



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 17 February, 2022

1. The House met at 11.20 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**  
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Wednesday, 16 February, 2022.

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

4. **Announcement**  
**Visitors in the Gallery:**  
Mr Speaker recognised the presence of the following:

- (i) Staff and Students of *Baptist Heritage Academy International*, Kuje, Abuja.
- (ii) Staff and Students of *Graceland School*, Bwari, Abuja.

5. **Privilege (Order Six, Rule 2)**  
Hon. Luke Onofiok Akpan (*Etinan/Nsit Ibom/Nsit Ubium Federal Constituency*), drew the attention of the House to the Motion moved by Hon. Ndudi Godwin Elemulu, the Minority Leader on Wednesday, 16 February, 2022 to investigate the *Plight of Inmates and the Unwholesome Working Conditions of Officers and Men of the Nigeria Correctional Service (HR. 57/02/2022)*. He explained that the motion was debated and unanimously agreed to, but was misrepresented by the media which portrayed it as a political fight designed by the Speaker against the Minister of Interior. He viewed that as a breach of his privilege and that of the House.

*Mr Speaker noted the privilege and explained that Motion on the floor of the House was not based on personal relationship. He therefore urged the media to be cautious and objective.*

**6. Presentation of Report*****Committee on Health Institutions:***

***Motion made and Question proposed,*** "That the House do receive the 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 Federal Orthopaedic Hospital, Azare, Borno State; and for Related Matters (HB.1322)" (*Hon. Paschal Obi — Ideato North/Ideato South Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

**7. A Bill for an Act to Establish National Agricultural Development Fund for the Purpose of Providing Funding for Agricultural Development in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 1319) — Third Reading**

***Motion made and Question proposed,*** "That a Bill for an Act to Establish National Agricultural Development Fund for the Purpose of Providing Funding for Agricultural Development in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 1319) be now read the Third Time" (*Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third Time and passed.*

**8. A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Education, Birniwa, Jigawa State to Provide full-time Courses, Teaching, Instructions and Training in Technology, Applied Science, Arts, Social Sciences, Humanities and Management; and for Related Matters (HB. 383) — Third Reading**

***Motion made and Question proposed,*** "That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Education, Birniwa, Jigawa State to Provide full-time Courses, Teaching, Instructions and Training in Technology, Applied Science, Arts, Social Sciences, Humanities and Management; and for Related Matters (HB. 383) be now read the Third Time" (*Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third Time and passed.*

**9. A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Federal Capital Territory Abuja, Area Courts Act, 2010 and Enact the Federal Capital Territory Abuja Area Courts Bill to, among other things, Expand the Jurisdiction of the Area Courts to entertain both Civil and Criminal Matters; and for Related Matters (HB. 67) — Third Reading**

***Motion made and Question proposed,*** "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Federal Capital Territory Abuja, Area Courts Act, 2010 and Enact the Federal Capital Territory Abuja Area Courts Bill to, among other things, Expand the Jurisdiction of the Area Courts to entertain both Civil and Criminal Matters; and for Related Matters (HB. 67) be now read the Third Time" (*Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third Time and passed.*

**10. A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs Act, Cap. N113, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs Bill to Broaden the Scope and Functions of the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, Add more**

**Value to Foreign Missions and provide for the Power to Conduct Courses of Instruction and Learning and Create an Academic Board to Award Postgraduate Diplomas (PGD) and Master's Degrees in International Relations, Diplomatic Practices; and for Related Matters (HB.1279) — Third Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs Act, Cap. N113, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs Bill to Broaden the Scope and Functions of the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, Add more Value to Foreign Missions and provide for the Power to Conduct Courses of Instruction and Learning and Create an Academic Board to Award Postgraduate Diplomas (PGD) and Master's Degrees in International Relations, Diplomatic Practices; and for Related Matters (HB.1279) be now read the Third Time" (*Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third Time and passed.*

11. **A Bill for an Act to Alter the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to make Economic and Social Rights in Chapter II Justiciable under the Constitution; and for Related Matters (HB.1659) — Second Reading**

