



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 30 November, 2021

1. The House met at 11.24 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 Thursday, 25 November, 2021.

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

4. **Announcement**  
*Visitors in the Gallery:*  
Mr Speaker recognised the presence of *Students' Union Government*, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State.
5. **Petition**  
The following Petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Mukhtar Ahmed (*Kaduna South Federal Constituency*):
  - (a) Accurate Solicitors (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Aisha Abdullahi Hassan and 1 other, on alleged non-payment of death benefits of late Abdullahi Hassan to his next of kin by the Management of Sigma Pensions;
  - (b) Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum, on alleged corrupt practices by the Chief of Staff to the Governor of Cross River State;
  - (c) Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum, on alleged violation of the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA), Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA), and the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act, Cap. P10, LFN, 2004, by Sterling Oil Exploration and Energy Production Limited;
  - (d) Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum, on alleged corrupt practices by the Acting Managing Director of Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA);

- (e) **Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum**, on alleged corrupt practices by the Sole Administrator of the Niger Delta Development Commission;
- (f) **C. E. Obiazi & Co. (Legal Practitioners)**, on alleged forgery and conversion of the sum of ₦78,834,000.00 (Seventy Eight million, Eight Hundred and Thirty-Four thousand Naira) only, by Maka Obinna Martins and 3 others;
- (g) **Ibrahim Mohammed Rabiu**, on the non-implementation of the House of Representatives Resolution of Thursday, 25 April, 2019, by the Nigerian Air Force; and
- (h) **David Chinedu Okorie**, on his alleged discrimination and victimization by **Save the Children International**.

*Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.*

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

**(i) Emergence of New COVID-19 Omicron Variant:**

Hon. Dachung Musa Bagos (*Jos South/Jos East 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.*

**Emergence of New COVID-19 OMICRON Variant:**

The House:

*Notes that on 26 November, 2021 a new, heavily mutated COVID-19 variant named Omicron Variant was discovered in South Africa and had spread across the globe on Sunday, 28 November, 2021, shutting borders and renewing curbs as the EU Chief said governments faced a "race against time" to understand;*

*Also notes that on 26 November, 2021, WHO designated the variant B.1.1.529 a variant of concern, named Omicron, on the advice of WHO's Technical Advisory Group on Virus Evolution (TAG-VE) was based on the evidence presented to the TAG-VE that Omicron has several mutations that may have an impact on how it behaves and easily it spreads with the severity of illness it causes, yet unknown;*

*Aware that Researchers in South Africa and other parts of the world are conducting studies to better understand many aspects of Omicron and to continue to share the findings of these studies as they become available;*

*Concerned that on Sunday, 28 November, 2021, Canada reported its first cases of the new Omicron strain of COVID in two people who had travelled recently to Nigeria, as confirmed by the government of Ontario suggesting that the two cases are in the capital, Ottawa as preliminary evidence suggests risk of reinfection with Omicron as people who previously had COVID-19 could become re-infected more easily with Omicron);*

*Also concerned* that a total of 126 genomes of this variant have been detected globally and published on GISAID, a global mechanism for sharing sequencing data, and that there seem to be a high number of mutations present in the Omicron variant and the exponential rise suggesting that the virus is highly transmissible and may also present an increased risk of reinfection compared to other variant of concern (VOC):

*Further notes* that the report by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), stating that it is monitoring emerging evidence on Omicron variant and its implication for Nigeria's response to the COVID-19 pandemic:

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health to mandate the COVID-19 Task Force to immediately activate strategies to be implemented in monitoring adherence to COVID-19 guidelines and ensure residents continue to comply with all advisories aimed at curtailing the spread of COVID-19;
- (ii) also urge the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to:
  - (a) ensure intensive observation and check on travel protocols for inbound passengers.
  - (b) step up a national response to control the spread of new variants in order to spare Nigeria the full brunt of the third Wave of the pandemic. (From *Dachung Musa Bagos — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that on 26 November, 2021 a new, heavily mutated COVID-19 variant named Omicron Variant was discovered in South Africa and had spread across the globe on Sunday, 28 November, 2021, shutting borders and renewing curbs as the EU Chief said governments faced a "race against time" to understand:

*Also noted* that on 26 November, 2021, WHO designated the variant B.1.1.529 a variant of concern, named Omicron, on the advice of WHO's Technical Advisory Group on Virus Evolution (TAG-VE) was based on the evidence presented to the TAG-VE that Omicron has several mutations that may have an impact on how it behaves and easily it spreads with the severity of illness it causes, yet unknown:

*Aware* that Researchers in South Africa and other parts of the world are conducting studies to better understand many aspects of Omicron and to continue to share the findings of these studies as they become available:

*Concerned* that on Sunday, 28 November, 2021, Canada reported its first cases of the new Omicron strain of COVID in two people who had travelled recently to Nigeria, as confirmed by the government of Ontario suggesting that the two cases are in the capital, Ottawa as preliminary evidence suggests risk of reinfection with Omicron as people who previously had COVID-19 could become re-infected more easily with Omicron):

*Also concerned* that a total of 126 genomes of this variant have been detected globally and published on GISAID, a global mechanism for sharing sequencing data, and that there seem to be a high number of mutations present in the Omicron variant and the exponential rise suggesting that the virus is highly transmissible and may also present an increased risk of reinfection compared to other variant of concern (VOC);

*Further noted* that the report by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), stating that it is monitoring emerging evidence on Omicron variant and its implication, for Nigeria's response to the COVID-19 pandemic:

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health to mandate the COVID-19 Task Force to immediately activate strategies to be implemented in monitoring adherence to COVID-19 guidelines and ensure residents continue to comply with all advisories aimed at curtailing the spread of COVID-19;
- (ii) also urge the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to:
  - (a) ensure intensive observation and check on travel protocols for inbound passengers,
  - (b) step up a national response to control the spread of new variants in order to spare Nigeria the full brunt of the third Wave of the pandemic (HR. 148/11/2021).
- (ii) ***Protracted Blackout and Looming Breakdown of Law and Order in Mosogar Kingdom and Edjemuoyavwe Communities in Ethiope West Local Government Area of Delta State:***  
Hon. Ben Rollands Igbakpa (*Ethiope East/Ethiope West 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.*

**Protracted Blackout and Looming Breakdown of Law and Order in Mosogar Kingdom and Edjemuoyavwe Communities in Ethiope West Local Government Area of Delta State:**

The House:

*Notes* that for about 7 years, major parts of Ethiope West Local Government Area of Delta State particularly Mosogar and Edjemudarho communities have been in total blackout as a result of total failure by the Benin Electricity Distribution Company (BEDC) to discharge their duties in the distribution of power/electricity to the affected areas;

*Aware* that BEDC promptly collect bills from customers but whenever there are technical issues or faults requiring their attention to fix their assets such as transformers, cables, poles, etc. under their management and-or control, the company abandons and or abdicates such responsibilities by compelling the customers to fix such faults or provide money to purchase it;

*Also aware* that efforts at procuring Transformer (Step-down) from the BEDC since 2015 did not yield fruit despite payment of the required amount for installation or step down to the BEDC;

*Conscious* that the BEDC neglected and failed to energize the two Units of 2.5 KVA Transformer approved for the Community by the Delta State Government until the payment of ₦10,000,000 (Ten Million Naira) for which it also crashed;

*Worried* that the leaders of the affected communities have made several efforts to work with the BEDC including payment of millions of naira to provide solution, yet no result as the BEDC have failed, refused and or neglected to creditably perform their responsibilities but have continued to rip the communities/consumers of millions of Naira through their illicit demands, accounting for the failure of electricity supply in affected communities over these years;

*Also worried* about the pain suffered by the members of the communities over the years of power blackout and several protests which have led to frequent blockade of major roads including federal highways, attack on the Chairman and other officials of the Local Government on December 24, 2021 ultimatum demanding for the restoration of power to the affected communities;

*Further worried* that Mosogar/Oghara is home to the College of Physical Education an affiliate of some Universities, a gate way to the Benin-Warri Expressway into the East/West Corridors and other critical State and Federal Governments' infrastructures but with the perennial electricity challenges and total darkness for over 7 years;

*Concerned* that the management of the BEDC have failed woefully in the discharge of their obligations to electricity consumers in the affected communities and that the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) is complacent for its lack of proper supervision or initiation of performance bond to all DISCOs;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) to be up to their responsibilities of supervision and ensure that Distribution companies all over the country don't continue to thrive in deceit and rip-off of consumers;
- (ii) also urge the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) should initiate a performance Audit on all DISCOs to either perform the terms of their obligation to Nigerians or close shop which will enable companies with the requisite capacities take over the Electricity distribution services in the country; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Power to invite the management of the Benin Electricity Distribution Company (BEDC) and the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) for proper interaction to ascertain the root cause(s) of the perennial lack of or total failure of electricity supply and or distribution to Mosogar, Edjemuoyavwe and other affected areas in Ethiope West LGA of Delta State with a view to finding a lasting solution and report within two (2) weeks (*Hon. Ben Rollands Igbakpa — Ethiope East/Ethiope West Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

**The House:**

*Noted* that for about 7 years, major parts of Ethiope West Local Government Area of Delta State particularly Mosogar and Edjemudarho communities have been in total blackout as a result of total failure by the Benin Electricity Distribution Company (BEDC) to discharge their duties in the distribution of power/electricity to the affected areas;

*Aware* that BEDC promptly collect bills from customers but whenever there are technical issues or faults requiring their attention to fix their assets such as transformers, cables, poles, etc. under their management and or control, the company abandons and or abdicates such responsibilities by compelling the customers to fix such faults or provide money to purchase it;

*Also aware* that efforts at procuring Transformer (Step-down) from the BEDC since 2015 did not yield fruit despite payment of the required amount for installation or step down to the BEDC;

*Conscious* that the BEDC neglected and failed to energize the two Units of 2.5 KVA Transformer approved for the Community by the Delta State Government until the payment of N10,000,000 (Ten Million Naira) for which it also crashed;

*Worried* that the leaders of the affected communities have made several efforts to work with the BEDC including payment of millions of naira to provide solution, yet no result as the BEDC have failed, refused and or neglected to creditably perform their responsibilities but have continued to rip the communities/consumers of millions of Naira through their illicit demands, accounting for the failure of electricity supply in affected communities over these years;

*Also worried* about the pain suffered by the members of the communities over the years of power blackout and several protests which have led to frequent blockade of major roads including federal highways, attack on the Chairman and other officials of the Local Government on December 24, 2021 ultimatum demanding for the restoration of power to the affected communities;

*Further worried* that Mosogar/Oghara is home to the College of Physical Education an affiliate of some Universities, a gate way to the Benin-Warri Expressway into the East/West Corridors and other critical State and Federal Governments' infrastructures but with the perennial electricity challenges and total darkness for over 7 years;

*Concerned* that the management of the BEDC have failed woefully in the discharge of their obligations to electricity consumers in the affected communities and that the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) is complacent for its lack of proper supervision or initiation of performance bond to all DISCOs;

**Resolved to:**

- (i) urge the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) to be up to their responsibilities of supervision and ensure that Distribution companies all over the country don't continue to thrive in deceit and rip-off of consumers;
- (ii) also urge the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) should initiate a performance Audit on all DISCOs to either perform the terms of their obligation to Nigerians or close shop which will enable companies with the requisite capacities take over the Electricity distribution services in the country; and

- (iii). mandate the Committee on Power to invite the management of the Benin Electricity Distribution Company (BEDC) and the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) for proper interaction to ascertain the root cause(s) of the perennial lack of or total failure of electricity supply and or distribution to Mosogar, Edjemuoyavwe and other affected areas in Ethiope West LGA of Delta State with a view to finding a lasting solution and report within two (2) weeks (HR. 149/11/2021).

