conflicts and disasters in host Communities and disseminating same to all stakeholders, and

(iv) designing and implementing robust societal reorientation and attitudinal change programs throughout the nation towards a culture of preventing violent conflicts and disasters;

(b) during times of conflict and in conflict areas assist the military and other law enforcement agencies in:

(i) identifying culprits, locating their hideouts and identifying strategies used by perpetrators of the conflicts and the victims or vulnerable people to the conflict for proper actions,

(ii) assisting victims to escape through identified routes, providing possible protection, first aid, psychological support and any available material support by collaborating with relevant government agencies

(iii) providing support to the military and other paramilitary agencies in identifying terrains, providing scouts from the Vigilante Group to accompany the military or paramilitary to the hideouts of the perpetrators of conflicts, and

(iv) performing any task that is incidental or ancillary in aiding the military and paramilitary as may be required by them on issues mentioned in this subsection;

(c) be involved, in post-conflict management including:

(i) making preliminary assessment of safety and security of affected areas as prelude to any damage assessment or relocation of displaced persons;

(ii) preservation of property and public utilities and guarding same from further damage, destruction, theft or vandalism pending the return of the displace residents of the host community to their homes,

(iii) helping in clearing debris, rebuilding homes and public utilities, reviving economic activities such as markets, shops and transport systems,

(iv) helping in reintegrating returnees back to their normal lives, providing psychosocial support to traumatized persons and providing reassurance to the community on safety and security,

- (v) assisting government and other agencies in facilitating peace and reconciliation in affected areas for lasting peaceful coexistence, and
- (vi) mobilizing youth and able-bodied residents of host communities to rebuild and rehabilitate their communities and create jobs (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 5 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART III — COMMAND STRUCTURE

Clause 6: Command structure.

- (1) The Vigilante Group shall be under the overall command of the Commandant-General of the Vigilante Group.
- (2) The State commands, Local Government Area commands and Wards commands shall be under the State commands, Local Government Area commands and Ward commands respectively.
- (3) Members of the Vigilante Group shall bear such ranks as may be assigned to them in the following order:
 - (a) National Headquarters Command:
 - (i) Commandant-General (National),
 - (ii) Deputy Commandant-General (National),
 - (iii) Deputy Commandant-General (Administration),
 - (iv) Deputy Commandant-General (Finance),
 - (v) Deputy Commandant-General (Operations),
 - (vi) Deputy Commandant-General (Logistics),
 - (vii) Deputy Commandant-General (Training),
 - (viii) Deputy Commandant-General (Intelligence),
 - (ix) Deputy Commandant-General (Provost),
 - (x) Assistant Commandant-General (South-East),
 - (xi) Assistant Commandant-General (South-South),
 - (xii) Assistant Commandant-General (South-West),
 - (xiii) Assistant Commandant-General (North-Central),
 - (xiv) Assistant Commandant-General (North-East),
 - (xv) Assistant Commandant-General (North-West),
 - (xvi) Assistant Commandant-General (Planning, Research and Statistics),

- (xvii) Assistant Commandant-General (Group Education),
- (xviii) Assistant Commandant-General (Legal Services),
- (xix) Assistant Commandant-General (Communications and ICT),
- (xx) Assistant Commandant-General (Special Task Force and Joint Operation),
- (xxi) Assistant Commandant-General (Marine Safety),
- (xxii) Group Commandant (Counter-Terrorism),
- (xxiii) Group Commandant (Small Arms and Light Weapons Control),
- (xxiv) Group Commandant (Inter-Governmental Affairs),
- (xxv) Group Commandant (Disaster and Risk Management),
- (xxvi) Group Commandant (Human Resources),
- (xxvii) Deputy Group Commandant (Public Relations),
- (xxviii) Deputy Group Commandant (Peace and Conflict Management),
- (xxix) Deputy Group Commandant (Border Security),
- (xxx) Assistant Group Commandant (Marine Group),
- (xxxi) Assistant Group Commandant (Bush and Forest Surveillance), and
- (xxxii) Assistant Group Commandant (Medical Services);

(b) State Command:

- (i) State Commandant,
- (ii) Deputy State Commandant,
- (iii) Assistant State Commandant (Administration),
- (iv) Assistant State Commandant (Finance),
- (v) Assistant State Commandant (Operations),
- (vi) Chief Group Superintendent (Markets and Motor-Parks Security),
- (vii) Chief Group Superintendent (Places of Worship Security),
- (viii) Chief Group Superintendent (Schools Security),
- (ix) Chief Group Superintendent (Protection of Public Utilities),

- (x) Group Superintendent (Drainages and Sewages),
 - (xi) Group Superintendent (Erosion Control),
 - (xii) Group Superintendent (Drought and Desertification Control),
 - (xiii) Group Superintendent (Bush-burning, Fire Incidences and Arson),
 - (xiv) Group Superintendent (Oil Spillage),
 - (xv) Deputy Group Superintendent (Protocol),
 - (xvi) Deputy Group Superintendent (Anti-Robbery),
 - (xvii) Deputy Group Superintendent (Patrol and Guards),
 - (xviii) Deputy Group Superintendent (Public Relations),
 - (xix) Deputy Group Superintendent (Surveillance),
 - (xx) Deputy Group Superintendent (Provost),
 - (xxi) Deputy Group Superintendent (Gender),
 - (xxii) Assistant Group Superintendent (Finance), and
 - (xxiii) Assistant Group Superintendent (Stores);
- (c) Local Government Command:
- (i) Local Government Commandant,
 - (ii) Deputy Local Government Commandant,
 - (iii) Assistant Group Superintendent (Administration),
 - (iv) Assistant Group Superintendent (Operations),
 - (v) Assistant Group Superintendent (Finance),
 - (vi) Chief Group Inspector (Surveillance),
 - (vii) Chief Group Inspector (Patrol and Guard),
 - (viii) Chief Group Inspector (Special Duties),
 - (ix) Senior Group Inspector (Pollution and Environmental Sanitation),
 - (x) Senior Group Inspector (Narcotics Control),
 - (xi) Senior Group Inspector (Women),
 - (xii) Group Inspector (Road Traffic),

