



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 18 January, 2022

1. The House met at 11.23 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Second Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 21 December, 2021.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Mr Speaker's Remarks**
Mr Speaker made the following remarks:

PROTOCOLS

Good morning honourable colleagues.

1. *I welcome you all back to the House of Representatives. I thank you all for being here this morning. And I am delighted to see you all looking refreshed and energised, ready to do the people's business. I thank God almighty for protecting us through our travels and for his many mercies upon our lives.*
2. *The 9th House of Representatives, despite the limitations imposed on us by a global pandemic, has been an unusually productive parliament. We have taken legislative action to address longstanding challenges of governance and economics in our country. We have passed landmark legislation to fix our oil and gas industry, reform the police and reorganise the corporate administration system in our country.*
3. *We have considered and passed meaningful legislation that impacts all areas of our national life. Some of these Bills are the Police Service Commission Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, the Electric Power Sector Reform Act (Amendment) Bill, and the Deep Offshore and Inland Basin Production Sharing Contracts Act (Amendment) Bill, amongst others. Just before we adjourned in 2021, we passed a slate of bills to reform the aviation sector and clean up our airports so that these critical national assets can be properly administered to the best expectations of the Nigerian people.*

4. *We have used the appropriations process and the power of parliament over the public purse to pursue community and constituency development across the country. We have invested in primary, secondary and tertiary education infrastructure. We have provided ICT training centres to facilitate learning and enhance educational outcomes. There is, at the moment, virtually no constituency in the country that hasn't benefitted from significant investment to improve primary healthcare, rehabilitate classrooms and schools and provide community roads.*
5. *In reminding us of these things, it is not my intention to encourage complacency or give the impression that our work here is done, far from it. I intend to remind us all of what can be achieved when dedicated public servants work with purpose and precision in the public interest. And I want us to be inspired, in this last year of our present term in office, to work harder, work faster and achieve more than we ever did in the past.*
6. *Too often, the legislator's work and the benefits that derive therefrom are not, uniquely recognised and acknowledged. Active measures are required to change that, and it is our responsibility to make sure that the people we serve have sufficient information to judge us on the facts. Therefore, it must be a priority for us this year to document our efforts and our success and communicate the same to our constituents across the nation so that we can be judged individually and collectively by our evident accomplishments.*
7. *Honourable colleagues, we have a lot still left to do in a very brief time. Principal amongst these priorities is the Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill. First, let me express my profound gratitude to all of you for your work to pass this most critical legislation. Unfortunately, that Bill did not receive presidential assent, and it is unlikely that it will in its current form. Now, we have to choose between sticking to our guns regarding the provision to mandate direct primary elections for political parties or reworking that provision to save the rest of the Bill.*
8. *Now let it be clear to all that our only objective in introducing that provision was to strengthen the foundations of our democracy so that it works for all of our nation's people. The process by which political parties nominate candidates for election is essential, perhaps even just as important as the general election itself. A primary nomination process that deprives the majority of party members of the opportunity to choose who represents them in the general elections is susceptible to bad outcomes and ought to be fixed.*
9. *Some argued that political parties do not have proper registers of their members, which was a reason to reject the direct primary option. This is an appalling admission that political parties in the country do not have credible and up to date registers of their members. We are left to question how those parties have thus far managed their affairs, including conducting congresses and primary elections, whether by direct or indirect means.*
10. *Besides, it can be inferred that the failure to maintain a proper register of members violates the spirit of the constitution, as it makes it impossible for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to enforce the constitutional requirement for political parties to ensure that their membership reflects the federal character of Nigeria.*
11. *Nonetheless, it is disappointing that the failure of political parties to adequately document their membership is being used to not give the Nigerian people the power to fully participate in our nation's politics. If nothing else, including a direct primary mandate in the law, would have forced political parties to properly register their members within the shortest possible time. This would have been the singular most significant reform of our political party system in a generation.*
12. *I remain convinced that the proposal for direct primary elections is valuable for building accountability in our political system. But we must not allow the perfect to be the enemy of the good. Therefore, the House will reintroduce the amendment this week. And we will work quickly to address the mitigating concerns, pass the Bill and send it back to His Excellency President Muhammadu Buhari for assent.*