#### 7. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Federal College of Health Sciences and Technology, Gumi (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 694).
- (2) Criminal Code Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1480).
- (3) Legal Aid Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1742).
- (4) Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1743).
- (5) Federal Establishments (Decentralization) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1744).
- (6) Nigerian Garment Promotion Bill, 2021 (HB. 1745).
- (7) Federal Medical Centre, Gwoza (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1746).
- (8) Federal College of Nursing, Mid-Wifery and Health Sciences, Chibok, Borno State (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1747).
- (9) Federal University of Agricultural Technology, Damboa, Borno State (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1748).
- (10) Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1749).
- (11) Federal College of Animal Husbandry, Koaje, Kebbi, Kebbi State Bill, 2021 (HB. 1750).
- (12) Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Kebbi, Kebbi State (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1751).
- (13) Nigerian International Financial Centre (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1752).

#### 8. Presentation of Report

##### *Committee on Health Institutions:*

Report of the Committee on Health Institutions on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Orthopaedic Hospitals Management Board Act, Cap. O10, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for Establishment of Orthopaedic Hospital, Azare, Borno State; and for Related Matters (HB. 1322)

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

#### 9. A Bill for an Act to Establish Institute of Professional Secretarial Staff of Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB.350) — *Third Reading*

*Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish Institute of Professional Secretarial Staff of Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB.350) be now read the Third Time" (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader).*

*Agreed to.*

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of National Institute for Border Studies, Imeko, Ogun State, to Provide for Teaching, Research, Instruction and Training of Students in Border Management; and for Related Matters (HB.1467) — Second Reading**  
*Motion made and Question proposed.* "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of National Institute for Border Studies, Imeko, Ogun State, to Provide for Teaching, Research, Instruction and Training of Students in Border Management; and for Related Matters (HB.1467) be read a Second Time" (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader).

*Debate.*

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

*Bill read the Second Time.*

*Bill referred to the Committee of the Whole.*

11. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Customs and Excise Management Act, Cap. C45, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Nigeria Customs Service (Establishment) Bill; and for Related Matters (HB.1729) — Second Reading**  
*Motion made and Question proposed.* "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Customs and Excise Management Act, Cap. C45, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Nigeria Customs Service (Establishment) Bill; and for Related Matters (HB.1729) be read a Second Time" (Hon. Leke Joseph Abejide — Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro 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 Customs and Excise.*

12. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria Act, Cap. T3, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for Stiffer Penalties and Punishment for Unregistered and Unqualified Teachers; and for Related Matters (HB.550) — Second Reading**  
*Motion made and Question proposed.* "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria Act, Cap. T3, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for Stiffer Penalties and Punishment for Unregistered and Unqualified Teachers; and for Related Matters (HB.550) be read a Second Time" (Hon. Jude Ise-Idehen — Egor Ikpoba Okha Federal Constituency and 1 other).

*Debate.*

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

*Bill read the Second Time.*

*Bill referred to the Committee on Basic Education and Services.*

13. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Joseph Sawuan Tarka University, Makurdi; and for Related Matters (HB.1661) — Second Reading**  
*Motion made and Question proposed.* "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Joseph Sawuan Tarka University, Makurdi; and for Related Matters (HB.1661) be read a Second Time" (Hon. John Dyegh — Makurdi/Guma 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.*

14. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University, Omoku and to make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration; and for Related Matters (HB.77) — Second Reading**

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

15. **Need for the Benin Electricity Distribution Company (BEDC) to Restore Electricity Supply to Enuani Clan in Delta State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes that Enuani is a clan in Delta state comprising of Olodu, Oloho, Ewulu, Isheagu, Isikiti, Ukwu-Oba, Umute, Aba-Unor and Adonte communities;*

*Also notes that as a result of the dilapidation of a 33KVA line, the electricity supply was cut off in Enuani clan and other communities nearby, thereby leaving the entire community in perpetual darkness for almost two decades;*

*Aware that the lack of electricity for almost 20 years has led to untold hardships on the residents in the affected communities, thus inhibiting development;*

*Also aware that appeals made by the people to the Benin Electricity Distribution Company (BEDC) and the National Integrated Power Project (NIPP) to restore electricity to the area by including the 2.5MVA line that has a substation at Ewulu fell on deaf ears;*

*Concerned that the Benin Electricity Distribution Company had encouraged stakeholders living in the affected communities to rehabilitate the 11KVA line attached to the area to fast track fixing of the 33KVA line, which the community stakeholders complied with and spent 4 million Naira to rehabilitate the line, only for the BEDC to renege on their part of the deal;*

*Worried that the continuous disconnection of electricity supply to the Communities has not only caused untold hardships to indigenes but will also bring set back and give neighbouring communities developmental edge, hence the need for urgent intervention;*

*Resolves to:*

*Mandate the Committee on Power to interface with the Management of Benin Electricity Distribution Company and Rural Electrification Agency on possible ways of restoring electricity supply to Olodu, Oloho, Ewulu, Isheagu, Isikiti, Ukwu-Obama, Umute, Aba-Unor and Adonte Communities in the Enuani clan (Hon. Ndudi Godwin Elumelu — Aniocha North/Aniocha South/Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency).*

*Agreed to.*

**(HR. 150/11/2021).**

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

16. **Need to Address Incessant Banditry Attacks at Agwara and Borgu Local Government Areas of Niger State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* the frequent banditry attacks on Communities within Agwara and Borgu Local Government Areas of Niger State;

*Also notes* that Communities in Babanna and Malale Wards, some parts of Wawa, Shagunu and Pissa/Kabe Wards in Borgu Local Government Area as well as Mago town in Agwara Local Government were massively attacked by bandits and destructed houses and valuable properties on weekly basis;

*Worried* that during the attacks, many people, including the District Head of Wawa and the aged mother of a serving Member of the Niger State House of Assembly were abducted while others, including the District Head of Dekare and many guards at Kainji National Park, were killed;

*Further worried* that Nigeria's Super Tucano Fighter Jets, which are being kept at the 407 Air Weapon Training School, New Bussa are exposed to the risk of getting destroyed, given its proximity to the location of bandits at the Kainji National Park in the Borgu Game reserve;

*Concerned* that the Correctional Centre which was situated in 221 and 101 Battalions and has some insurgents incarcerated therein poses great risk to public safety, lives and properties in the areas within the Constituency;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to deploy sufficient Military Personnel to 221 and 101 Battalions in Wawa and 407 Air Weapon Training School New Bussa to protect lives and national assets;
- (ii) also urge the National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA) and the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment to convert a greater part of the Kainji National Park for agriculture and commercial investment to eliminate hideouts for bandits;
- (iii) further urge the Executive Arm of Government to provide training and equipment to the National Park Rangers to aid in securing the area; and
- (iv) call on the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the victims of banditry attacks within Agwara and Borgu Local Government Areas;
- (v) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, and Defence to ensure compliance (*Hon. Jafaru Muhammad — Agwara/Borgu Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* the frequent banditry attacks on Communities within Agwara and Borgu Local Government Areas of Niger State;

*Also noted* that Communities in Babanna and Malale Wards, some parts of Wawa, Shagunu and Pissa/Kabe Wards in Borgu Local Government Area as well as Mago town in Agwara Local Government were massively attacked by bandits and destructed houses and valuable properties on weekly basis:

*Worried* that during the attacks, many people, including the District Head of Wawa and the aged mother of a serving Member of the Niger State House of Assembly were abducted while others, including the District Head of Dekare and many guards at Kainji National Park, were killed:

*Further worried* that Nigeria's Super Tucano Fighter Jets, which are being kept at the 407 Air Weapon Training School, New Bussa are exposed to the risk of getting destroyed, given its proximity to the location of bandits at the Kainji National Park in the Borgu Game reserve:

*Concerned* that the Correctional Centre which was situated in 221 and 101 Battalions and has some insurgents incarcerated therein poses great risk to public safety, lives and properties in the areas within the Constituency:

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to deploy sufficient Military Personnel to 221 and 101 Battalions in Wawa and 407 Air Weapon Training School New Bussa to protect lives and national assets;
- (ii) also urge the National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA) and the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment to convert a greater part of the Kainji National Park for agriculture and commercial investment to eliminate hideouts for bandits;
- (iii) further urge the Executive Arm of Government to provide training and equipment to the National Park Rangers to aid in securing the area; and
- (iv) call on the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the victims of banditry attacks within Agwara and Borgu Local Government Areas;
- (v) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, and Defence to ensure compliance (**HR. 151/11/2021**).