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

12. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015 to Prohibit Discrimination against Widows and all forms of Repressive and Degrading Widowhood Practices and to make Provision for the Definition of the Offence of Image-based Sexual Abuse under the Act and make Provision for Penalty for Offence of Image-based Sexual Abuse; and for Related Matters (HB. 1711 and HB. 1804) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015 to Prohibit Discrimination against Widows and all forms of Repressive and Degrading Widowhood Practices and to make Provision for the Definition of the Offence of Image-based Sexual Abuse under the Act and make Provision for Penalty for Offence of Image-based Sexual Abuse; and for Related Matters (HB. 1711 and HB. 1804) be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Adejoro Adeogun — Akoko South West/Akoko East 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 Women Affairs and Social Development.*

13. **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, 2020; and for Related Matters (HB.1143) — Second Reading**

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

**14. Committal of Clauses 20, 24(2) and 25(2) (c) of the National Health Insurance Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2021(HB. 117)**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the National Health Insurance Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2021 was passed by the National Assembly and transmitted to the President for Assent;

*Aware* that upon a critical examination of the Bill by the President, some fundamental issues in Clauses 20, 24 (2) and 25 (2) (c) which require fresh legislative action were raised;

*Desirous* of the need to address the President's observations and make necessary amendments;

*Resolves to:*

Commit Clauses 20, 24(2) and 25(2) (c) to the Committee of the Whole for reconsideration (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**15. Need to Establish an Ultra-Modern Museum of National Unity in Abuja**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that Museums are repositories of history, art and practices of a people in a way that the future generation remains in touch with their ancestry, while the museum becomes a focal point of tourism;

*Also notes* that Nigeria has a rich endowment of historical facts, artifacts and monuments, which becomes imperative to explore in a way that will draw the interest of the international community;

*Cognizant* that a central ultra-modern facility with a capacity to hold over two hundred and fifty (250) cultural and ethnic heritage of the country would preserve identities and history of Nigeria, promote tourism and contribute to the much needed foreign direct investments in the country;

*Also cognizant* that the museum, when established, would serve as a repository for research and development as well as provide a safe place to preserve priceless artifacts being returned to the country from across the globe;

*Aware* that the Facility will provide for other businesses to thrive and cater for tourists and other visitors as well as other services;

*Resolves to:*

Mandate the Committees on Culture and Tourism, and Federal Capital Territory to liaise with relevant Government Agencies with a view to establishing an Ultra-Modern Museum of National Unity in Abuja and report within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Motion withdrawn by leave of the House.*

16. **Call on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to Urgently Deploy Physical Enumerators and Other Assistance to conduct New Voter Registration Across all Federal Constituencies**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) was established to, among other things, organize elections in Nigeria as well as put all necessary processes in place for the successful conduct of elections in Nigeria;

*Also notes* that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), in carrying out one of its constitutional duties, has put in place the machinery for the virtual Continuous Voters Registration (CVR), which has been ongoing;

*Concerned* that Mallam Madori/Kangama Federal Constituency and many other Federal Constituencies have been placed at disadvantage position due to non-availability of Registration centers and officials, inadequate power supply, insufficient operational tools and equipment as well as inadequate enlightenment program, the effect of which are low figure recorded within the constituencies;

*Worried* that if the voter's registration exercise is concluded without addressing the above-mentioned challenges, thousands of potential voters in Nigeria will be disenfranchised during the forthcoming elections;

*Concerned* that given current realities in the Constituency, INEC may need to engage in both physical and virtual processes by introducing physical enumerators to make up for the lapses in the online registration exercise;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Independent National Electoral Commission to take immediate steps to conduct physical registrations throughout the Federation;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Electoral Matters to ensure compliance (*Hon. Abubakar Makki Yalleman — Mallam/Madori/Kangama Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendments Proposed:**

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (iii) as follows:  
"urge the Independent National Electoral Commission to ensure that voting points are placed in secured locations to ensure safety of votes on election day" (*Hon. Ogbeide-Thamc Omoregie — Oredo Federal Constituency*).

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

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (iv) as follows:  
"urge the Independent National Electoral Commission not to adopt the proposed policy of closing down new voting centres due to poor or low voter registration" (*Hon. Beni Lar — Langtang North/Langtang South Federal Constituency*).

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

(iii) *Insert a new Prayer (v) as follows:*

“urge the Independent National Electoral Commission to extend the time frame for closing of registration and to report the statistics of voter registration figures to the Committee on Electoral Matters monthly” (*Hon. Beni Lar — Langtang North/Langtang South Federal Constituency*).