- (xiii) Group Inspector (Crimes),
- (xiv) Group Sergeant (Provost), and
- (xv) Group Sergeant (Exhibit);
- (d) Wards commands:
 - (i) Ward Commandant,
 - (ii) Deputy Ward Commandant,
 - (iii) Assistant Ward Commandant (Administration),
 - (iv) Assistant Ward Commandant (Finance),
 - (v) Assistant Ward Commandant (Operations) (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 7: Chief Executive and Accounting Officers.

The Commandant General shall be the Chief Executive and Accounting Officer of the Vigilante Group and shall be responsible to the Board for the day to day administration of the vigilante group (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 7 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART IV — UNIFORMS, EQUIPMENT AND RANKS

Clause 8: Uniforms.

The uniforms of the regular and volunteer members of the Vigilante Group, subject to change as may be approved by the Board, may be:

- (a) dark-maroon jacket, shirt, trousers and skirts;
- (b) dark-red beret;
- (c) black belt for general duties;
- (d) white belt for provost officers;
- (e) black boots; and
- (f) white lanyard for officers and dark-maroon lanyard for members (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 8 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 9: Equipment.

The Vigilante Group subject to the approval of the Nigeria Police Force may acquire such equipment as are necessary for its administrative and operational needs and such equipment shall include:

- (a) operational and utility vehicles;

- (b) communication gadgets, including walkie-talkies, masts, boosters, radio-messaging equipment, 'caller unit group' (CUG);
- (c) other operational and administrative equipment like rain coats, rain boots, access control system equipment, torch-lights, reflective jackets, blankets, whistles and other equipment deemed necessary; and
- (d) detective equipment like hand-held metal detectors, walk-through detectors, baggage scanners, close circuit television (CCTV) cameras, bomb detectors and vehicular bomb detectors and other Explosive Ordnance Disposer (EOD)
(Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency).

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

Clause 10: Ranks and Insignia.

- (1) The ranks and insignia for members of the Vigilante Group shall be:
 - (a) Commandant-General, coat of arms, two stars at the center and the logo of the Vigilante Group;
 - (b) Deputy Commandant-General, coat of arms, a star at the center and the logo of the Vigilante Group;
 - (c) Assistant Commandant-General, coat of arms one bar at the center and the logo of the Vigilante Group;
 - (d) Group Commandant, coat of arms and the logo of the Vigilante Group;
 - (e) Deputy Group Commandant, a star and the logo of the Vigilante Group;
 - (f) Assistant Group Commandant, the logo of the Vigilante Group;
 - (g) Chief Group Superintendent, coat of arms and one star.
 - (h) Group Superintendent, coat of arms.
 - (i) Deputy Group Superintendent, three stars.
 - (j) Assistant Group Superintendent I, two stars.
 - (k) Assistant Group Superintendent II, one star;
 - (l) Chief Inspector, four bars;
 - (m) Senior Inspector, three bars;
 - (n) Inspector, two bars;
 - (o) Group Sergeant, three V;
 - (p) Corporal, two V;
 - (r) Lance Corporal, one V; and

- (s) Operative (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

PART V — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Clause 11: Funds of the Vigilante Group.

- (1) The Vigilante Group shall establish and maintain a fund into which shall be paid and credited:
- (a) all cash donations, grants, gifts or any financial assistance from the Federal, State and Local Governments;
 - (b) all cash donations, grants, gifts or any financial assistance from private persons, individuals and cooperate bodies in Nigeria,
 - (c) such money as may be borrowed, lent, appropriated or deposited with or granted to the Vigilante Group by the Federal, State or Local Governments;
 - (d) all cash grants, donations, gifts and any financial assistance from host communities or any community in Nigeria;
 - (e) revenue generated by the Vigilante Group from the services it renders;
 - (f) revenue generated from any investment by the Vigilante Group;
 - (g) grants, gifts or donations from international organisation and donor agencies; and
 - (h) all other funds which may accrue to the Vigilante Group.
- (2) The Vigilante Group may receive donations from other organisation after due consultation with the necessary agencies (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 11 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 12: Expenditure of the Vigilante Group.

The Vigilante Group may apply the proceeds of the Fund established under section 12 of this Bill:

- (a) to defray the cost of administration of the Vigilante Group;
- (b) to pay salaries, fees, allowances including pensions, and gratuities to the regular and volunteer member of the vigilante Group, provided that no payment of any kind under this paragraph (except such as may be expressly authorized by law) shall be made to any person who is in receipt of emoluments from the Federal Governments, State Governments or Local Governments;
- (c) for the maintenance of any property vested in the Vigilante Group; and

- (d) for, and in connection with, all or any of its functions under this Bill (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 12 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 13: Annual estimates and accounts.