**17. Call for Reconstruction of Jama'are and Itas/Gadau Divisional Police Stations in Bauchi State**  
*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that on 18 April, 2011 and 12 November, 2012, the Jama'are and Itas/Gadau Divisional Police Stations were respectively attacked by insurgents;

*Also notes* that the Insurgents who were armed with sophisticated weapons and explosives engaged in a gun battle with men of the Nigeria Police Force, which led to the death of one police officer at Itas Gadau and another policeman sustained gunshot wounds:

*Worried* that the explosives used by the insurgents destroyed significant structures in the two Divisional Police Stations thus leaving the constituents vulnerable to further attacks as they live in constant fear due to the absence of security personnel:

*Also worried* that since the incident, cases of violence, armed robbery and other crimes, which have been on the rise, are being handled under trees due to lack of facility structures for Police personnel:

*Cognizant* that protection of lives and property is the primary purpose of government and the immediate intervention of the Federal Government will go a long way in alleviating the plight of the people in Jama'are and Itas/Gadau Local Government Areas;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Nigeria Police Force to carry out an on-the-spot assessment of the Divisional Police Stations at Jama'are and Itas/Gadau Local Government Areas to ascertain the extent of the damage with a view to commencing immediate reconstruction of damaged structures;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to ensure compliance (*Hon. Bashir Uba Mashema – Jama'are/Itas/Gadau Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

(HR. 152/11/2021).

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

**18. Need to Build A132/33KV Electricity Substation in Yewa, Egbado South/Ipokia Local Government Areas of Ogun State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the importance of Electricity to the socio-economic development of every area cannot be overemphasized;

*Aware* that the 1500 megawatts power supply from the transformer in Agbara 30 MVA sub-station is grossly insufficient to cater for the electricity needs of the people in the area;

*Concerned* that the lack of electricity supply due to a non-functional sub-station in Yewa Local Government Area has adversely affected socio-economic activities in the area;

*Also concerned* that many communities, especially Owode-Yewa, Ajilete, Oke-Odan, Idiroko, Agosasa, Ijofin, Ajegunle, Ilaro and Ipokia have barely electricity in the last ten years, thus causing disruptions in economic activities in the area;

*Further concerned* that the continuous erratic power supply in the area has paralyzed many businesses and rendered business owners jobless, while hospitals have been rendered inoperable, thus denying the people access to adequate health care;

*Disturbed* that even with the almost non-existent power supply, the people are inundated with exorbitant estimated bills monthly;

*Cognizant* of the need for a 132/33kv substation in Yewa land as the area, which covers over 250 kilometers is currently fed on just a single 33kv line;

*Informed* that as a temporary measure, the existing single 33kv line can be converted by the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) to a double circuit from Papalan to substation to provide some relief to the people before installation of the 132/33kv substation is completed;

*Also cognizant* of the urgent need for installation of a 100 MVA Sub-Station at Obasanjo Transmission Station, Ota to ease the burden on Agbara 30MVA Sub-station and improve power supply to Owode-yewa, Ajilete, Oke- Odan, Idiroko, Agosasa, Ijofin, Ajegunle Ilaro in the short term;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company (IBEDC) to expedite action on its efforts at improving power supply to Owode-Yewa, Ajilete, Oke-Odan, Idiroko, Agosasa, Ijofin, Ajegunle Ilaro and Ipokia in Ogun State;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Power to install a 100 MVA Sub-station at Obasanjo Transmission, Ota in the immediate term and ensure the installation of a 132/33 KV Sub-station at a central location in Yewa land;
- (iii) further urge the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) to, as a matter of urgency, convert the existing single 33KV line from Papalan to Sub-station to a double circuit line;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Power to ensure compliance (*Hon. Kolawole Lawal Wasin Egbado South/Ipokia Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

(HR. 153/11/2021).

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

**19. Need to Extend the Lagos-Kano Standard Gauge Railway to Sanusi Railway Station Close to Ighoora in Ibarapa Area of Oyo State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House.

*Notes* that in 2006, the Federal Government awarded an 8.3 billion US Dollar contract to China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) to construct a standard gauge railway from Lagos to Kano;

*Also notes* that due to the inability to secure funding for the whole project, the Federal Government decided to build the standard gauge line in segments, and rehabilitate the narrow gauge line in the meantime;

*Aware* that the project commenced with the construction of 187km segment from Abuja to Kaduna on February 20, 2011, and was completed and inaugurated on 26 July, 2016;

*Also aware* that in 2012 the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC), which was awarded 1.53 billion dollars for the construction of 156km Lagos-Ibadan segment of the standard gauge railway, commenced work on March 7, 2017, and the railway was officially inaugurated on 10 June, 2021;

*Further aware* that in May 2018, the Minister of Transport signed a 6.68-billion-dollar contract with the CCECC to complete the remaining segments of the Lagos-Kano standard gauge railway, which is expected to be completed in 3 years in the following places:

- \* Ibadan-Osogbo-Ilorin (200km),
- \* Osogbo-Ado Ekiti,
- \* Ilorin-Minna (270km),
- \* Minna-Abuja,
- \* Kaduna-Kano (300km);

*Recalls* that in October 2019, the government signed a 3.9-billion-dollar contract with the China Railway Construction Corporation Limited to extend the railway line from Warri to Abuja, connecting it to the Lagos-Kano standard gauge railway;

*Convinced* that modernization of the railway network in Nigeria, which should link all rail networks and stations, is not only overdue but is capable of unlocking huge economic potentials for the country;

*Concerned* that the Federal Government failed or refused to rehabilitate the old railway lines or extend the new standard gauge railway lines to some key existing railway stations;

*Also concerned* that the Sanusi Railway Station which is 12km to Igboora in the Ibarapa axis of Oyo State has been serving as a major transportation route for the people of Igboora and its environs to Abeokuta, Lagos and other parts of the country by rail since the 1960s appears to have been abandoned and rendered useless;

*Cognizant* that the Sanusi Railway Station in Oyo State, which serves as a gateway between the Northwest and Southwest of Nigeria, holds enormous agricultural potentials for the country and should thus be connected to the new standard gauge railway network from Lagos to Kano;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) commend the Federal Government for its efforts and determination to modernise the Nigerian Railway system;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to extend the standard gauge railway line to the Sanusi Railway Station near Igboora in the Ibarapa axis of Oyo state and make it functional;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Land Transport to ensure compliance (*Hon Ajibola Saubana Muraina — Ibarapa Central/Ibarapa North Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

(HR. 154/11/2021).

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

**20. Need to Establish Mixed Boarding Air Force Comprehensive Secondary School in Ilorin, Kwara State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the Nigerian Air Force Directorate of Education (DOEDN) is responsible for the initiation of policies governing the provision and administration of NAF education services;

*Also notes* that presently the Directorate has control over NAF established 13 Secondary Schools and 20 NAF primary schools across the country;

*Aware* that the principal aim of establishing the schools by the Nigerian Air Force is to address the problems faced by their personnel, who are frequently posted to different NAF formations in different parts of the country, to secure admission for their children and wards to Primary and Secondary schools;

*Also aware* that over the years, admission opportunities into these schools have been extended to children and wards of civilians as well;

*Further aware* that among the NAF formations in the country that have NAF primary schools without secondary school is NAF formation in Ilorin, a situation that has made many NAF personnel in Ilorin and other willing civilians who want their children and wards trained in the NAF schools, to send their children and wards to other States where NAF secondary schools are established:

*Informed* that establishing a mixed boarding Air Force Comprehensive Secondary School in Ilorin, Kwara State will not only alleviate the suffering of the NAF personnel in getting their children and wards trained in NAF schools but will also create job opportunities and infrastructural development in Kwara State.

*Cognizant* that among the Fundamental Objectives and State Policies of Nigerian Government as enshrined in the 1999 Constitution is to provide affordable and qualitative education to her citizens:

*Further cognizant* that Kwara State also known as the State of Harmony is a peaceful State and suitable for establishment of a boarding NAF Secondary School:

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Nigerian Air Force through her Directorate of Education to establish a mixed boarding Air Force Comprehensive Secondary School in Ilorin, Kwara State;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Air Force, and Appropriations to include provision for establishment of a mixed boarding Air Force Comprehensive Secondary School, Ilorin in the 2022 budget (*Hon. Abdulganiyu Cook Olododo — Ilorin East/Ilorin South Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

(HR: 155/11/2021).

*Motion referred to the Committees on Air Force, and Appropriations, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).*

*Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do suspend Order Seven, Rule 2 (2), to enable the Speaker preside in the Committee of the Whole" — Agreed to.*

## 21. Consideration of Reports

- (i) *A Bill for an Act for Certain Rights and Privileges for Older Persons, to Provide Health, Economic Reliefs and to Protect their Social and Civil Rights; and for Related Matters (IIB. 1263) (Committee of the Whole):*

*Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act for Certain Rights and Privileges for Older Persons, to Provide Health, Economic Reliefs and to Protect their Social and Civil Rights; and for Related Matters (IIB. 1263)" (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 Speaker in the Chair)*

A BILL FOR AN ACT FOR THE CERTAIN RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES  
FOR OLDER PERSONS, TO PROVIDE HEALTH, ECONOMIC RELIEFS  
AND TO PROTECT THEIR SOCIAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS AND  
RELATED MATTERS (HB. 1263)

PART I — PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST OLDER PERSONS

**Clause 1: Prohibition of Discrimination and penalty.**

- (1) An Older Person shall not be discriminated against on the ground of his age or disability by any person or institution in any manner or circumstances whatsoever.
- (2) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) of this Section commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to, if the person is:
  - (a) a body corporate, a fine of ₦2,000,000.00; and
  - (b) an individual, a fine of ₦200,000.00 or 6 months imprisonment or both.
- (3) Without prejudice to this Bill, any prosecution, conviction or otherwise of any person for any offence under this Bill, does not preclude the right of the victim to maintain a civil action against any such person committing the offence or causing the injury (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

PART II — ORIENTATION

**Clause 2: Orientation and Awareness.**

The Federal Ministry of Information shall make provisions for promotion of orientation and awareness regarding:

- (a) the rights and respect for the inherent dignity of Older Persons;
- (b) the capabilities, achievements and contributions of Older Persons;
- (c) respect for individual autonomy, including the freedom of Older Persons to make individual choices;
- (d) respect for interdependence and caring relationships of Older Persons;
- (e) respect for family relationships and intergenerational solidarity;
- (f) respect for full and effective participation and inclusion in society;
- (g) respect for and recognition of Older Persons as part of human and cultural diversity; and
- (h) respect for ageing as an integral and continuous part of life.