13. *As to the issues relating to inelegant drafting and other technical errors in the Bill. This is a matter of concern as it appears the version sent to the President differs from what is circulating in the public domain. However, in December of last year, I appointed a technical team to look into the issue. I expect to have their report within days so that we can proceed to the next stage. We have less than thirteen months to the next general election, so time is of the essence. A credible electoral law is what the people want. It is what the people deserve, and we must give to them. The Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill includes many other provisions that will serve our democracy well, and we cannot throw away the baby with the bathwater.*

14. *Our current constitutional review effort is as crucial as the Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill. Amending our nation's constitution to address longstanding areas of disagreement and remove the vestiges of militarism from our democracy is one of the central commitments we made in the 9th House. It is a commitment we must meet or risk the harsh judgment of history. Therefore we will prioritise action to pass the Constitution Amendment Bill in the House of Representatives. Fortunately, we are in the final stages of that effort and will shortly conclude this all-important work. The first set of amendments will be forwarded to the state assemblies for consideration before the end of February.*

15. *This is the final year we have to conclude work on our legislative agenda and fulfil the obligations of "Our Contract with Nigerians". Let us approach this last stretch with the forthright focus and earnestness that comes from knowing that we are in a race to make good history. The entire purpose of the legislative agenda is to direct our legislative resources and efforts in a coordinated effort to ensure the wellbeing of the individual in a life of safety and freedom. That is a high ambition, but it is well worth the effort.*

16. *Honourable colleagues, once more, I welcome you all back to the House of Representatives. I look forward to a fruitful year of considerable achievement in the joint task of nation-building. And I thank you all most sincerely for your presence here this morning. God bless you all, and God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.*

5. Announcement

(i) Bereavement:

Mr Speaker read the following communications from:

(a) Hon. Onuh Onyeche Blessing (*Ohimini/Otukpo Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of Hon. Ohepo Adah Ejiga (*Ohimini/Otukpo Federal Constituency, 1999 - 2003*) on Friday, 31 December, 2021.

(b) Hon. Ajilesoro Taofeek Abimbola (*Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of Oba David Qlajide Omisore, the Olu of Ayepe Olode, on Tuesday, 4 January, 2022.

(ii) Appointment of Senator Margery Chuba-Okadigbo as the Chairman, Board of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited:

By leave of the House, Hon. Taiwo Oluga informed the House of the appointment of Senator Margery Chuba-Okadigbo as the new Chairman of the Board of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and congratulated her on the appointment.

6. Executive Session

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do resolve into a Closed Session" (Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Chief Whip).

Closed Session — 11.44 a.m.

Open Session — 12.13 p.m.

7. **Petitions**

(i) The following Petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Preye Influence Goodluck Oseke (*Southern Ijaw Federal Constituency*):

(a) G. E. Awulu & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Community Development Committee of Ogboinbiri, Bayelsa State, on alleged non-payment of adequate compensation to the Host Communities, as a result of oil spillage in 2015; by Shell Petroleum Development Company;

(b) M.U. Alaeto & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Salvation Daniel Parker, on alleged failure of Nigerian Agip Oil Company Limited (NAOC) to carry out its corporate social responsibility to the Peremabiri Kingdom, Bayelsa State;

(ii) A petition from Sule A. Kwasau & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Sgt Abiona Elisha, on his dismissal from the service of the Nigerian Army, was presented and laid by Hon. Taiwo Oluga (*Ayedaade/Irewole/Isokan Federal Constituency*); and

(iii) A petition from Frèdrick Okoh, on his dismissal from the service of the Nigeria Police Force, was presented and laid by Hon. Sergius Ose Ogun (*Esan North East/Esan South East Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions

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

(i) ***Need to Curb Illegal Crude Oil Refineries in the Niger Delta Region to End the Soot Currently Being Experienced in the Region:***