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

(iv) *In paragraph 3, leave out the words “Mallam Madori/Kaugama Federal Constituency” and insert the words “all 360 Federal Constituencies” (Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — Doguwa/Tudun Wada Federal Constituency).*

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

(v) *Insert a new Prayer (vi) as follows:*

“urge the Independent National Electoral Commission to ensure that voters cards are speedily provided to the new registrants before the general elections” (*Hon. Akinjo Kolade Victor — Ilaje/Ese-Odo Federal Constituency*).

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

(vi) *Insert a new Prayer (vii) as follows:*

“urge the Independent National Electoral Commission to increase the number of Registration Machines to match the level of sensitization on Voters Registration” (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

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

*Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) was established to, among other things, organize elections in Nigeria as well as put all necessary processes in place for the successful conduct of elections in Nigeria;

*Also noted* that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), in carrying out one of its constitutional duties, has put in place the machinery for the virtual Continuous Voters Registration (CVR), which has been ongoing;

*Concerned* that all 360 Federal Constituencies have been placed at disadvantage position due to non-availability of Registration centers and officials, inadequate power supply, insufficient operational tools and equipment as well as inadequate enlightenment program, the effect of which are low figure recorded within the constituencies;

*Worried* that if the voter's registration exercise is concluded without addressing the above-mentioned challenges, thousands of potential voters in Nigeria will be disenfranchised during the forthcoming elections;

*Concerned* that given current realities in the Constituency, INEC may need to engage in both physical and virtual processes by introducing physical enumerators to make up for the lapses in the online registration exercise;

*Resolved to:*

(i) *urge the Independent National Electoral Commission to:*

- (a) take immediate steps to conduct physical registrations throughout the Federation,
  - (b) ensure that voting points are placed in secured locations to ensure safety of votes on election day,
  - (c) adopt the proposed policy of closing down new voting centres due to poor or low voter registration,
  - (d) extend the time frame for closing of registration and to report the statistics of voter registration figures to the Committee on Electoral Matters monthly,
  - (e) ensure that voters cards are speedily provided to the new registrants before the general elections,
  - (f) increase the number of Registration Machines to match the level of sensitization on Voters Registration;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Electoral Matters to ensure compliance (HR. 62/02/2022).

17. **Need to Rehabilitate the Collapsed Kanke-Langtang Road**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that roads are critical to the economic development of any nation, it enhances social benefits by providing access to employment, social, health and education services;

*Also notes* that Kanke-Langtang road, which was constructed in 1979 has collapsed; thus slowing down development in the surrounding communities;

*Aware* that according to statistics by the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), between 2015 and in 2016, there were twelve thousand and seventy-seven (12,077) road accidents of which five hundred and four hundred (5,400) persons died, while the Nigeria Bureau of Statistics stated that there were eleven thousand three hundred and sixty-three (11,363) road crashes with five hundred and fifty-three (5,053) deaths in 2017, and the numbers continue to be high every year;

*Concerned* that Kanke- Langtang road in Plateau State has degenerated to such a deplorable state that plying the road has become extremely hazardous and the loss of lives continued unabated due to poor road maintenance in the country;

*Worried* about the reoccurring accidents due to the deplorable state of the road thus frustrating travelers and exposing them to the risk of being robbed or kidnapped;

*Also worried* that if the road is not urgently rehabilitated, transportation, which is one of the major drivers of economic growth, will completely become unbearable, thereby grounding the economic activities of the people;

*Resolves to:*

urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to take urgent steps to rehabilitate the Kanke-Langtang road in Plateau State;

- (ii) mandate the Committee on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to ensure compliance (Hon. Beni Lar — Langtang North/Langtang South Federal Constituency).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

*Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:*

"mandate the Office of the Deputy Speaker to collaborate with the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency to see to the successful and prompt reconstruction of the Kanke-Langtang road in Plateau State" (*Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — Doguwa/Tudun Wada Federal Constituency*).