- (i) encouraging their families and the communities they live with to reaffirm the valued Nigerian tradition of caring for Older Persons (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

PART III — RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF OLDER PERSONS

**Clause 3: Old age grants.**

- (1) States operating Social Protection Programmes shall be entitled to grants from the Federal Government.
- (2) Older Persons shall be included in every National Action Programme on Income Generation of the State or Federal Government.
- (3) Older Persons have the right to express their wishes and preferences regarding future health and long term care-related decisions and to have those expressions respected.
- (4) Older Persons have the right to social protection, including income security without discrimination on the basis of age, gender or health status.
- (5) All elderly small-holder farmers shall be entitled to financial services accruing to other age groups.
- (6) Equality, non and equal opportunity, Discrimination against Older Persons on the basis of age, gender or health status is prohibited (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

**Clause 4: Health and Long Term Care.**

- (1) Older Persons shall have the right to:
  - (a) enjoyment of the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health and long term care without discrimination on the basis of age, including public health, preventive medicine, palliative care and rehabilitation free of cost under the aegis of the NHIS;
  - (b) the benefits of scientific progress and health and long term care-related research;
  - (c) self-determination in health and long term care-related matters and to make such decisions based on informed consent;
  - (d) dignity, privacy and autonomy in making health and long term care-related decisions;
  - (e) express their wishes and preferences regarding future health and long term care-related decisions and such decisions shall be respected;
  - (f) assistance and support in receiving, understanding and processing information in making informed health and long term care-related decisions.

- (2) **Public Hospitals shall establish geriatric wards/for Older Persons:**
  - (i) such geriatric wards shall be for the exclusive use of Older Persons;
  - (ii) such wards shall be conspicuously labeled "Geriatric Ward"
  - (iii) geriatric wards may be used for other emergency purposes, after which they shall be reverted for exclusive geriatric purposes.
  - (iv) **Primary Health Care Centres shall be modified to serve Geriatric Population.**
  - (v) **Mobile "hospital on wheel" hospital units for easy access to service physically challenged older persons.**
- (3) **The Federal and State Ministries of Health and National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), shall institute a National Health Programme and shall provide an Integrated Health Service for Older Persons.**
- (4) **Government shall encourage and create enabling environment for the establishment of DAY CARE Centres, Nursing/Respite Homes, HOSPICE throughout the country, the approval of which shall be done by the relevant Government agencies throughout the country.**
- (5) **The Federal and State Ministries of Health shall train Community-Based Health Workers among Older Persons and Health Personnel to specialize in the geriatric care and health problems of Older Persons.**
- (6) **Government shall provide enabling environment for private institutions to train same as approved by the Federal Ministry of Health.**
- (7) **NHIS shall design insurance product for coverage of the elderly with sustainable funding options.**
- (8) **Without prejudice to Section 4 (2), Older Persons shall be entitled to the grant of fifty percent (50%) discount and exemption from the valued-added tax (VAT), on medical and dental services, pharmaceutical services diagnostic and laboratory fees in all private hospitals, medical facilities, outpatient clinics and home health care services, as determined by the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS).**
- (9) **Medical and dental services, diagnostic, and laboratory outfits and pharmaceutical outfits shall file documentations of discounted geriatric services to the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) in their tax returns for commensurate tax reliefs.**
- (10) **All indigent Older Persons shall be covered by the National Health Insurance Programme.**
- (11) **Social Safety Nets: Social Safety assistance intended to cushion the effects of economic shocks, disasters and calamities shall be available for Older Persons. The social safety assistance which shall include, but not limited to, food, medicines, and financial assistance for domicile repair, shall be sourced from National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)/State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA)/Local Government Emergency**

Management Agency (LGEMA) and the National Commission for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

- (12) To provide a comprehensive health care and rehabilitation system for disabled Older Persons, to foster their capacity to attain a more meaningful and productive ageing (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

**Clause 5: Monthly stipends.**

- (1) Indigent Older Persons shall be entitled to a monthly stipend amounting to not less than fifty percent (50%) of the national minimum wage, subject to review every five (5) years by the National Assembly.
- (2) The social welfare units of Local Governments shall be responsible for the payments of the monthly stipends referred to in this Section in conjunction with an officer of the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) responsible for such disbursements (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

**Clause 6: Adequate Standard of Living.**

Government shall ensure that Older Persons enjoy the right to adequate standard of living, including the right to food, water, clothing and housing, and to improve their living conditions without discrimination on the basis of age (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

#### PART IV — MOBILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY TO PHYSICAL STRUCTURES

**Clause 7: Right of safe movement.**

An Older Person shall have right to safe and smooth movement on streets, walkways, gatherings and physical structures free of unreasonable physical contact from other persons (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

**Clause 8: Access to public facilities.**

- (1) Public buildings shall be constructed and provided with the necessary accessibility and mobility aids such as lifts for multi-level buildings, ramps, wheel chairs, automated or manual transportation carriers and any other facility that shall make such facilities conveniently accessible and usable by Older Persons.
- (2) Government shall ensure the provision of seats on walkways, other public facilities specifically designed for the comfort of older persons (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

**Clause 9: Safety of public facilities.**

Older Persons shall enjoy safe and convenient usage of side-walks, pedestrian crossings, pedestrian bridges, etc. including those with wheel chairs and the visually impaired (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

**Clause 10: Transitional period.**

There shall be a transitional period of four (4) years from the commencement of this Bill, within which all public buildings and structures whether temporary or permanent, rented, acquired or built, moveable, immoveable or automobile, which were inaccessible to Older Persons, shall be modified to be accessible and usable by Older Persons, including those with wheel chairs (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

**Clause 11: Building Plans.**

- (1) Building plans shall be scrutinized by the relevant authorities to ensure that all public building plans conform with the intendment of this Bill.
- (2) Government shall ensure that town planners provide age friendly environments all over Nigeria.
- (3) No government or government agency, body or individual responsible for the approval of building plans shall approve the plan of a public building if the plan does not make provision for accessibility facilities line with building codes that accommodate the needs and requirements of Older Persons.
- (4) Any officer who approves or directs the approval of any public building plan that contravenes the building code referred to in subsection (2) of this Section shall be liable to a fine of a minimum of ₦2,000,000 or two (2) years imprisonment or to both such fine and imprisonment (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

**Clause 12: Barriers in public buildings.**

- (1) Subject to Section 10, in the event of the existence of a state of inaccessibility or barrier to access of an Older Person to a public building or facility, he may, without prejudice to his or her right to seek redress in court, notify the relevant authority in charge of the environment, and it shall be the duty of the relevant authority in charge to take immediate and necessary steps to remove the barrier and make the environment accessible to Older Persons.
- (2) If the relevant authority in charge receives the notice in Subsection (1) above but fails to comply, it shall be liable to:
  - (a) if a corporate body, ₦20,000.00 damages payable to the complainant for each day that the defaults continues, commencing 6 months from the date the complaint was lodged;
  - (b) if an individual, ₦10,000.00 payable to the complainant for each day that the default continues, commencing 6 months from the date that the complaint was lodged (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

## PART V — HOUSING

**Clause 13: Housing.**

- (1) An Older Person residing in a residential facility has, in addition to the rights he or she has in terms of the Bill of Rights or any other rights he/she may have, the right to:
  - (a) adequate housing;
  - (b) choose on an equal basis with other persons, their place of residence, the persons with whom they may live, and they are not obliged to live in any particular living arrangement;
  - (c) security of statutory tenures, full terms of allocations and tenancies;
  - (d) appoint a representative to act on his or her behalf;
  - (e) have reasonable access to assistance and visitation;
  - (f) keep and use personal possessions;
  - (g) be informed about the financial status of the residential facility and changes of management;
  - (h) participate in social, religious and community activities of his/her choice;
  - (i) privacy;
  - (j) his/her own physician if he/she can afford it.
- (2) In the monitoring of registered residential facilities, a Social Worker in the employment of the Local Government may at any time, and any Social Worker or person designated by the LG Chairman must if requested to do so by the LG Chairman:
  - (a) visit and monitor Older Persons in order to ensure compliance with this Bill;
  - (b) interview any Older Person cared for or accommodated in such a residential facility;
  - (c) either with or without the assistance of a health care provider, enquire into the well-being of any such Older Person;
  - (d) direct any person who has in his/her possession or custody, any book or document relating to such residential facility, to submit such book or document to him/her for inspection;
  - (e) submit a report to the LG Chairman on the outcome of the inspection;
  - (f) provide the operator for the residential facility with a report on the findings of the inspection.

- (3) The Federal/State/Local Government shall include in their shelter programme the social housing needs of Older Persons, such as establishment of housing units for the Ageing.
- (4) With respect to ensuring support for services delivered to Older Persons by any Third Party:
- (a) Social Worker must open and maintain a register of all assets bought with Government funds and prescribe conditions for the management of such assets.
- (b) LG Social Worker must be included for contact in case of emergency under 911 phone number.
- (5) Long Term Care Facilities shall be provided with increased residential facilities. under Forming Institutions (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

#### PART VI — ROAD TRANSPORTATION

**Clause 14: Goods, services and facilities.**

It is unlawful for a person (the provider) who (whether for payment or not) provides goods or services, or makes facilities available, to discriminate against Older Person:

- (a) by refusing to provide those goods or services or make those facilities available to him;
- (b) on such terms or conditions on which the provider provides those goods or services or makes those facilities available to him; or
- (c) in a manner in which the provider provides those goods or services or makes those facilities available to him.
- (d) by not providing reserved seats for older persons;
- (e) violation of this Section shall attract same punishment as in Section 9 of this Bill (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

**Clause 15: Accessibility of vehicles.**

- (1) Government Transport services providers shall make provisions for lifts, ramps and other accessibility aids to enhance the accessibility of their vehicles, parks and bus-stop to persons for Older Persons including those on wheel chairs.
- (2) Every public vehicle should have functional audible and visual display of their destination within four (4) years from the commencement of this Bill (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

- Clause 16: Waiver of charges on assistives.**  
Wheelchairs, crutches, braces and any other mobility aid and appliance or assistive devices used by Older Persons shall not be subject to charges, provided they are not carried in commercial quantities and for commercial purposes (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