- (1) The Vigilante Group shall, not later than 31st October in each year, submit to the Minister an estimate of its expenditure and income (including payments to the Fund) during the next succeeding year.
- (2) The Vigilante Group shall keep proper accounts in relation to those accounts and shall cause its accounts to be audited within six months after the end of each year by auditors appointed from the list and in accordance with the guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General for the Federation (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 13 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 14: Annual report.

The Vigilante Group shall:

- (a) prepare and submit to the Minister, not later than six months after the end of each year, a report in such form as he may direct on the activities of the Vigilante Group during the immediate preceding year; and
- (b) include in such report a copy of the audited accounts of the Vigilante Group for that year and the auditor's report on the accounts (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 14 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 15: Power to accept gift.

- (1) The Vigilante Group may accept any gift of land, money or other properties on such terms and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the person or organisation making the gift.
- (2) The Vigilante Group shall not accept any gift if the conditions attached by the person or organisation offering the gift are inconsistent with the functions of the Vigilante Group (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 15 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 16: Power to borrow.

- (1) The Vigilante Group may borrow by overdraft or otherwise such sums as it may require for the performance of its functions under this Bill.
- (2) The Vigilante Group shall not, without the approval of the Minister, borrow money which exceeds, at any time, the amount set by the Minister.
- (3) Notwithstanding subsection (1), where the sum to be borrowed is in foreign currency, the Vigilante Group shall not borrow the sum without the prior approval of the Minister (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 16 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 17: Investment. Cap. T22, LFN, 2004.

The Vigilante Group may, subject to the provisions of this Bill and the conditions of any trust created in respect of any property, invest all or any of its funds in any security prescribed by the Trustee Investments Act or in such other securities as may, from time to time, be approved by the Minister (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 17 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 18: Exemptions from tax.

- (1) The Vigilante Group is exempted from the payment of any income tax on any income accruing from investments made by the Board for the Vigilante Group.
- (2) The provisions of any enactment relating to the taxation of companies or trust funds does not apply to the Vigilante Group or Board (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 18 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART VI — DISCIPLINE

Clause 19: Discipline of members.

A regular or volunteer member of the Vigilante Group who:

- (a) performs his duties in contravention of the objects of the Vigilante Group;
- (b) takes part in any subversive activity, including mutiny and disturbance of public peace;
- (c) abets, incites, conceals or condones the commission of any offence;
- (d) takes part in an illegal assembly of persons with intention to breach public peace, destroy property or assault any person or group of persons;
- (e) having knowledge that an offence or an illegal act is about to be committed, fails to inform his superior officer;
- (f) takes part in a strike; or
- (g) violently assaults any regular or volunteer member,

commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not less than one year (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 19 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART VII — LEGAL PROCEEDINGS, RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

Clause 20: Legal proceedings, rights and privileges.

- (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other enactment, no suit against any Member of the Board, the Commandant-General or any regular or volunteer member of the Vigilante Group for any act done in pursuance or execution of this Bill or any other enactment or law, or of any public duty or authority or in respect of any alleged neglect or default in the execution

of this Bill or any other enactment or law, duty or authority, shall lie or be instituted in any court unless it is commenced

(a) within three months after the act, neglect or default complained of; or in the case of a continuation of damage or injury, within six months after it ceases

(b) in the case of a continuation of damage or injury, within six months after it ceases

(2) No suit shall commence against a member or the Board, the Commandant-General or any regular or volunteer member of the Vigilante Group before the expiration of a period of one month after written notice of intention to commence the suit shall have been served on the Vigilante Group by the intending plaintiff or his agent.

(3) The notice referred to in subsection (3) shall clearly state the:

(a) cause of action;

(b) particulars of claim;

(c) name and place of abode of the intending plaintiff; and

(d) relief which the plaintiff claims (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency).

Question that Clause 20 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 21: Service of documents.

A notice, summons or other document required or authorized to be served on the Vigilante Group under this Bill or any other enactment or law may be served by delivering it to the Commandant-General or by sending it by registered post and addressed to the Commandant-General at the Headquarters of the Vigilante Group (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency).

Question that Clause 21 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 22: Restriction on execution against property of the Vigilante Group.

(1) In any action or suit against the Vigilante Group, no execution or attachment of process shall be issued against the Vigilante Group unless a notice of at least three months of the intention to execute or attach has been given to the Vigilante Group.

(2) Any sum of money, which may, by the judgment of court, be awarded against the Vigilante Group shall, subject to any direction given by the court where notice of appeal against the judgment has been given, be paid from the Fund of the Vigilante Group (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency).

Question that Clause 22 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

(b) comply with the notice within a reasonable time (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency).

Question that Clause 23 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 23: Indemnity of officers.

A Member of the Board, the Commandant-General or any regular or volunteer member of the Vigilante Group shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Vigilante Group against any liability incurred by him in defending any proceeding, whether civil or criminal, if the proceeding is brought against him in his capacity as a member, Commandant-General, regular or volunteers member of the Vigilante Group (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 23 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 24: Secrecy.

(1) A Member of the Board, the Commandant-General or any regular or volunteer member of the Vigilante Group shall:

(a) not, for his personal gain, make use of any information which has come to his knowledge in the exercise of his powers or is obtained by him in the ordinary course of his duty as a Member of the Board, the Commandant-General, regular or volunteers member of the Vigilante Group;

(b) treat as confidential any information which has come to his knowledge in the exercise of his powers or is obtained by him in the discharge of his duties under this Bill; and

(c) not disclose any information referred to under paragraph (b) except when required to do so by any court or in such other circumstances as may be prescribed by the Board.