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

*Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that roads are critical to the economic development of any nation, it enhances social benefits by providing access to employment, social, health and education services:

*Also noted* that Kanke-Langtang road, which was constructed in 1979 has collapsed; thus slowing down development in the surrounding communities:

*Aware* that according to statistics by the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), between 2015 and in 2016, there were twelve thousand and seventy-seven (12,077) road accidents of which five hundred and four hundred (5,400) persons died, while the Nigeria Bureau of Statistics stated that there were eleven thousand three hundred and sixty-three (11,363) road crashes with five hundred and fifty-three (5,053) deaths in 2017, and the numbers continue to be high every year:

*Concerned* that Kanke- Langtang road in Plateau State has degenerated to such a deplorable state that plying the road has become extremely hazardous and the loss of lives continued unabated due to poor road maintenance in the country:

*Worried* about the reoccurring accidents due to the deplorable state of the road thus frustrating travellers and exposing them to the risk of being robbed or kidnapped:

*Also worried* that if the road is not urgently rehabilitated, transportation, which is one of the major drivers of economic growth, will completely become unbearable, thereby grounding the economic activities of the people:

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to take urgent steps to rehabilitate the Kanke-Langtang road in Plateau State;
- (ii) mandate the Office of the Deputy Speaker to collaborate with the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency to see to the successful and prompt reconstruction of the Kanke-Langtang road in Plateau State;
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to ensure compliance (**HR. 63/02/2022**).

**18. Need to Provide Body-Worn Cameras for Security Operatives in the Country and Create a Situation Room**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that security of lives and properties of the citizens is a primary responsibility of the Federal Government:



*Also notes* that Security Agencies have been exploring solutions to mitigate the growing insecurity in the country, especially considering the lack of adherence to rules of engagement on the part of security operatives on duty;

*Aware* that a body camera is a wearable audio-visual or photographic system which integrates with in-car video and used to record events involving law enforcement officers in order to improve transparency and accountability of law enforcement agencies;

*Concerned* about allegations of harassment, extortion and extra-judicial killings of citizens by security operatives, which often results in reprisals and uprising by the citizens;

*Convinced* that security operatives, who often experience litigious scrutiny over their conduct in the discharge of their duties ought to wear body cameras in order to have picture and video evidence of their activities;

*Cognizant* that the body cameras will keep the security operatives in check, considering the massive allegations of human rights violation by security operatives and lack of evidence to indict them;

*Also cognizant* that the introduction of body cameras will not only douse tension and promote trust and professionalism among the security agencies but will institutionalize the rules of engagement to foster a harmonious relationship between security operatives and the citizenry;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Executive Arm to provide Body Cameras for all security Operatives on duty across the country;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, Army, and National Security and Intelligence to ensure compliance (*Hon. Chinedu Emeka Martins — Abiazu/Ezinihitte/Mbaise Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendments Proposed:**

- (i) In paragraph 1, immediately after the words "responsibility of the", *leave out the word "Federal"* (*Hon. Abdulrazaq Namdas — Ganve/Jada/Toungo/Mayo Belwa Federal Constituency*).

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

- (ii) In Prayer (ii), immediately after the words "and Intelligence", *insert the words "and Customs and Excise"* (*Hon. Barwa Shehu Beji — Bosso/Paikoro Federal Constituency*).

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

*Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that security of lives and properties of the citizens is a primary responsibility of the Government;

*Also noted* that Security Agencies have been exploring solutions to mitigate the growing insecurity in the country, especially considering the lack of adherence to rules of engagement on the part of security operatives on duty;

*Aware* that a body camera is a wearable audio-visual or photographic system which integrates with in-car video and used to record events involving law enforcement officers in order to improve transparency and accountability of law enforcement agencies;

*Concerned* about allegations of harassment, extortion and extra-judicial killings of citizens by security operatives, which often results in reprisals and uprising by the citizens;

*Convinced* that security operatives, who often experience litigious scrutiny over their conduct in the discharge of their duties ought to wear body cameras in order to have picture and video evidence of their activities;

*Cognizant* that the body cameras will keep the security operatives in check, considering the massive allegations of human rights violation by security operatives and lack of evidence to indict them;

*Also expects* that the introduction of body cameras will not only douse tension and promote trust and professionalism among the security agencies but will institutionalize the rules of engagement to foster a harmonious relationship between security operatives and the citizenry;

*Resolved* to:

- (i) **urge the Executive Arm to provide Body Cameras for all security Operatives on duty across the country;**
- (ii) **mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, Army, National Security and Intelligence, and Customs and Excise to ensure compliance (HR. 64/02/2022).**