- Clause 17: Reserved spaces.**
- (1) At public parking lots, suitable spaces shall be properly marked and reserved for Older Persons.
  - (2) For Older Persons to be entitled to the use of the reserved space in Subsection (1) of this Section, his car shall have been properly identified with the necessary insignia.
  - (3) A person, organization or corporate body in control of a public parking lot who fails to provide for the reserved spaces in Subsection (1) of this Section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of ₦5,000 for each day of default.
  - (4) A non-permitted person who parks a vehicle in the reserved space in Subsection (1) of this Section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of ₦5,000.
  - (5) A person who unlawfully obstructs the reserved space in subsection (1) of this Section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of ₦5,000.
  - (6) Subsection (4) of this Section does not apply if an Older Person is a passenger in the vehicle (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

#### PART VII — SEAPORTS AND RAILWAYS

- Clause 18: Seaports and railways.**
- (1) Seaports and facilities therein as well as vessels shall be made accessible to and convenient for Older Persons.
  - (2) Railway stations, trains and facilities therein shall be made accessible to and convenient for Older Persons (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

- Clause 19: Transitory period for railway and seaports.**  
The provision of Section 14 shall be subjected to the transitory provision contained in Section 8 (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

#### PART VIII — AIRPORT FACILITIES

- Clause 20: Assistive Service and airline.**
- (1) All airlines operating in Nigeria shall:

- (a) ensure the accessibility of their aircraft to Older Persons;
  - (b) make available presentable and functional wheelchairs for the conveyance of Older Persons who need it to and from the aircraft;
  - (c) ensure that Older Persons are assisted to get on and off board in safety and reasonable comfort;
  - (d) ensure that Older Persons are accorded priority while boarding and disembarking from the aircraft.
- (2) All airports shall make available for the conveyance of Older Persons who need it to and from the aircraft, a presentable and functional assistive and protective device (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

**Clause 21: Special safety briefing of Older Persons.**

Any general information shall be translated into the accessible format appropriate to the Older Persons present (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

**PART IX — REBATES**

**Clause 22: Discounts.**

- (1) Older Persons shall be entitled to the grant of fifty percent (50%), in actual fare of land transportation travel in public and private facilities, buses, taxis and rail.
- (2) Older Persons shall be entitled to the grant of fifty percent (50%), in actual transportation by sea shipping vessels and the like, based on actual fare and advanced booking.
- (3) Public and private air transport establishments shall provide air fares and other transport facilities at discounted rates of fifty percent (50%) to Older Persons
- (4) Express lanes shall be provided for Older Persons, in all commercial and government establishments (wherever queues are required). In the absence thereof, priority shall be given to them.
- (5) At least fifty percent (50%) discount, which shall be granted on the consumption of electricity, water, and telephone by the Older Persons Centre and residential care/group homes that are government-run or non-stock, non-profit domestic corporation organized and operated primarily for the purpose of promoting the well-being of abandoned, neglected, unattached, or homeless Older Persons
- (6) Older Persons shall be granted fifty percent (50%) discount, in the utilization of services in hotels and similar lodging establishments, restaurants and recreation centres.



- (7) On admission fees charged by theatres, cinema houses and concert halls, leisure and amusement, Older Persons shall be granted fifty percent (50%) discount of rates charged.
- (8) All utility companies, hotels, holiday resorts referred to in subsections (5)-(7) of this Section shall file documentations of discounted geriatric services to the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) in their tax returns for commensurate tax reliefs (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

#### PART X — RIGHT TO FIRST CONSIDERATION IN QUEUES AND IN EMERGENCIES

**Clause 23: Service of queues.**

In all situations of risks, including situations of violence, emergencies and the occurrences of natural disasters:

- (a) government shall take all necessary steps to ensure the safety and protection of Older Persons taking cognizance of their peculiar vulnerability (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

**Clause 24: Penalty.**

- (1) In queues, Older Persons shall be given first consideration, and as much as possible should be attended to outside the queue.
- (2) Any person in breach of this Section shall be liable on conviction to 6 months imprisonment or fine of ₦50,000.00 or both (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

#### PART XI — LIBERTY

**Clause 25: Prohibition of use of Older Persons in soliciting for alms and penalty.**

- (1) No person shall:
- (a) employ, use or involve an Older Person in begging;
- (b) parade Older Persons in public with intention of soliciting alms;
- (c) use condition of old age as a guise for the purpose of begging in public.
- (d) Older Persons have a right to liberty and security of persons;
- (e) Older Persons have a right to personal mobility with the greatest possible independence;
- (2) A person who contravenes Subsection (1) of this Section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to 6 months imprisonment or a fine of ₦100,000.00 or both.

- (3) Any person who suspects that an Older Person has been abused or suffers from abuse related injury, must immediately notify the Local Government Social Worker or a Police Officer, of his/her suspicion. Nothing in this Bill invalidate the existing Act prohibiting all forms of violence.
- (4) Any conduct or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship, where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress is likely to cause harm or distress to an Older Person constitutes abuse of an Older Person.
- (5) For the purposes of Subsection (4) "abuse" includes physical, sexual, psychological, or economic abuse (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

#### PART XII — COMMUNAL LIFE

**Clause 26: Freedom of Movement.**  
Older Persons shall have the liberty of movement within or out of the country and freedom to choose their residence on an equal basis with others (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

**Clause 27: Freedom from Segregation.**  
Except on medical grounds or in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), an Older Person shall not be isolated or segregated from the community or compelled to live in a particular area (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

**Clause 28: Right to free Education.**

(1) Every Older Person shall have an unfettered right to education without discrimination or segregation in any form.

(2) Older Persons shall be entitled to free education to secondary school level.

(3) The Federal/State Ministries of Education and Local Governments in consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), CSOs and CBOs for Older Persons, shall institute programmes that will ensure access to formal and informal education.

(4) Older Persons shall be entitled to educational assistance to pursue post-secondary, tertiary, post-tertiary, vocational and technical education, as well as short term courses for retooling in both public and private schools through provision of scholarships, grants, financial aids, subsidies and other incentives to qualified Older Persons, including support for books, learning materials, uniform allowances, to the extent feasible: provided that Older Persons shall meet minimum admission requirement (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

**Clause 29: Right to education.**

- (1) All public schools, whether primary, secondary or tertiary shall be run to be inclusive of an accessible to Older Persons, accordingly every school shall have:
  - (a) at least a trained personnel to cater for the educational development of Older Persons;
  - (b) special facilities for the effective education of Older Persons.
- (2) Braille, sign language and other skills for communicating with Older Persons with disabilities shall form part of the curricula of primary, secondary and tertiary institutions (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

**Clause 30: Subsidized education.**

The education of special education personnel shall be highly subsidized (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

**Clause 31: Inclusiveness of Education.**

Government shall ensure that the education of Older Persons, particularly those who are blind or deaf is delivered in the most appropriate languages and modes and means of communication for the individual, and in environments which maximizes academic and social development (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

*Question that Clause 31 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 32: Free education for special education personnel.**

- (1) Government shall guarantee that Older Persons have unfettered access to adequate health care without discrimination on the basis of old age.
- (2) A person with mental disability shall be entitled to free medical and health service in all public health institutions (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

**Clause 33: Obtaining Certificates.**

- (1) Every Older Person shall obtain a Certificate of Old Age.
- (2) The National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) shall issue Certificates of Old Age to Older Persons within sixty (60) days of attaining the age of 60 years.
- (3) Any person issued with a Certificate of Old Age, shall be entitled to all rights and privileges in this Bill.
- (4) Any person who unlawfully issues or unlawfully obtains Certificate of Old Age shall be liable to a fine of ₦200,000.00 or 1 year imprisonment or both (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

**Clause 34: Right to health.**

Any public hospital where a person with old age is medically attended to shall ensure provision for special communication (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

*Question that Clause 34 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 35: Right to work.**

- (1) Older Persons shall have the right to work, on an equal basis with others this includes the right to opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and work environment that is open.
- (2) A person in breach of this Section shall be liable on conviction to nominal damages of a minimum of ₦250,000.00 payable to the affected Old Person.
- (3) Where a company is in breach of this Section:
  - (a) the company shall be liable to nominal damages of a minimum of ₦500,000.00 payable to the affected old person; and
  - (b) any principal officer of the company involved in the violation shall be liable to ₦50,000 damages payable to the affected Older Person (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

*Question that Clause 35 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 36: Employment.**

All employers of labour in public organization shall as much as possible have Older Persons constituting at least 5% of their employment (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

*Question that Clause 36 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

#### PART XIII — ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

**Clause 37: First consideration.**

Where accommodation is being provided by schools for their students, employers for their employees, service providers for their customers, organizations for their members, government for the people and in any other circumstance whatsoever, Older Persons shall be given first consideration (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

*Question that Clause 37 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

#### PART XIV — PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS AND PUBLIC LIFE

**Clause 38: Participation in public life.**

- (1) Older Persons shall be encouraged to fully participate in public life.
- (2) Government shall actively promote an environment in which Older Persons can effectively and fully participate:
  - (a) the conduct of public affairs without discrimination; and

- (b) non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country (*Hon. Peter Akpatason—Deputy House Leader*).

*Question that Clause 38 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 39: Miscellaneous.**

- (1) Nothing in this Bill shall invalidate the provisions of:
- (a) Pensions Reform Act, 2004;
  - (b) National Health Insurance Scheme Act, 2004;
  - (c) National Social Insurance Trust Fund Act, 2004; or
  - (d) Provident Fund Act.
- (2) Any other law in relation to any matter under this Bill shall be read in conformity with the provisions of this Bill, but this Bill shall not apply to any individual who is a beneficiary of any scheme established under the Act listed in subsection (1) including all Military, Para-Military or private pension schemes (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

*Question that Clause 39 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

PART XV — INTERPRETATION.