(2) A Person who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of not less than ₦50,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 24 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 25: Power to obtain information.

(1) For the purpose of carrying out the functions conferred on the Vigilante Group under this Bill, the Commandant-General or any regular or volunteer member of the Vigilante Group authorized in that behalf:

(a) shall have a right of access to all the records of any person or authority affected by this Bill for the specific purpose of discharging his duties under this Bill; and

(b) may, by notice in writing served on any person or premises, require that person or authority to furnish information on such matters as may be specified in the notice.

(2) The person or authority served with the notice under subsection (1) shall:

(a) furnish information if required under subsection (1); and

(b) comply with the notice within a reasonable time (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 25 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 26: Directives by the Minister, etc.

- (1) The Minister may give to the Vigilante Group or the Commandant-General such directives:
 - (a) of a general nature or relating generally to matters of policy with regard to the performance of its functions; or
 - (b) with respect to the maintenance and securing of public safety and order, as he may consider necessary, and the Group or the Commandant-General shall comply with the directives or cause them to be complied with.
- (2) Subject to subsection (1), a Governor of a State may give to a State Command, such directives with respect to the maintenance and security of public safety and order in the State as he may consider necessary and the State Commandant shall comply with the directives or cause them to be complied with.
- (3) Subject to subsection (1), a Chairman of a Local Government Council may give to a Local Government Command, such directives with respect to the maintenance and security of public safety and order in the State as he may consider necessary and the Local Government Area Commandant shall comply with the directives or cause them to be complied with (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 26 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 27: Regulations.

The Board may, with the approval of the Minister, make such regulations as in its opinion are necessary or expedient for giving full effects to the provisions of this Bill and for the due administration of its provisions (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 27 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 28: Transitional management.

- (1) Notwithstanding any provision of this Bill, on the commencement of this Bill, the Inspector-General of Police shall, subject to the approval of the Minister, appoint a serving police officer not below the rank of a:
 - (a) Commissioner of Police to serve as the Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer of the Vigilante Group;
 - (b) Chief Superintendent of Police to serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the Vigilante Group in every State of the Federation and Federal Capital Territory, Abuja; and
 - (c) Assistant Superintendent of Police as Chief Executive of the Vigilante Group in every Local Government Area in the Federation.
- (2) All officers appointed under this section shall serve for five years, starting from the date specified as transition period, after which their tenure shall expire or be deemed to have expired.

- (3) The transition period indicated in this section applies regardless of the actual date of appointment (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency).

Question that Clause 28 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 29: Interpretation.

In this Bill:

"Assistant Commandant-General" means the Assistant to the Commandant-General (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency).

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

"Commandant-General" means the Commandant of the Vigilante Group (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency).

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

"community service" includes those listed in section 4 (2) of this Bill (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency).

Question that the meaning of the words "community service" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Deputy Commandant-General" means the Deputy to the Commandant-General (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency).

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

"Local Government Area" includes Area Councils (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency).

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

"Member" means Chairman and Members of the Board of the Vigilante Group (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency).

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

"Minister" means the Minister responsible for Police Affairs (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency).

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

"officer" means an officer from the ranks of the Commandant-General to Assistant Superintendent of the Vigilante Group (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency).

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

"Regular Member" means a member of the group whose appointment is subject to the payment of approved salary and other condition of service, including pension, as may be determined by the board or law (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Regular Member" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"State" means any State of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

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

"State Commandant" means the Commandant of the Vigilante Group at the State level (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

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

"Vigilante Group of Nigeria" means the Vigilante Group established under this Bill (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Vigilanted Group of Nigeria" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Volunteer member" means a person who is appointed to offer free services to the group or who is appointed on ad-hoc basis, and is not entitled to salary or any pecuniary payment (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Volunteer member" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Zonal Commandant" is the officer responsible for any of the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria; and (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Zonal Commandant" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Zonal Office" means the Vigilante office in each of the geopolitical zone of Nigeria (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Zonal Office" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

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

Clause 30: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Vigilante Group of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 30 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

SCHEDULE

Section 2 (5)

ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE BOARD, ETC.

Proceedings

1. (1) The Board shall, for the purpose of this Bill, meet not less than three times in each year.
- (2) The Board shall meet whenever it is summoned by the Chairman and if the Chairman is required to do so by a notice given to him by not less than five other members, he shall summon a meeting of the Board to be held within 14 days from the date on which the notice is given.
- (3) Where the Board desires to obtain the advice of any person on a particular matter, the Board may co-opt him to the Board for such period as it deems fit but a person who is a member by virtue of this subparagraph is not entitled to vote at any meeting of the Board and shall not count towards a quorum.

Committees

2. (1) The Board may set up one or more committees to carry out, on behalf of the Board, its functions under this Bill as the Board may determine.
- (2) A committee set up under this paragraph shall consist of such number of persons (not necessarily members of the Board as may be determined by the Board) and a person other than a member of the Board shall hold office in the committee in accordance with the terms of his appointment.
- (3) A decision of a committee of the Board shall be of no effect until it is confirmed by the Board.