**19. Call to Assess the Economic Impact, Compensation and Financing Remediation Program for Oil-Spill Ravaged Communities of Ohaji/Egbema, Oguta of Imo State and Niger Delta Area of Nigeria**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

**The House:**

*Notes* that crude oil spill has been a recurrent issue in Nigeria, and despite efforts to curtail its prevalence, stakeholders and agencies have not made concerted efforts to ensure that the legal instruments/policies are strictly adhered to by the exploration entities;

*Also notes* that due to the geographical peculiarities of Ohaji/Egbema, Oguta Local Government Area, as well as the Niger Delta areas of Nigeria, the predominant occupations amongst their indigenous peoples, are farming and fishing;

*Concerned* that oil spill in the host communities has resulted in pollution of the rivers and low yield to farmers due to poor soil quality a resultant effect of oil spill on the land;

*Also concerned* that the spills have caused diseases, psychological trauma and stress, occupational displacement, decreased income, and untold hardship for the people Ohaji/Egbema, Oguta communities in Imo State;

*Cognizant* of the need for oil exploration entities to be proactive in addressing the problems created by the oil spill, as well adequate compensations to impacted communities;

*Also cognizant* of the need for a remediation program, which should be jointly financed by the oil companies and the Federal Government to alleviate the sufferings of the people in the affected communities;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to design a workable compensation template for indigenes of the communities affected by the oil spill in Ohaji/Egbema, Oguta Local Government Area of Imo State, and other oil-producing areas across the country;
- (ii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to set up a remediation programme to provide soft loans for indigenous entrepreneurs in impacted communities to help finance their small and medium scale commercial businesses, with clearly defined terms for repayment;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Petroleum Resources (Upstream), Petroleum Resources (Downstream), and Niger Delta Development Commission to conduct an impact assessment and evaluation of the effects of the oil spill in Ohaji/Egbema, Oguta Local Government Area of Imo State to ensure that the people are adequately compensated and implementation of the previous resolutions (*Hon. Uju Chima Kingsley — Ohaji/Egbema/Oguta/Ori West Federal Constituency*).

*Debate:***Amendment Proposed:**

In Prayer (iii), immediately after the words "Committees on", insert the words "Environment, Host Communities" (*Hon. Johnson Egwakhide Oghuma — Etsako East/Etsako West/Etsako Central Federal Constituency*).

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

*Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that crude oil spill has been a recurrent issue in Nigeria, and despite efforts to curtail its prevalence, stakeholders and agencies have not made concerted efforts to ensure that the legal instruments/policies are strictly adhered to by the exploration entities;

*Also noted* that due to the geographical peculiarities of Ohaji/Egbema, Oguta Local Government Area, as well as the Niger Delta areas of Nigeria, the predominant occupations amongst their indigenous peoples, are farming and fishing;

*Concerned* that oil spill in the host communities has resulted in pollution of the rivers and low yield to farmers due to poor soil quality a resultant effect of oil spill on the land;

*Also concerned* that the spills have caused diseases, psychological trauma and stress, occupational displacement, decreased income, and untold hardship for the people Ohaji/Egbema, Oguta communities in Imo State;

*Cognizant* of the need for oil exploration entities to be proactive in addressing the problems created by the oil spill, as well adequate compensations to impacted communities;

*Also cognizant* of the need for a remediation program, which should be jointly financed by the oil companies and the Federal Government to alleviate the sufferings of the people in the affected communities;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to:

- (a) design a workable compensation template for indigenes of the communities affected by the oil spill in Ohaji/Egbema, Oguta Local Government Area of Imo State, and other oil-producing areas across the country,
- (b) set up a remediation programme to provide soft loans for indigenous entrepreneurs in impacted communities to help finance their small and medium scale commercial businesses, with clearly defined terms for repayment;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Environment, Host Communities, Petroleum Resources (Upstream), Petroleum Resources (Downstream), and Niger Delta Development Commission to conduct an impact assessment and evaluation of the effects of the oil spill in Ohaji/Egbema, Oguta Local Government Area of Imo State to ensure that the people are adequately compensated and implementation of the previous resolutions (HR. 65/02./2022).