**Clause 40: Interpretation.**

In this Bill:

"Accessibility aid" includes any fixture and device that aids accessibility (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

"Accommodation" (in the context of housing) include residential or business accommodation (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

"Assistive Device" means any device that assist, increases or improves the functional capabilities of Older Persons (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

"Closed Captioning" is a term describing several systems developed to display text on a television or video screen to provide additional or interpretive information to viewers who wish to access it (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

"Old Age" means any age from 60 years and above (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

"Discrimination" means differential treatment and its verbs and infinite form (discriminate, to discriminate) have the corresponding signification (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

"Document" includes any book register or other record of information, however compiled, record or stored (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

"Educational Authority" means a body of person(s) administering an education institution (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

"Employer" includes prospective employer, principal and a person who engages or proposes to engage a commission agent, contract worker or independent contractor (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

"Employer of Labour" means "Employer" as interpreted by the workmen's Compensation Act (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

"Economic Abuse" means:

- (i) the deprivation of economic and financial resources to which an Older Person is entitled under any law;
- (ii) the unreasonable deprivation of economic and financial resources which the Older Person requires out of necessity; or
- (iii) the disposal of household effects or other property that belongs to the Older Person without the older person's consent (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

"Function" includes duty (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader).

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

"Government employee" means a person who is appointed, employed or engaged in the public service of, or by a public authority of the Federation, a State, the Federal Capital Territory or a Local Government, or holds an administrative office (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader).

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

"Indigent Person" is one who lives without any income whatsoever or lives below 50% of the national minimum wage (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader).

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

"Persons" includes natural, artificial, juristic or judicial persons, companies, enterprises firms, organizations, association, government departments, ministries, parastatals (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader).

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

"Older Persons" means a person who has attained the age of 60 years or has received Certificate of Old Age from the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader).

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

"Physical Abuse" means an act or threat of physical violence towards an Older Persons (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader).

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

"President" means President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader).

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

"Premises" includes a structure, building, aircraft, vehicle, train or vessel; a place (whether enclosed or built on or not); and a part of any premises (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader).

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

"Psychological Abuse" means any pattern of degrading or humiliating conduct towards an Older Person including:

- (i) repeated insults, ridicule or name calling,
- (ii) repeated threats to cause emotional pain, and
- (iii) repeated invasion of an Older Person's privacy, liberty, integrity or security  
(Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader).

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

"Public Building" means a building owned or used by government or government agency or a building available for the use of members of the public (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader).

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

"Sexual Abuse" means any conduct that violates the sexual integrity of an Older Person (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader).

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

"Subtitles Caption" means caption displayed at the bottom of a movie or television screen that translate or transcribe the dialogue or narrative (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader).

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

"Special Facilities" means any provision whether movable or immovable that will enhance easy access and enjoyment in public buildings by Older Persons, significantly decreased endurance so that he cannot perform his everyday routine, living and working without significantly increased hardship and vulnerability to everyday obstacles and hazards (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader).

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

"Student" in relation to an education institution, includes a candidate or application for admission into that education institution (Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader).

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

"Undue hardship" means significant difficulty or expense, when considered in light of such factor as:

- (a) the nature and cost of the accommodation needed to take care of an Older Person's needs,
- (b) the overall financial resources of the facility or facilities involved in the provision of the reasonable accommodation; the number of persons employed at such facility.



- (c) the effect on expenses and resources or the impact otherwise of such accommodation upon the operation of the facility,
- (d) the overall finances of the persons or organization having to deal with Older Persons, with overall size of his or its business with respect to the number of its employees; the number, type, and location of its facilities, and
- (e) the type of operation or operations of such person or organization, including the composition, structure and function of his or its workforce; the geographic, separateness, administrative, or fiscal relationship of the facility or facilities in question to such person or organization (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

*Question that Clause 40 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 41: Short Title.**

This Bill may be cited as Older Persons (Rights and Privileges) Bill, 2021 (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

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

**Explanatory Memorandum:**

This Bill seeks to confer privileges and benefits on Older Persons that are aimed at enhancing their quality of life (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

**Long Title:**

A Bill for an Act for the Certain Rights and Privileges for Older Persons, to Provide Health, Economic Reliefs and to Protect Their Social and Civil Rights and Related Matters (HB. 1263) (*Hon. Peter Akpatason — Deputy House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

*Chairman to report Bill.*

**(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act for Certain Rights and Privileges for Older Persons, to Provide Health, Economic Reliefs and to Protect their Social and Civil Rights; and for Related Matters (HB. 1263) and approved Clauses 1 - 41, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

**(ii) Committee on Human Rights:**

*Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do resume consideration of the Report of the Committee on Human Right 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. John Dyeigh — Makurdi/Guma 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 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)

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 26: Interpretation.**

In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires —

"Award or Recommendation" means and includes decision, finding, determination, resolution of the Commission under section 22 (1) of this Bill (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

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

"Commission" means the National Human Rights Commission established under section 1 (1) of this Bill (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

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

"Council" means the Governing Council established for the Commission under section 2 (1) of this Bill (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

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

"Court" means the Federal High Court or the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja or High Court of a State under section 22 (1) of this Bill (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

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

"holding facilities" means and includes any building or place where people are kept in circumstances exposing them to human rights violation under section 6 (1) (d) of this Bill (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

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

"President" means the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

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

"Services rendered" means and includes trainings, publications, certified true copies of documents, research, etc. under section 12 (3) (b) of this Bill (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

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

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 27: Citation.**

This Bill may be cited as the National Human Rights Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

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

## SCHEDULE

[Section 2(6)]

### SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE COUNCIL, ETC.

#### *Proceeding of the Council*

1. (1) Subject to this Bill and Section 27 of Interpretation Act, the Council may make standing orders regulating its proceedings or those of any of its committees.
- (2) The quorum of the Council shall be 6 members, excluding the *ex-officio* members but including the Chairman or, in his absence, the person elected under paragraph 2 (2) of this Schedule to preside and 5 other members and the quorum of any Committee of the Council shall be determined by Council".
2. (1) The Council shall meet at least once a quarter in each calendar year and subject thereto, the Council shall meet whenever it is summoned by the Chairman, and if the Chairman is required to do so, by notice given to him by not less than four other members, he shall summon a meeting of the Council to be held within fourteen days from the date on which the notice is given.
- (2) At any meeting of the Council, the Chairman shall preside but if he is absent, the members present at the meeting shall elect one of their members to preside at the meeting.

- (3) Where the Council desires to obtain the advice of any person on particular matter, the Council may co-opt him to the Council for such period it thinks fit, but a person who is in attendance by virtue of this sub-paragraph shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Council and shall count not towards a quorum.
- (4) The decision of the Council shall be by simple majority

#### *Committees*

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

#### *Miscellaneous*

4. (1) Fixing of the Seal of the Commission shall be authorized by the signature of the Executive Secretary or any person specifically authorised to act for that purpose by the Council.
- (2) Any contract or instruments which, if made or executed by a person, not being body corporate would not be required to be under seal may be made or executed on behalf of the Commission by the Executive Secretary or any person specifically authorized to act for that purpose by the Council.
- (3) Any document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal of the Commission shall be received in evidence and shall unless and until the contrary is proved, be presumed to be so executed.
5. The validity of any proceedings of the Council or of a committee thereof shall not be adversely affected by any vacancy in the membership of the Council or committee, or by any defect in the appointment of a member of the Council or a committee, or by reason that a person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings of the Council or committee.
6. Any member of the Council or of a committee of the Council who has a personal interest in any contract or arrangement entered into or proposed to be considered by the Council or committee shall disclose his interest to the Council or committee and shall not vote on any question relating to the contract or arrangement (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

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

#### **Explanatory Note:**

This Bill seeks 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 Act, 2021 to strengthen the Commission to conduct investigations and sustain contributions to the Human Rights Funds for Human Rights Activities in Nigeria (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**Long Title:**

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) (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Chairman to report Bill.*

**(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole resumed consideration of Report of the Committee on Human Right 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 26 - 27, 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 Telecommunications:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That the House do resume consideration of the Report of the Committee on Telecommunications on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigerian Postal Service Act, Cap. N127, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, and Establish the Nigeria Postal Commission to make Comprehensive Provisions for the Development and Regulation of Postal Services; and for Related Matters (HB.1337)" (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba 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 Speaker in the Chair)*

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO REPEAL THE NIGERIAN POSTAL SERVICE ACT, CAP. N127, LFN, 2004 AND ESTABLISH THE NIGERIA POSTAL COMMISSION TO MAKE COMPREHENSIVE PROVISIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION OF POSTAL SERVICE; AND FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 66: Review of Commission's Decision.**

- (1) An aggrieved person may at any time within but not later than 30 days after the date of receipt of the Commission's statement of reasons specified in section 65 (2) of this Bill request the Commission in writing for a review of the Commission's decision and specify therein the reasons and basis for his request.

- (2) Upon receipt of the aggrieved person's written submissions, the Commission shall meet to review its decision, taking into consideration the submissions of the aggrieved person under subsection (1) of this section.
- (3) The Commission may, in carrying out the review of its decision under this Part, use and exercise any of its powers.
- (4) The Commission shall not later than 60 days from the date of receipt of the aggrieved person's written submissions, conclude its review of the decision and inform the aggrieved person in writing of its final decision thereon and the reasons therefor (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 67: Judicial Review of Commission's Decision.**

- (1) Subject to section 66 of this Bill and subsections (2) and (3) of this section, an aggrieved person may appeal to the Court for a judicial review of the Commission's decision or other action.
- (2) The decision or direction of the Commission that is the subject matter of an application for judicial review shall subsist and remain binding and valid until it is expressly reversed in a final judgement or order of the Court.
- (3) A person shall not apply to the Court for a judicial review unless that person has first exhausted all other remedies provided under this Bill (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

**PART XXIII — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL SERVICE FUND AND UNIVERSAL POSTAL SERVICE FUND BOARD**

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 68: Universal Postal Service Fund.**

- (1) There is established under this Part, a Universal Postal Service Fund in this Bill referred to as "the UPS Fund" which shall be controlled and managed in accordance with the provisions of this Part.
- (2) The UPS Fund established pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall consist of —
  - (a) monies as may be specifically made available to the UPS Fund, from time to time, through the annual budgetary process appropriate by the National Assembly;
  - (b) contribution from the commission based on a portion of the fees paid to the commission;
  - (c) gifts, loans, aids and assistance from donor agencies; and
  - (d) such other monies which may from time to time accrue to the UPS Fund.