Hon. Unyime Idem Josiah (*Ukanafun/Oruk Anam Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

(a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and

(b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

Need to Curb Illegal Crude Oil Refineries in the Niger Delta Region to End the Soot Currently Being Experienced in the Region:

The House:

Aware that section 44 (3) and item 39 Schedule II of the Exclusive Legislative List of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) vest the control and management of natural resources and hydrocarbon operations on the Federal Government for the common good and benefit of the citizens;

Also aware that the economy of Nigeria has, over the years been totally dependent on oil from the Niger Delta Region of the country;

Concerned that the Niger Delta Region has, over the years, been plagued by the activities of illegal oil refineries to the detriment of the lives of residents and the economy of the country;

Also concerned that those activities have compounded the age-long problem of environmental pollution and degradation caused by the seismic and exploration activities of the multinational oil companies operating in Niger Delta, thus contributing to the dramatic changes in the weather pattern being experienced in the region;

Further concerned that those illegal activities are sabotaging economic activities of residents of the area, causing severe health hazards on citizens, and also robbing the country of critical revenues, and aggravating the problem of pollution in the region;

Worried that a particular case is the soot currently suffered by citizens and residents of Rivers State and the environs in the last three years, as a result of incomplete burning of organic matters by those illegal refineries;

Disappointed that some security agencies and some influential individuals have been alleged to be complicit in the activities of those illegal refineries;

Also worried that if these trend continues unabated, the Niger Delta Region will be at health risk and economic activities will be crumbled;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Inspector-General of Police and other relevant security agencies to immediately clampdown on the activities of those illegal refineries in the Niger Delta Region of the country and prosecute those found culpable;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministries of Petroleum Resources, and Environment to urgently develop and implement modalities to clear off the soot currently being experienced in Rivers State and other parts of the Niger Delta Region;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, Navy, Army, Defence, and Interior to investigate the alleged involvement of security agencies in the illegal oil refining in the Niger Delta Region of the country; and
- (iv) mandate the relevant House Committees to ensure compliance and report in six (6) weeks (*Hon. Unyime Idem — Ukanafun/Oruk Anam Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (v) as follows:
“Urge the Midstream/Downstream Regulatory Authority to grant licenses for the establishment of modular refineries and support their establishment” (*Hon. Onofiok Luke — Etinan/Nsit Ibom/Nsit Ubuim Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (vi) as follows:
“also urge the Midstream/Downstream Regulatory Authority to review all existing licenses on modular refineries” (*Hon. Isiaka Ibrahim Ayokunle — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) In Prayer (iv), *leave out* the words “the relevant House Committees”, and *insert* the words “the Committees on Host Communities, and Petroleum Resources (Downstream)” (*Hon. Toby Okechukwu — Aninri/Agwu/Oji-River Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that section 44 (3) and item 39 Schedule II of the Exclusive Legislative List of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) vest the control and management of natural resources and hydrocarbon operations on the Federal Government for the common good and benefit of the citizens;

Also aware that the economy of Nigeria has, over the years been totally dependent on oil from the Niger Delta Region of the country;

Concerned that the Niger Delta Region has, over the years, been plagued by the activities of illegal oil refineries to the detriment of the lives of residents and the economy of the country;

Also concerned that those activities have compounded the age-long problem of environmental pollution and degradation caused by the seismic and exploration activities of the multinational oil companies operating in Niger Delta, thus contributing to the dramatic changes in the weather pattern being experienced in the region;

Further concerned that those illegal activities are sabotaging economic activities of residents of the area, causing severe health hazards on citizens, and also robbing the country of critical revenues, and aggravating the problem of pollution in the region;

Worried that a particular case is the soot currently suffered by citizens and residents of Rivers State and the environs in the last three years, as a result of incomplete burning of organic matters by those illegal refineries;

Disappointed that some security agencies and some influential individuals have been alleged to be complicit in the activities of those illegal refineries;