Miscellaneous

3. (1) The fixing of the seal of the Vigilante Group shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman or any other person authorised generally or specifically to act for that purpose by the Board and the Commandant-General.
- (2) Any contract or instrument, which if made or executed by a person not being a body corporate would not be required to be under seal, may be made or executed on behalf of the Board by the Commandant-General or any person generally or specially authorised to act for the purpose by the Board.
- (3) Any document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal of the Board shall be received in evidence and shall, unless and until the contrary is proved, be presumed to be so executed (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that the provisions of the Schedule stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to provide for an Act to establish the Vigilante Group of Nigeria which shall be charged with the responsibility for, among others, providing Community Policing, assisting the Nigeria Police Force and other Security Agencies established by Law to maintain law and order, and Community Service in Nigeria; and for related matters (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Vigilante Group of Nigeria Which shall be Charged with Responsibility for, Among Others, Providing Community Policing, Assisting the Nigeria Police Force and Other Security Agencies Established by Law to Maintain Law and Order, and Community Service in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 437) (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report progress.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole resumed consideration of the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Vigilante Group of Nigeria (VGN) charged with Responsibilities to, among others, Provide Community Policing, Maintenance of Law and Order and Community Service for Nigerians; and for Related Matters (HB. 437) and approved Clauses 1- 10, deferred Clause 11, approved Clauses 12 - 30, the Schedule, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

(iii) Committee on Human Rights:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Human Rights on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Human Rights Commission Act, Cap. N46, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (as amended) and Enact the National Human Rights Commission Bill to strengthen the Commission to conduct Investigations and Sustain Activities in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 1072)" (*Hon. Kwewun Rimamnde Shawulu — Bali/Gassol 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 NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ACT, CAP. N46, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004 AND ENACT THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION BILL, TO STRENGTHEN THE COMMISSION TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS AND SUSTAIN ACTIVITIES IN NIGERIA; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 1072)

PREAMBLE:

"WHEREAS considering that the United Nations Charter and the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 are based on the principles of the dignity and equality of all human beings and seek, among other basic objectives, the promotion and respect for human rights and fundamental freedom for all without distinction as to race; sex, language or religion;

AND WHEREAS to facilitate Nigeria's implementation of its various treaty obligations, including, but not limited to, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the International Convention for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;

AND WHEREAS the Federal Government of Nigeria is desirous of creating an enabling environment for extra-judicial recognition, promotion, and enforcement of all rights recognised and enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, the international and Regional Instruments and under any other existing legislation;

AND WHEREAS in furtherance of the above objectives and its determination to provide a forum for public enlightenment and dialogue on and to limit controversy and confrontation over allegations of human rights violations by individuals, corporate bodies, public officers and agencies and to re-affirm the sacred and inviolable nature of human and other fundamental rights." (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

PART I — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, ETC.

Committee's Recommendation:**Clause 1: Establishment of the National Human Rights Commission.**

- (1) There is established a body to be known as the National Human Rights Commission (in this Bill referred to as "the Commission").
- (2) The Commission shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in its corporate name (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:**Clause 2: Governing Council.**

- (1) There shall be for the Commission a Governing Council (in this Bill referred to as the Council) which shall be responsible for the discharge of the functions of the Commission.
- (2) The Council shall consist of —
 - (a) a Chairperson who shall be a retired Justice of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, a retired Judge of the Federal High Court, High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, High Court of a State, or a Legal Practitioner with 20 years post qualification experience and requisite experience in human rights;

- (b) a representative each of the Federal Ministry of —
- (i) Justice, who shall not be below the rank of a Director,
 - (ii) Foreign Affairs, who shall not be below the rank of a Director,
 - (iii) Interior, who shall not be below the rank of a Deputy Controller of Correctional Services:

Provided that *ex-officio* members shall not have voting powers in the Council;

- (c) three representatives of registered human rights organisations in Nigeria;
 - (d) two legal practitioners who shall not have less than 10 years' post-qualification experience to be appointed on the recommendation of the National Executive Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association;
 - (e) three representatives of the print and electronic media, one to represent the public and two to represent the private media;
 - (f) a representative of the organized labour;
 - (g) two other persons who shall be women with sufficient experience in human rights issues; and
 - (h) the Executive Secretary of the Commission.
- (3) The Chairperson and members of the Council shall each be —
- (a) persons of proven integrity; and
 - (b) appointed by the President, subject to confirmation by the Senate.
- (4) Every member of the Council shall, before starting his/her duties, make and subscribe to an oath that he/she shall faithfully and impartially and to the best of his/her ability, discharge the duties devolving upon him/her under the Act, that he/she shall not divulge the proceedings, votes or opinions of the members of the Council or any other matter relevant to the functions of the Commission.
- (5) Such oath shall be in accordance with the Oaths Act and, in this Bill "Oath" includes affirmation and declaration;
- (6) The supplementary provisions set out in the Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Council and the other matters contained therein (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:**Clause 3: Tenure of office, etc.**

- (1) A member of the Council, other than the Executive Secretary, shall hold office for a term of four years and may be re-appointed for one further term of four years and no more.
- (2) A member of the Council may at any time resign his office in writing addressed to the President, and which resignation shall become effective on acceptance by the President.
- (3) Members of the Council shall be paid such allowances as may be determined by the President, on the recommendation of the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:**Clause 4: Cessation of Membership.**