- (3) The proceeds of the UPS Fund shall be applied —
- (a) to the payment of compensation and incentives to the Public Postal Operator;
  - (b) to the cost of administration of the UPS Fund Board; and
  - (c) for the deployment of Postal Services to the unserved and underserved areas by the Public Postal Operator (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 69: Establishment of the Universal Postal Service Fund Board.**

- (1) There is established for the UPS Fund, a Board (in this Bill referred to as "the UPS Fund Board").
- (2) The UPS Fund Board established under subsection (1) of this section shall:
  - (a) supervise and provide broad policy direction for the management of the UPS Fund;
  - (b) apply the fund to the provision of compensation and incentives for the Universal Postal Service provider where such services are not commercially viable;
  - (c) make appropriate recommendations to the Federal Government and its Agencies on Universal Service Development Policy (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 70: Membership of the UPS Fund Board.**

- (1) The UPS Fund Board shall consist of:
  - (a) the Minister, who shall be the Chairman;
  - (b) the Chairman of the Commission, who shall be the Vice Chairman;
  - (c) the Director General of the Commission;
  - (d) a representative of the Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy;
  - (e) a representative of the Federal Ministry of Finance not below the directorate cadre;
  - (f) a representative of the National Planning Commission not below the directorate cadre;
  - (g) a representative of the National Planning Commission not below the directorate cadre;
  - (h) a representative of the private sector; and

- (i) the Chief Executive Officer of the Public Postal Operator.
- (2) A member of the UPS Fund Board shall be appointed on such terms and conditions as may be indicated in his letter of appointment.
- (3) The organizations that are represented on the UPS Fund Board may at any time, at their discretion or at the instance of the UPS Fund Board, replace any member who is representing their organizations with another person (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 71: Proceeding of the UPS Fund Board.**

- (1) The UPS Fund Board shall make standing orders for the regulation of its meetings and proceedings and may establish standing or *ad-hoc* Committees to assist it in exercising its functions under this Bill.
- (2) The UPS Fund Board may establish Committees and co-opt other persons including representatives of organizations that are in the UPS Fund Board's opinion, capable of assisting the Commission and the UPS Fund Board in the discharge of the functions under this Bill, provided that such Committees shall, at all times, be chaired by a member of the UPS Fund Board.
- (3) Decisions of any Committee established by the UPS Fund Board shall not be binding and valid until ratified by the UPS Fund Board (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 72: Secretariat of the Universal Postal Service Fund.**

- (1) There shall be for the UPS Fund, a Secretariat responsible for the day-to-day administration of the UPS Fund established pursuant to Section 68 of this Bill.
- (2) The functions of the Secretariat shall include:
- (a) evaluation of project performance and effecting such actions as may be necessary to ensure that the Fund meets the objectives for postal expansion and provision or service;
- (b) enforcing standards for quality of service set by the Board in rural and underserved areas;
- (c) evaluation of the effectiveness of the Universal Postal Service in meeting policy goals as set by the Federal Government and the UPS Fund Board;
- (d) liaising with the UPS Fund Board and the Universal Service Fund Managers appointed pursuant to the provision of Section 69 of this Bill.



- (3) There shall be for the UPS Fund, a Head of the Secretariat, known as the Secretary, UPSF to be appointed by the UPS Fund Board.
- (4) The UPS Fund Board shall ensure that the Secretariat is staffed with suitably qualified and experienced personnel (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 73: Universal Postal Service Fund Managers.**

- (1) The UPS Fund Board shall appoint an independent and competent investment management firm as Universal Postal Service Fund Manager (in this Bill referred to as the UPS Fund Manager) whose responsibilities are to:
  - (a) maintain the UPS Fund financial accounts and records;
  - (b) estimate the amount needed annually to sustain the rate of network expansion determined by the Commission as appropriate to meet policy objectives;
  - (c) determine, in consultation with the Commission, the amount of annual revenue required to ensure that the UPS Fund remains fiscally sound and calculation of the corresponding rate of assessment;
  - (d) disburse monies upon approval by the UPS Fund Board;
  - (e) prudently investing monies in the UPS Fund or cash reserves under directions from the UPS Fund Board and establishing cash management procedures to ensure maximum return on investments while meeting short-term cash requirements for disbursements;
  - (f) regularly report to the UPS Fund Board on the financial performance of the Fund.
- (2) The UPS Fund Board shall determine the terms of engagement and the remuneration package for the UPS Fund Managers (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 74: Repeal of Cap. N127, LFN, 2004.**

- (1) The Nigerian Postal Service Act, Cap. N127, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 is hereby repealed.
- (2) Without prejudice to the provisions of the Interpretation Act, nothing in this Bill shall invalidate or otherwise prejudicially affect anything done or purported to be done under the repealed Act.

- (3) Notwithstanding the repeal of the Nigerian Postal Service Act, Cap. N127, LFN, 2004, there shall be vested in the Public Postal Operator from the commencement of this Bill and without any further assurance, all assets, funds, resources and other movable or immovable property which immediately before the commencement of this Bill were vested in the Nigerian Postal Service (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 75: Interpretation.**

In this Bill:

"access" means making available postal facilities and services from one licensee to another for the purposes of providing services and access to physical infrastructure, including but not limited to buildings (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"Agreement" means an agreement, whether formal or informal, oral or written, express or implied (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"annual levies" means 1% of net profit of licensees (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"cargo" means any goods transported by air, sea etc. and in this Bill "express cargo or courier items" refer to time sensitive goods conveyed by means of transportation, including road, sea, air (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"category of licence" means a licence for any person to operate specified postal services and may include conditions to which the conduct of the service shall be subject (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"Commission" means the Nigerian Postal Commission established under section 26 of this Bill (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"consumer" means any person who uses a postal service; courier/express service, cargo, logistics or E-commerce service (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"courier service" means door-to-door, time-sensitive and secured service (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"cross subsidization" means the practice of using surplus revenues generated from one product or service to support another service which is priced at a rate that is less than full compensation (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"e-certificate/digital certificate" refers to electronic credentials that bind the identity of the certificate owner to a pair of electronic encryption keys (one public and one private) that can be used to encrypt and sign information digitally. It ensures that the public key contained in the certificate belongs to the entity to which a person is who he or she claims to be and then provide the message receiver with the means to encode a reply back to the sender. It includes electronic or digital signature (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "e-certificate/digital certificate" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"e-commerce" means business transactions conducted over the internet (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"equipment" means any equipment or apparatus used or intended to be used for postal purposes and that is part of, connected to or comprises postal system (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"false pretence" has the meaning assigned to it under the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015 (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"fictitious or counterfeit stamp" means any facsimile or imitation or representation whether on paper or otherwise, of any stamp or stamped impression, for denoting any rate of postage, duty, authentication, validation of any receipt, document or instrument in any part of Nigeria (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "fictitious or counterfeit stamp" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"intercept"/"interception" means the acquisition of the contents of any postal article by the Commission, Public Postal Operator or any person (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "intercept"/"interception/access" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"lawful authority" means the official procedure as it relates to dealing in postal services (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"letter" means a communication in writing which is directed to a specific person or address or relates to the personal, private or business affairs of an individual or any employer and includes a packet containing such communication and electronic mail (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"license" means an authorization granted by the Commission to an operator for the provision of postal services (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"Licensee" means a person who holds a licence granted under this Bill (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"logistic services" means services which include haulage, conveyance, dispatch or delivery of items or goods weighing not less than 50kg (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"Mandatory Postal Services" means postal services that are required to be provided by the Public Postal Operator under Section 12 of this Bill (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Mandatory Postal Services" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Minister" means the Minister for the time being charged with the responsibility for the postal industry (Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency).

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

"Ministry" means the Federal Ministry for the time being charged with the responsibility for the postal industry (Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency).

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

"monitoring" refers to the function of comprehensive and continuous review of the operations and adequacy of postal networks, facilities and service and the reasonableness of charges imposed for services (Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency).

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

"operator" means a person that operates postal/cargo/logistics/e-commerce/courier/express services or a postal services provider in accordance with this Bill (Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency).

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

"person" includes natural and artificial person such as a body corporate or partnership and where an individual is required to represent a corporate body or partnership in any circumstance pursuant to this Bill or any subsidiary legislation, it shall be sufficient if in the case of:

- (a) corporate body, it is represented by its competent officer; and
- (b) partnership, it is represented by a partner in the partnership or a competent employee of the partnership (Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency).

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

"postal articles" include any letter, postcard, newspaper, book, document, pamphlet, patent or sample packet, parcel or package or other article whatsoever transmissible through postal operators (Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency).

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

"postal facilities" include a house, building, premises, room, vehicles, vessel carriage or place used for the purpose of providing postal service and every letter box, post office provided by the public postal operator for the receipt of postal articles (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"postal industry" means the sector of the economy where postal/courier/express services, cargo, logistics and E-commerce services are being carried out (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"postal matter" includes a letter, stamp, postal order, money order, mail bag, seal or any other postal item (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"Post Office Guide" means a guide issued by the Public Postal Operator to ensure safe, reliable and efficient operation of the post offices (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"Postal Sector" means operators in the Postal Industry providing either or and both postal and courier/express services (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"Postal Services" include conveying all mail, letters, items, goods, articles and like materials through the post from one place to another and performing all incidental services of receiving, collecting, sending, dispatching and delivering written and printed matters, parcel, goods and like material from one place to another (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"PPP" means Public Private Partnership (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"Private Postal Operator" means any postal operator other than the Public Postal Operator (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Private Postal Operator" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Public Postal Operator" means the Nigerian Postal Service designated for the provision of universal service under Section 2 (1) of this Bill (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Public Postal Operator" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"President" means the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"Reserved Postal Service" means postal services within the exclusive power of the public postal operator under section 10 of this Bill (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Reserved Postal Service" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Stamp" means any label, stamp or stamp impression for denoting any rate of postage payable in respect of postal articles and includes adhesive stamps, electronic stamps and stamps printed, embossed, or otherwise indicated on any envelope, wrapper, postcard, documents, receipts or other articles whether such stamp is issued by the public postal operator or by the Government of any foreign country. It also includes stamps issued by the Public Postal Operator for denoting and authenticating documents, activities of members of different professional bodies such as but not limited to receipts, agreements, etc. at the prevailing minimum postage rates (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"stamping protocol" means the entire process of implementing and enforcing the denoting, authenticating and validating of receipts, documents, instruments, forms, agreements and relevant written documents with electronic or adhesive stamp, or internet generated stamps as well as the act of cancelling out same by signing across using a stamp impression or seal to cancel same (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"Universal Postal Service" refers to the obligations by the Public Postal Operator for the deployment of affordable postal services to the unserved and underserved areas including rural areas (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Universal Postal Service" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Unlicensed Postal Operator" means a person who operates a postal service without being licensed under this Bill (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Unlicensed Postal Operator" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"UPS Fund Board" means the Board established under section 65 of this Bill (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "UPS Fund Board" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"UPS Fund" means Universal Postal Service Fund (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

"UPU" means the Universal Postal Union (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 76: Short Title.**

This Bill may be cited as the Nigeria Postal Services Bill, 2021 (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

## SCHEDULES

### FIRST SCHEDULE

Section 3 (5)

#### SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE PUBLIC POSTAL OPERATOR

##### *Proceedings of the Board of the Public Postal Operator*

- (1) The Board shall meet for the conduct of its business at such time, place and on such day as the chairman may appoint, but shall meet not more than 4 (four) times in a year.
- (2) The chairman may, at any time and shall, at the request in writing of not less than 5 (five) members summon a meeting of the Board.
- (3) Particulars of the business to be transacted at any meeting shall be circulated to members, with the notice of the meeting of the Board.