Also worried that if these trend continues unabated, the Niger Delta Region will be at health risk and economic activities will be crumbled;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Inspector-General of Police and other relevant security agencies to immediately clampdown on the activities of those illegal refineries in the Niger Delta Region of the country and prosecute those found culpable;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministries of Petroleum Resources, and Environment to urgently develop and implement modalities to clear off the soot currently being experienced in Rivers State and other parts of the Niger Delta Region;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, Navy, Army, Defence, and Interior to investigate the alleged involvement of security agencies in the illegal oil refining in the Niger Delta Region of the country;
- (iv) also mandate Committees on Host Communities, and Petroleum Resources (Downstream) to ensure compliance and report in six (6) weeks;
- (v) urge the Midstream/Downstream Regulatory Authority to grant licenses for the establishment of modular refineries and support their establishment; and

(vi) also urge the Midstream/Downstream Regulatory Authority to review all existing licenses on modular refineries (HR. 01/01/2022).

(ii) ***The High Rate of Kidnappings in Jos South and Plateau State in General:***

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.

The High Rate of Kidnappings in Jos South and Plateau State in General:

The House:

Notes the alarming rate of insecurity, kidnappings and payment of huge ransoms to secure the release of victims in Plateau State, particularly Jos South and Jos East Federal Constituency;

Informed that on Sunday, 16 January, 2022, at about 8.00 p.m., the paramount ruler, Gwom Rwei of Vwang Da Gyang Balak was abducted around the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies in K. Vom community while driving home, making it the second traditional ruler kidnapped in Plateau State within two months;

Aware that kidnappings have become day to day routine, with the kidnappers placing a huge ransom on family, friends and communities of their victims in order to secure their release;

Concerned that in this digital era where tracking ought to be made easier due to the synchronizing of National Identity Numbers with phone numbers, yet, the perpetrators of the inhumane acts still continue to communicate with victims' families via phone calls, freely without trace;

Also concerned that traditional rulers who are custodians of the culture of people have unfortunately become target of kidnappers;

Resolved to:

(i) urge the Inspector-General of Police to investigate, with a view to bringing the kidnappers of the traditional rulers to justice and report to the Committee on Police Affairs within two (2) weeks;

(ii) also urge the National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI) and National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) around Jos South LGA to install Street lights within their surroundings with surveillance cameras because it is around their institutions that most kidnapping usually take place;

(iii) further urge the Inspector-General of Police to equip Community Police Officers with walkie-talkies to enhance communication amongst Community Police Officials and to aide rescue operations;

- (iv) equally urge the Security Agencies to flush out kidnappers in Plateau State (*Hon. Dachung Musa Bagos — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the alarming rate of insecurity, kidnappings and payment of huge ransoms to secure the release of victims in Plateau State, particularly Jos South and Jos East Federal Constituency;

Informed that on Sunday, 16 January, 2022, at about 8.00 p.m., the paramount ruler, Gwom Rwei of Vwang Da Gyang Balak was abducted around the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies in K. Vom community while driving home, making it the second traditional ruler kidnapped in Plateau State within two months;

Aware that kidnappings have become day to day routine, with the kidnappers placing a huge ransom on family, friends and communities of their victims in order to secure their release;

Concerned that in this digital era where tracking ought to be made easier due to the synchronizing of National Identity Numbers with phone numbers, yet, the perpetrators of the inhumane acts still continue to 'communicate with victims' families via phone calls, freely without trace;

Also concerned that traditional rulers who are custodians of the culture of people have unfortunately become target of kidnappers;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Inspector-General of Police to investigate, with a view to bringing the kidnappers of the traditional rulers to justice and report to the Committee on Police Affairs within two (2) weeks;
- (ii) also urge the National Veterinary Research Institute(NVRI) and National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) around Jos South LGA to install Street lights within their surroundings with surveillance cameras because it is around their institutions that most kidnapping usually take place;
- (iii) further urge the Inspector-General of Police to equip Community Police Officers with walkie-talkies to enhance communication amongst Community Police Officials and to aide rescue operations;
- (iv) equally urge the Security Agencies to flush out kidnappers in Plateau State (**HR. 02/01/2022**).

9. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the National War College Act, Cap.N82, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the National Defence College Bill; and for Related Matters (HB. 1143) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Compensation, Resettlement and Welfare Board with the Primary aim of Raising Funds to Resettle all Original Inhabitants Occupying Developed Areas within the FCT and for Further Resettlement Projects; and for Related Matters (HB. 1766) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Compensation, Resettlement and Welfare Board with the Primary aim of Raising Funds to Resettle all Original Inhabitants Occupying Developed Areas within the FCT and for Further Resettlement Projects; and for Related Matters (HB. 1766) be read a Second Time." (*Hon. Gaza Jonathan Gbefwi — Karu/Keffi/Kokona Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Federal Capital Territory.

11. **Devastating Effects of Deforestation in Nigeria**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

12. **Need to Rehabilitate the Saminaka-Magama-Gumau Highway**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the 91km Saminaka-Magama-Gumau road links Kaduna State, Bauchi State and other States within the North East Zone as it facilitates the transportation of farm produce as well as other products and services among Kaduna, Jos, Bauchi, Abuja and other States of the country;

Concerned that due to the current dilapidated state of the road, commuters conveying goods and farm produce are robbed and/or kidnapped every week, sometimes resulting in the death of innocent persons and loss of properties;

Worried that the deplorable condition of the road has caused untold hardships for the people who rely on it for transportation of their goods and other services as it has disrupted their daily economic activities;

Cognizant that if nothing is done urgently, to rehabilitate the road, it would continue to pose threat to the lives of commuters, thereby hampering agricultural and economic activities in the area and the nation at large;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to commence immediate rehabilitation of the Saminaka-Magama-Gumau Highway to prevent further deterioration;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on FERMA to ensure compliance (*Hon. Muda Lawal Umar — Toro Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 03/01/2022).

Motion referred to the Committee on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

13. Need to Investigate the Incidences of Fake Insurance Certificates in Nigeria

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

14. Need to Construct Perimeter Fence at Federal University of Technology, FUTO, Owerri

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the elegance of a teaching and learning environment such as a University Community draws largely from a secured, protected, preserved environment and a good landscape;

Further notes that a University in the 21st Century desirous of positive global acknowledgement and endorsement, must in addition to the pursuit of academic and technological excellence, be committed to the security and serenity of the University Community and its environment;

Aware that the Federal University of Technology, Owerri pioneered the existence of such Federal Universities of Science and Technology in Nigeria as established in 1980 by the Shehu Shagari Administration;

Cognizant that the Federal University of Technology, Owerri, has in its existence, championed exceptional advancement of knowledge of Science and Technology with global partnership and collaborations;

Concerned that the increasing cases of hostilities arising from land demarcation and other boundary challenges between the University Community and the host communities of Ihiagwa, Eziobodo, Obinze and Avu, are consequences of the absence of a beautifully secured environment through perimeter fencing with the attendant security challenges on the Staff and Students as well as on teaching and learning;

Cognizant that hostilities and insecurities have remained in the increase in the last twelve years due to struggle by the original land-donors to reclaim part of the areas of the land for agriculture and other purposes, including building residential houses;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to:
 - (a) prioritize the construction of Perimeter Fence for the Federal University of Technology, Owerri in the 2023 Budget estimates,
 - (b) collaborate with the Imo State Government in the drive to promote good neighbourliness amongst the University Community and the original landowners through proper land identification and demarcation;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Education and other Ministries, Departments and Agencies to commence immediate demarcation of the land area covering the University Community through fresh survey plans and other Geophysical activities to halt further encroachment;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services to ensure compliance (*Hon. Päschal Obi — Ideato North/Ideato South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 04/01/2022).

Motion referred to the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

15. **Consideration of Report**

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) (Committee of the Whole):

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

16. **Adjournment**

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 19 January, 2022 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.41 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila
Speaker

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