- (1) A Member of the Council shall be removed from office by the President, Commander-In-Chief-of the Armed Forces subject to confirmation by simple majority of the Senate, if he/she —
 - (a) becomes of unsound mind;
 - (b) becomes bankrupt or makes a compromise with his/her creditors;
 - (c) is convicted of a felony or any offence involving dishonesty; or
 - (d) is guilty of serious misconduct in relation to his/her duties;
- (2) Where a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Council, it shall be filled by the appointment of a successor to hold office for the remainder of the term of office of his/her predecessor, so however that the successor shall represent the same interest and shall be appointed by the President (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 4 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART II — FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

Committee's Recommendation:**Clause 5: Functions of the Commission.**

The Commission shall —

- (a) deal with all matters relating to the promotion and protection of human rights guaranteed by the Constitution- of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other International and Regional Instruments on human rights to which Nigeria is a party

- (b) monitor and investigate all alleged cases of human rights violation in Nigeria and make appropriate recommendations to the President for the prosecution and such other actions as it may deem expedient in each circumstance;
- (c) assist victims of human rights violation and seek appropriate redress and remedies on their behalf;
- (d) undertake studies on all matters pertaining to human rights and assist the Federal, State and Local Governments where it considers it appropriate to do so in the formulation of appropriate policies on the guarantee of human rights;
- (e) publish and submit, from time to time, to the President, National Assembly, Judiciary, State and Local Governments, reports on the state of human rights promotion and protection in Nigeria;
- (f) organise local and International seminars, workshops and conferences on human rights issues for public enlightenment;
- (g) liaise and cooperate, in such manner as it considers appropriate, with local and International Organizations on human rights with the purpose of advancing the promotion and protection of human rights;
- (h) participate in such manner as it considers appropriate in all International activities relating to the promotion and protection of human rights;
- (i) maintain a library, collect data and disseminate information and materials on human rights;
- (j) receive and investigate complaints concerning violations of human rights and make appropriate determination as may be deemed necessary in each circumstance;
- (k) examine any existing legislation, report concerning the enactment of legislation on matters relating to human rights, administrative provisions and proposed bills or bye laws for the purpose of ascertaining whether such enactments or proposed bills or bye-laws are consistent with human rights norms;
- (l) prepare and publish, in such manner as the Commission considers appropriate, guidelines for the avoidance of acts or practices with respect to the functions and powers of the Commission under this Bill;
- (m) promote understanding and public discussions of human rights issues in Nigeria;
- (n) undertake and coordinate, on its own initiative or on request of the Federal, State or Local Government, research and educational programmes and such other programmes for the promotion and protection of human rights;
- (o) on its own initiative or when requested by the Federal, State or Local Government, report on actions that should be taken by the Federal, State or Local Government to comply with the provisions of any relevant international human rights instruments;

- (p) refer, any matter of human rights violation requiring prosecution to the Attorney-General of the Federation or of a State, as the case may be;
- (q) where it considers it appropriate to do so act as a conciliator between parties to a complaint;
- (r) where it considers it appropriate, with the leave of the court hearing the proceedings and subject to any condition imposed by the court, intervene in any proceeding that involves human rights issues; and
- (s) carry out all other functions as are necessary and expedient for the performance of its functions under the Act (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 5 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 6: Powers of the Commission.

- (1) The Commission, shall have power to —
 - (a) conduct its investigations and inquiries in such manner as it considers appropriate;
 - (b) institute any civil action on any matter it deems fit in relation to the exercise of its functions under this Bill;
 - (c) appoint any person, whether or not such person is in the public service, to act as an interpreter in any matter brought before it and to translate any such book, paper or writing produced to it;
 - (d) visit correctional centres, police cells, other places of detention or holding facilities, in order to ascertain the conditions thereof and make recommendations to the appropriate authorities;
 - (e) make determination as to the damages or compensation payable in relation to any violation of human rights where it deems it necessary in the circumstances of the case;
 - (f) co-operate and consult with other agencies and organizations, governmental and nongovernmental, as it may deem appropriate; and
 - (g) do such other things as are incidental, necessary, conducive or expedient for the performance of its functions under this Bill.
- (2) Whenever it appears to the Executive Secretary upon information and after such inquiry as he shall think necessary, that there is reasonable cause to suspect that in any place there is evidence of the commission of any offence under this Bill, he may by written order direct an officer of the Commission to —
 - (a) enter upon any land or premises or by any agent or agents duly authorized in writing for any purpose which, in the opinion of the Commission is material to the functions of the Commission, and in particular, for the purpose of obtaining evidence or information or

- of inspecting or taking copies of any document required by, or which may be of assistance to the Commission and for safeguarding any such document or property which in the opinion of the Commission ought to be safeguarded for any purpose of its investigations or proceedings; provided a court order is obtained in this respect;
- (b) summon and interrogate any person, body or authority to appear before it for the purpose of a public inquiry aimed at the resolution of a complaint of human rights violation;
 - (c) issue a warrant to compel the attendance of any person who, after having been summoned to attend, fails, refuses or neglects to do so and does not excuse such failure, refusal or neglect to the satisfaction of the Commission;
 - (d) compel any person, body or authority who, in its opinion, has any information relating to any matter under its investigation to furnish it with any information or produce any document or other evidence which is in his or her custody and which relates to any matter being investigated; and
 - (e) compel the attendance of witnesses to produce evidence before it.
- (3) In exercising its functions and powers under this Bill, the Commission shall not be subject to the direction or control of any other authority or person,
- (4) It is an offence for any person, body or authority to —
- (a) refuse to provide evidence, including documentary evidence to the Commission in response to a written request to do so except where such disclosure is not permitted by the law;
 - (b) obstruct or do anything to prevent any member of the Council or an employee of the Commission from the lawful exercise of any of the functions conferred on the Commission by this Bill;
 - (c) punish, intimidate, harass or discriminate against any person for co-operating with the Commission in the exercise of its functions under this Bill; or
 - (d) refuse to comply with lawful directives, determination, decision or finding of the Commission,
- (5) A person who commits an offence under subsection (4) of this section is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of 6 months or to a fine of ₦100,000.00 or to both such imprisonment and fine (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 6 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART III — STAFF

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 7: Executive Secretary of the Commission.