- (4) Every question put before the Board at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of the votes of the members present and voting.
- (5) 4 (four) members of the Board shall form a quorum at any meeting of the Board.
- (6) The chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Board and in the absence of the Chairman: the alternate Chairman shall preside at that meeting.
- (7) The chairman shall at any meeting, have a vote and in the case of an equality of votes, may exercise a casting vote.
- (8) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Board may make standing orders with respect to the holding of meetings, the nature of notice to be given, the proceedings thereto, the keeping of minutes of such proceedings and the custody.

#### *Committees*

2. (1) The Board may appoint 1 (one) or more committees to advise it on the exercise and performance of its functions under this Bill.
- (2) Every committee shall consist of —
  - (a) a chairman, who shall be appointed by the Board from among the members of the Board;
  - (b) not more than 5 (five) persons (who may or may not be members of the Board), so however that any non-member of the Board co-opted to serve on any committee shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of a member except the right to vote and be counted towards a quorum.
- (3) In this paragraph, "chairman" means the chairman of a committee.

#### *Miscellaneous*

3. (1) Any contract or instrument which, if entered into or executed by a person not being a body corporate, would not be required to be under seal, may be entered into or executed on behalf of the Board by any person generally or specifically authorized in that behalf by the Board.
- (2) Any member of the Board or of a committee thereof, who has a personal interest in any contract or arrangement entered into or proposed to be considered by the Board or a committee thereof, shall forthwith disclose his interest to the Board or the Committee, as the case may be, and shall not vote on any question relating to such contract or arrangement.
4. (1) The common seal of the Board shall not be used or affixed to any document, except in pursuance of a resolution duly passed at a properly constituted meeting of the Board and recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- (2) The fixing of the seal of the Board shall be authenticated by the signature of the chairman or some other members authorized generally or specifically by the Board, to act for that purpose.

- (3) A document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal of the Board shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be so executed (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

## SECOND SCHEDULE

Section 28 (5)

### SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE COMMISSION

#### *Proceedings of the Commission*

1. Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Board may make standing orders regulating its proceedings or that of any of its Committees.
2. The Chairman shall preside at every meeting of the Board and in his absence, the Director General shall preside at the meeting and in the absence of the Chairman and Director General, the members present at that meeting shall appoint one of their members to preside at the meeting.
3. The quorum for any meeting of the Board shall be a simple majority of the members for the meantime constituting the Board.
4. The Board shall meet to transact its business pursuant to this Bill whenever it is summoned by the Chairman and if so required by notice given to him by not less than four other members of the Board specifying, amongst others, an agenda for the meeting, the Chairman shall summon a meeting of the Board that shall be held within fourteen days from the date on which the notice is served on him to discuss the items specified in the notice; provided that the Board shall for the purposes of this Bill meet not less than four times in each calendar year.
5. A member of the Board who directly or indirectly has an interest of a personal nature (including but not limited to financial interests in any matter being deliberated upon by the Board, or is personally interested in any contract made or proposed to be made by the Commission, shall so soon after the facts of the matter of his interests have come to his knowledge disclose his interest and the nature thereof at a meeting of the Board.
6. A disclosure under sub-paragraph 5 of this paragraph shall be recorded in the minutes of meetings of the Board and the member concerned:
  - (a) shall not, after the disclosure, take part in any deliberation or decision of the Board or vote on the matter; and
  - (b) shall be excluded for the purpose of constituting a quorum at any meeting of the Board for any deliberation or decision, with regard to the subject matter in respect of which his interest is so disclosed.

#### *Committees*

- 7 (1) Subject to its standing orders, the Board may appoint such number of standing or ad hoc Committees as it thinks fit to consider and or on any matter with which the Commission is concerned.

- (2) A Committee appointed under subparagraph (1) of this paragraph shall consist of such number of persons, who may not necessarily be members of the Board, provided that the appointment of a non-Board member as a Committee member shall be subject to such terms and conditions as the Board may determine.
- (3) The quorum of any Committee set up by the Board shall be as may be determined from time to time by the Board.
- (4) A decision of a Committee of the Board shall be of no effect until it is confirmed by the Board.

*Miscellaneous*

8. (1) The fixing of the seal of the Commission shall be authenticated by the signature of the Secretary and that of the Chairman or any other member of the Board generally or specifically authorized by the Board to act for that purpose.
- (2) Any contract or instrument which, if made 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 Commission, by any person generally or specially authorized by the Board to act for that purpose.
- (3) Any document purporting to be a contract, instrument or other document duly signed or sealed on behalf of the Commission shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be presumed without further proof to have been so signed or sealed.
- (4) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the validity of any proceedings of the Board or of any of its Committees shall not be affected by:
  - (a) any vacancy in the membership of the Board or Committee;
  - (b) any defect in the appointment of a member of the Board or Committee; or
  - (c) reason that any person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings of the Board or Committee.
- (5) A member of the Board or Board's Committee shall not be personally liable for any act or omission done or made in good faith while engaged on the business of the Commission (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

THIRD SCHEDULE

Sections 28 (8)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

1. Subject to the provisions of this Schedule, a member of the Board or staff of the Commission shall not have a direct or indirect financial interest or investment in any Nigerian postal company throughout the tenure of his office or his employment with the Commission.

2. Subject to paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Schedule, a member of the Board or staff of the Commission shall annually, present a written declaration affirming the non-existence of any such interest as is specified in paragraph 1 of the Schedule and shall pledge to disclose and inform the Board of any such relationship or interest that arises or is likely to arise during his tenure or employment with the Commission.
3. Members of the Board and staff of the Commission as at the commencement date of this Bill shall be entitled to a maximum of 6 (six) months from the said commencement date within which to divest themselves of their direct or indirect financial interests or investment in any Nigerian postal company, if any.
4. All newly appointed members of the Board and staff of the Commission shall after the commencement of this Bill be entitled to a maximum of 6 (six) months from their respective dates of appointments within which they may divest themselves of their direct or indirect financial interests or investments in any Nigerian postal company, if any.
5. Each member of the Board and staff of the Commission shall declare on appointment or at the commencement of employment and annually thereafter, for as long as he serves the Commission, any interest or investment that he:
  - (a) knowingly has; or
  - (b) knows any member of his immediate family to have in any aspect of the Nigerian postal industry.
6. If any member of the Board or staff of the Commission contravenes the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Schedule, or gives false information under paragraphs 5 of this Schedule, he shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding ₦100,000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) or imprisonment not exceeding 1 (one) year or both.
7. Subject to paragraph 8 of this Schedule, the Board may, from time to time, waive the application of the provisions specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Schedule in respect of any member of the Board or staff of the Commission if the Board determines that the financial interest of the member of the Board or staff of the Commission is not of a material nature or is minimal.
8. The Board, in determining whether or not the interest of a member of the Board or staff of the Commission is not of a material nature will consider factors including but not limited to the following:
  - (a) the revenues, investments, profits and managerial efforts of the company or other entity in regard to its postal activities compared with other aspects of the company's or such entity's businesses;
  - (b) the extent to which the Commission regulates and oversees the activity of such company or entity;
  - (c) the degree to which the economic interests of such company or other entity may be affected by an action of the Commission; and
  - (d) the perceptions held or likely to be held by the public regarding the relevant holding or interest and issues at stake.
9. The Board may at any time review and reverse its determination under paragraph 7 of this Schedule and direct the application of the prohibitions contained in these provisions.

10. In any case in which the Board exercises the waiver authority or the review thereof as specified in paragraphs 7 and 8 of this Schedule, the Board shall so soon thereafter publish the details thereof and such publication shall include information regarding the identity of the person who has been granted the waiver or whose waiver grant has been reviewed, the position held by such person and the nature of the financial interest which is the subject of the waiver or the review thereof.
11. For the purposes of this Schedule:
  - (a) "Company" includes partnerships;
  - (b) "Immediate family" means a person's spouse and children who are under the age of 18 years (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

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

**Explanatory Memorandum:**

This Bill repeals the Nigerian Postal Service Act, Cap. N127, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, and enacts the Nigerian Postal Commission Act to provide for the Establishment of the Nigerian Postal Commission, the introduction of private sector participation in the provision of postal services and the regulation of the postal sector and for other matters connected therewith (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**Long Title:**

A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigerian Postal Service Act, Cap. N127, LFN, 2004 and Establish the Nigeria Postal Commission to Make Comprehensive Provisions for the Development and Regulation of Postal Service; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 1337) (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Chairman to report Bill.*

**(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole resumed consideration of Report of the Committee on Telecommunications on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigerian Postal Service Act, Cap. N127, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, and Establish the Nigeria Postal Commission to make Comprehensive Provisions for the Development and Regulation of Postal Services; and for Related Matters (HB.1337) and approved Clauses 66 - 76, the Schedules, 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.*

**22. Adjournment**

*That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 1 December, 2021 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Toby Okechukwu – Deputy Minority Leader).*

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

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila  
*Speaker*

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**CORRIGENDUM**

In the *Votes and Proceedings* of Wednesday, 17 March, 2021, page 1486, item 8, *leave out* the referral and *insert* as follows:

*Bill referred to the Committee on Human Rights.*

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila  
*Speaker*