20. **Need to Sustain the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) 100 for 100 Policy on Production and Productivity (PPP)**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that on Monday, January 31, 2022, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) commenced implementation and subsequent disbursement of a total sum of ₦23.20 billion to 28 Companies whose projects were selected for funding in the maiden batch of its newly introduced 100 for 100 Policy on Production and Productivity (PPP) initiative;

*Also notes* that the policy which is geared towards the funding of manufacturing companies that meet the specified requirements as stipulated on the policy, is designed to help reverse the nation's over-reliance on importation by creating an ecosystem that targets and supports the right projects with the potential to transform and catalyze the productive base of the economy;

*Aware* that the policy will support the Economic Development Agenda of the House of Representatives and ensure an increase in economic activities by increasing production of goods and services as well as creating employment for the teeming population;

*Also aware* that the first cycle of the PPP witnessed 243 applications valued at ₦321.06 billion and spread over key sectors including agriculture, energy, healthcare, manufacturing, and services sectors, and the maiden disbursement, which was valued at ₦23.20 billion, comprised 14 in the manufacturing sector, 12 in the agricultural sector, and in the healthcare sector;

*Cognizant* that the policy will improve the capacity of Nigeria to produce goods for its population and Sub Saharan Africa market especially as well as protect the country from being a dumping ground for substandard products;

*Also cognizant* that the programme, if well implemented, will contribute immensely to Industrialization, increase capacity to create employment for the teeming youth and improve revenues through exports and reduced importation of goods, thereby improving the economy of the country;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) commend the Executive Arm of Government for the 100 for 100 Policy on Production and Productivity (PPP) initiative;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Banking and Currency, and Industry to study the policy and make recommendations towards improving and sustaining the programme for the benefit of Nigeria as a whole (Hon. Chris Azubogu — Nnewi North/Nnewi South/Ekwusigbo Federal Constituency).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that on Monday, January 31, 2022, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) commenced implementation and subsequent disbursement of a total sum of ₦23.20 billion to 28 Companies whose projects were selected for funding in the maiden batch of its newly introduced 100 for 100 Policy on Production and Productivity (PPP) initiative;

*Also noted* that the policy which is geared towards the funding of manufacturing companies that meet the specified requirements as stipulated on the policy, is designed to help reverse the nation's over-reliance on importation by creating an ecosystem that targets and supports the right projects with the potential to transform and catalyze the productive base of the economy;

*Aware* that the policy will support the Economic Development Agenda of the House of Representatives and ensure an increase in economic activities by increasing production of goods and services as well as creating employment for the teeming population;

*Also aware* that the first cycle of the PPP witnessed 243 applications valued at ₦321.06 billion and spread over key sectors including agriculture, energy, healthcare, manufacturing, and services sectors, and the maiden disbursement, which was valued at ₦23.20 billion, comprised 14 in the manufacturing sector, 12 in the agricultural sector, and in the healthcare sector;

*Cognizant* that the policy will improve the capacity of Nigeria to produce goods for its population and Sub Saharan Africa market especially as well as protect the country from being a dumping ground for substandard products;

*Also cognizant* that the programme, if well implemented, will contribute immensely to Industrialization, increase capacity to create employment for the teeming youth and improve revenues through exports and reduced importation of goods, thereby improving the economy of the country;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) commend the Executive Arm of Government for the 100 for 100 Policy on Production and Productivity (PPP) initiative;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Banking and Currency, and Industry to study the policy and make recommendations towards improving and sustaining the programme for the benefit of Nigeria as a whole (HR. 66/02/2022).

21. **Need to Check the Incessant Killings, Wanton Destruction of Properties and Displacement of Ilaje People in Brass Local Government Area of Bayelsa State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Also notes* that on Monday, 7 February, 2022, assailants attacked unarmed Ilaje fishermen on a fishing expedition in the high sea of Twon-Brass, Brass Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, leaving many dead, several others injured and some are still missing;

*Disturbed* that the assailants did not only kill their victims during the attacks but also burnt their fishing boats, nets and carted away their outboard engines;

*Concerned* that Ijaje people residing in Twon-Brass are fleeing the community in droves for fear of further attacks and the fishermen who are mostly of Ijaje extraction have boycotted fishing activities because of the current insecurity in the area;