- (1) There shall be for the Commission an Executive Secretary who shall be:

- (a) a legal practitioner with not less than 20 years post qualification experience and requisite experience in human rights issues; and
 - (b) a person of proven integrity and be the Chief Executive and Accounting Officer of the Commission;
 - (c) appointed by the President subject to confirmation by the Senate.
- (2) The Executive Secretary shall hold office for a term of five years in the first instance on such terms and conditions as the President, may determine, and may be reappointed for one further term of five years and no more.
 - (3) The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Commission and the implementation of the decisions of the Council subject to such general directions the Council may give.
 - (4) The Executive Secretary shall perform the functions of keeping the record of proceedings and decisions of the Council and such other functions as the Council may, from time to time, direct (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 7 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 8: Other Staff of the Commission, etc.

- (1) The Council shall have power to appoint directly, and either on transfer or on secondment from any public service in the Federation, such number of employees as may, in the opinion of the Commission, be required to assist it in the discharge of any of its functions under this Bill, and shall have power to pay to persons so employed such remuneration (including allowances) as the Council may, determine.
- (2) The terms and conditions of service (including terms and conditions as to remuneration, allowances, pensions, gratuities and other benefits) of the persons or consultants employed by the Commission shall be as determined by the Council from time to time.
- (3) The Commission may engage such consultants and advisers as it may require for the proper and efficient discharge of its functions (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 8 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 9: Staff Regulations.

The Commission may, subject to the provisions of this Bill, make staff regulations relating generally to the conditions of service of the employees of the Commission and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, such regulations may provide for —

- (a) the appointment, promotion and disciplinary control (including dismissal) of employees of the Commission; and
- (b) appeals by such employees against dismissal or other disciplinary measures (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 10: Condition of service.

The Council shall determine the conditions of service, including salaries, allowances, pensions in accordance with the Pension Reform Act, 2014 and gratuities as are appropriate for the Commission's employees (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 10 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 11: Pension.

(1) It is hereby declared that service in the Commission is a scheduled service and shall be deemed to be pensionable under the Pension Reform Act 2014 and, accordingly, employees of the Commission shall in respect of their service in the Commission, be entitled to pensions, gratuities and other retirement benefits as are prescribed hereunder.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, nothing in this Bill shall prevent the appointment of a person to any office on terms which preclude the grant of a pension or gratuity in respect of that office (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 11 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART IV — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 12: Fund of the Commission.

(1) The Commission shall establish and maintain a fund which shall be applied towards the discharge of its functions under this Bill.

(2) The Fund of the Commission shall be a charge on the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation.

(3) There shall be paid and credited to the fund established pursuant to subsection (1) of this section —

(a) such sums as may be provided by the Government of the Federation for the Commission;

(b) any fees charged for services rendered by the Commission, except for lodgment and processing of complaints of alleged human rights violation, provided the Commission shall be entitled to deduct the cost of processing such services;

(c) all other sums accruing to the Commission by way of gifts, testamentary dispositions, endowments and contributions from philanthropic persons and organizations or otherwise however (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 12 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:**Clause 13: Power to Accept Gifts.**

- (1) The Commission may accept gifts of land, money or other property on such terms and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the person or organization making the gift;
- (2) The Commission shall not accept any gift if the conditions attached by the person or organisation making the gift are inconsistent with the functions of the Commission (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 13 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:**Clause 14: Borrowing Powers, etc.**

- (1) The Commission may borrow by way of loan or overdrafts from any source such specific amount as may be required by the Commission for meeting its obligations and discharging its functions under this Bill.
- (2) The Commission may subject to this Bill and the conditions of any trust created in respect of any property, invest all or any of its funds;
- (3) The Commission may, from time to time, invest any surplus funds of the Commission in securities prescribed by the Trustee Investments Act or such other securities.
- (4) Subject to the provisions of the Land Use Act, the Commission may acquire or lease any land required for its purpose under this Bill (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 14 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:**Clause 15: Human Rights Fund.**

- (1) There is established the Human Rights Fund (in this Bill referred to as "the Fund") which shall be applied by the Commission towards —
 - (a) the conduct of research and training on human rights issues; and other projects of the Commission; and
 - (b) the facilitation of human rights activities of the Commission or in Collaboration with other human rights non-governmental organizations, Civil society organizations and other stakeholders.
- (2) There shall be paid and credited to the Fund established pursuant to subsection (1) of this section. —
 - (a) such sums as may be provided by the Federal, State or Local Government for purposes of the Fund as maybe agreed with the Commission;
 - (b) such contributions from national and multi-national, public and-private companies and institutions carrying on business in Nigeria amounting to 0.3% of their annual profit before tax if their annual profit is above one billion Naira.

- (c) such contributions made to the Fund under subsection (2) (b) of this section shall be tax deductible (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 15 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 16: Annual Estimates, Accounts and Audit.

- (1) The Commission shall cause to be prepared, not later than 30th September in each year, an estimate of the expenditure and income of the Commission during the next succeeding year and when prepared they shall be submitted, to the National Assembly for approval.
- (2) The Commission shall cause to be kept proper accounts and proper records in relation thereto and when certified by the Commission such accounts shall be audited as provided in subsection (3) of this section.
- (3) The accounts of the Commission shall be audited by auditors appointed from the list of auditors and in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Auditor-General for the Federation and the fees of the auditors and the expenses for the audit generally shall be paid from the funds of the Commission (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 16 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 17: Annual Reports.

The Commission shall, not later than 6 months after the end of each year; submit to the President and the National Assembly, a report on the activities of the Commission and its administration during the immediate preceding year and shall include in the report the audited account of the Commission and the auditor's comments thereon (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 17 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 18: Limitation of suit against the Commission.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the provisions of the Public Officers Protection Act shall apply in relation to any suit instituted against any member of the Council, the Executive Secretary, or any officer or any other employee of the Commission.
- (2) No suit shall lie or be instituted in any court against the Commission, any member of the Council, the Executive Secretary or any officer or employee of the Commission for an act done in pursuance or execution of this Bill or any other law or enactment, or of any public duty or authority or in respect of any alleged neglect or default in the execution of this Bill or such law or enactment, duty or authority unless —
 - (a) it is commenced within 3-months next after the act, neglect or default complained of: or
 - (b) in the case of a continuation of damage or injury, within 6 months next after the ceasing thereof.

- (3) No suit shall be commenced against the Commission, any member of the Council, the Executive Secretary, officer or employee of the Commission except a one month written notice of intention to commence the suit is served on the Commission by the intending plaintiff or his/her agent.
- (4) The notice referred to in subsection (3) of this section shall clearly state —
- (a) the cause of action;
 - (b) the particulars of claim;
 - (c) the name and place of abode of the intending plaintiff; and
 - (d) the relief which he claims (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 18 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 19: Service of Document.

A notice, summons or other document required or authorized to be served upon the Commission under the provisions of this Bill or any other law or enactment may be served by delivering it to the Executive Secretary or by sending it by registered post and addressed to the Executive Secretary at the principal office of the Commission (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 19 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 20: Restriction of Execution Against Property of the Commission.

Any sum of money which may by the judgment of any court be awarded against the Commission shall be paid from the general reserve fund of the Commission subject to any direction given by the Court (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 20 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 21: Indemnity.

A member of the Council, the Executive Secretary, any officer or employee of the Commission, shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Commission against any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgment is given in favour of another or in which he is acquitted, if any such proceeding is brought, against him in his capacity as a member of the Council, the Executive Secretary, officer or employee of the Commission—provided that he acted in good faith (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 21 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 22: Recognition and enforcement of awards and recommendations.

An award or recommendation, made by the Commission shall be recognized as binding and subject to this section and this Bill shall, upon application to the court by motion on notice, be enforced by the Court (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 22 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 23: Regulations.

The Commission may make such regulations as it deems necessary or expedient to give effect to the provisions of this Bill (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 23 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 24: Repeal.

The National Human Rights Commission Act, Cap. N46, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (as amended) is repealed (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 24 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 25: Savings and Transitional Provisions.

- (1) All assets, rights, liabilities, interests, and obligations vested in National Human Rights Commission Act, Cap. N46, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (as amended) before the commencement of this Bill, shall after commencement of this Bill be vested in the National Human Rights Commission.
- (2) All staff of National Human Rights Commission existing before the commencement of this Bill shall after commencement of this Bill continue to be staff of National Human Rights Commission in accordance with the terms of appointment (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 25 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Chairman to report progress.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Human Rights on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Human Rights Commission Act, Cap. N46, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (as amended) and Enact the National Human Rights Commission Bill to strengthen the Commission to conduct Investigations and Sustain Activities in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 1072) and approved Clauses 1 - 25, deferred Clause 26, the Schedule, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

(iv) **Committee on Tertiary Education and Services:**

Report of the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services on a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of Education, Ila-Orangun, Osun State; and for Related Matters (HB 493).

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

- (v) **Committee on Health Institutions:**
Report of the Committee on Health Institutions on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Medical Centre, Oghara, Delta State; and for Related Matters (HB. 573)

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

- (vi) **A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of School of Mines and Geological Studies, Akoko-Edo, Edo State; and for Related Matters (HB. 441) (Committee of the Whole):**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of School of Mines and Geological Studies, Akoko-Edo, Edo State; and for Related Matters (HB. 441)" (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader).

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 PROVIDE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF
SCHOOL OF MINES AND GEOLOGICAL STUDIES, AKOKO-EDO,
EDO STATE; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 441)

Clause 24: Interpretation.

"Minister" means the Minister charged with responsibility for matters relating to the Federal Ministry of Education (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word "Minister" be as defined in the interpretation to this 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 on a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of School of Mines and Geological Studies, Akoko-Edo, Edo State; and for Related Matters (HB. 441) and approved Clause 24 of the Bill.

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

25. Adjournment of First Sitting

That the House do adjourn the First Sitting till 2.15 p.m. (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.50 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila
Speaker