*Cognizant* that despite the unprovoked attack, senseless killings and wanton destruction of properties and means of livelihoods, the people of Ijaje community in Brass have continued to show a peaceful disposition, thus averting the inter-ethnic crisis allegedly intended by the assailants;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) observe a minute of silence in honour of the deceased victims of the attack on Ijaje Community of Twon-Brass in Brass Local Government Area of Bayelsa State;
- (ii) commiserate with the bereaved families;
- (iii) call on the Executive Arm of Government to investigate the mass killing and ensure that the culprits are prosecuted;
- (iv) also call on the Executive Arm of Government to provide relief materials for the affected Ijaje fishermen who have been adversely affected by the senseless attacks and unable to continue fishing in the interim;
- (v) urge the Nigerian Navy, the Nigeria Police Force and other relevant security agencies to further strengthen their security presence along the coast of Brass and its environs;
- (vi) mandate the Committee on National Security and Intelligence to ensure compliance (*Hon. Kolade Victor Akinjo —Ijaje/Ese-Odo Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

*The House:*

*Also noted* that on Monday, 7 February, 2022, assailants attacked unarmed Ijaje fishermen on a fishing expedition in the high sea of Twon-Brass, Brass Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, leaving many dead, several others injured and some are still missing;

*Disturbed* that the assailants did not only kill their victims during the attacks but also burnt their fishing boats, nets and carted away their outboard engines;

*Concerned* that Ijaje people residing in Twon-Brass are fleeing the community in droves for fear of further attacks and the fishermen who are mostly of Ijaje extraction have boycotted fishing activities because of the current insecurity in the area;

*Cognizant* that despite the unprovoked attack, senseless killings and wanton destruction of properties and means of livelihoods, the people of Ijaje community in Brass have continued to show a peaceful disposition, thus averting the inter-ethnic crisis allegedly intended by the assailants;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) observe a minute of silence in honour of the deceased victims of the attack on Ijaje Community of Twon-Brass in Brass Local Government Area of Bayelsa State;
- (ii) commiserate with the bereaved families;

- (iii) call on the Executive Arm of Government to investigate the mass killing and ensure that the culprits are prosecuted;
- (iv) also call on the Executive Arm of Government to provide relief materials for the affected Ilaje fishermen who have been adversely affected by the senseless attacks and unable to continue fishing in the interim;
- (v) urge the Nigerian Navy, the Nigeria Police Force and other relevant security agencies to further strengthen their security presence along the coast of Brass and its environs;
- (vi) mandate the Committee on National Security and Intelligence to ensure compliance (HR. 67/02/2022).

*A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.*

## 22. Consideration of Reports

- (i) ***A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal Medical Centre, Owutu Edda; and for Related Matters (HB. 1647) (Committee of the Whole):***  
*Motion made and Question proposed. "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal Medical Centre, Owutu Edda; and for Related Matters (HB. 1647)" (Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader)*

*Agreed to.*

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

### (HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

*(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)*

**A BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK TO  
ESTABLISH FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE, OWUTU EDDA;  
AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB.1647)**

#### **Clause 1: Establishment Federal Medical Centre, Owutu Edda.**

- (1) There is hereby Upgraded the General Hospital, Owutu Edda to a Federal Medical Centre, Owutu Edda in this Bill referred to as ("the Federal Medical Centre").
- (2) The Medical Centre —
  - (a) is a body corporate;
  - (b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name;
  - (c) shall have perpetual succession and a common seal (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

#### **Clause 2: Establishment of the Board of Management of the Medical Centre.**

There is hereby established for the management of the Medical Centre a Board of Management (in this Bill referred to as "Board") which shall be constituted and have the functions and powers set out in this Bill (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 3: Membership of the Board.**

- (1) The Board shall consist of:
- (a) a Chairman;
  - (b) the Chief Medical Director of the Medical Centre;
  - (c) the Director of Clinical Services;
  - (d) the Director of Administration who shall be the Secretary of the Board;
  - (e) a representative of the President;
  - (f) the Federal Ministry of Health;
  - (g) the Nigerian Medical Association;
  - (h) the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria;
  - (i) the National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives;
  - (j) one person to represent public interest;
- (2) The chairman and members of the Board, other than ex-officio members, shall be:
- (a) appointed by the President; and
  - (b) persons of proven integrity and ability.
- (3) The supplementary provisions set out in the Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Board and the other matters contained therein (Schedule) (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 4: Tenure of office.**

Subject to the provisions of section 5 of this Bill, a member of the Board, other than *ex-officio* members, shall each hold office:

- (a) for a term of three years in the first instance and may be re-appointed for a further term of three years and no more; and
- (b) on such terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of appointment (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 5: Cessation of membership.**

- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 4 of this Bill a person shall cease to hold office as a member of the Board if:



- (a) he becomes bankrupt, suspends payment principal loan with his creditors;
  - (b) he is convicted of a felony or any offence involving dishonesty or fraud;
  - (c) he becomes of unsound mind or is incapable of carrying out his duties;
  - (d) he is guilty of a serious misconduct in relation to his duties; or
  - (e) in the case of a person possessed of professional qualifications, he is disqualified or suspended, other than at his own request, from practising his profession in any part of the world by an order of a competent authority made in respect of that member; or
  - (f) he resigns his appointment by a letter addressed to the President.
- (2) If a member of the Board ceases to hold office for any reason whatsoever, before the expiration of the term for which he is appointed, another person representing the same interest as that member shall be appointed to the Board for the unexpired term.
- (3) A member of the Board may be removed by the President if he is satisfied that it is not in the interest of the Medical Centre or the interest of the public that the member continues in office (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 6: Allowances of members.**

There shall be paid to every member of the Board such allowances and expenses as the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission may, from time to time, direct (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

**PART II — FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE BOARD, ETC.**

**Clause 7: Functions of the Board.**

- (1) The Board shall:
- (a) equip, maintain and operate the Medical Centre so as to provide facilities for diagnosis, curative, promotive and rehabilitative services in medical treatment;
  - (b) construct, equip, maintain and operate such training schools and similar institutions as the Board considers necessary for providing the Medical Centre at all times with a proper staff of the Medical Centre technicians and nurses;
  - (c) construct, equip, maintain and operate such clinics, out-patient departments, laboratories, research or experimental stations and other like institutions as the Board considers necessary for the efficient functioning of the Medical Centre.

- (2) The Board shall ensure that the standards of teaching provided at all establishments under its control and the standards of treatment and care provided for patients at those establishments do not fall below those usually provided by similar establishments of international repute.
- (3) Subject to this Bill, the Board shall perform such other functions which in its opinion are calculated to facilitate the carrying out of its functions under this Bill (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 8: Powers of the Board.**

The Board shall have power to:

- (a) provide the general policies and guidelines relating to major expansion programmes of the Medical Centre;
- (b) provide facilities for the training of medical students of associate universities;
- (c) manage and superintend the affairs of the Medical Centre;
- (d) subject to the provisions of this Bill, make, alter and revoke rules and regulations for carrying on the functions of the Medical Centre;
- (e) fix terms and conditions of service, including remuneration of the employees of the Medical Centre subject to the approval of National Salaries Incomes and Wages Commission;
- (f) do such other things which in the opinion of the Board are necessary to ensure the efficient performance of the functions of the Medical Centre (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

**PART III — STAFF OF THE MEDICAL CENTRE**

**Clause 9: Medical Director of the Medical Centre.**

- (1) There shall be for the Medical Centre a Chief Medical Director who shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Board and on such terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of appointment or as may be determined, from time to time, by the National Salaries Income and Wages Commission.
- (2) The Chief Medical Director shall:
  - (a) be the Chief Executive and accounting officer of the Medical Centre;
  - (b) be responsible to the Board for the day-to-day administration of the Medical Centre;
  - (c) be appointed for a single term of five years only;
  - (d) be a person who is a qualified and licensed health professional with relevant postgraduate qualification and experience in administration and shall have been so qualified for a period of not less than 15 years;

- (e) have considerable administrative experience in matters of health; and
- (f) hold a post-graduate specialist qualification obtained not less than ten years prior to the appointment as Chief Medical Director (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 10: Appointment of Directors.**

- (1) The Board shall appoint for the Medical Centre:
  - (a) a Director of Administration, who shall:
    - (i) be responsible to the Chief Medical Director for the effective functioning of all the administrative divisions of the Medical Centre,
    - (ii) conduct the correspondence of the Board and keep the records of the Medical Centre, and
    - (iii) perform such other functions as the Board or the Chief Medical Director, as the case may be, may, from time to time, assign to him;
  - (b) a Director of Clinical Services;
  - (c) a Director of Finance;
  - (d) a Director of Maintenance; and
  - (e) a Director of Medical Laboratory Services (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 11: Service in the Medical Centre to be pensionable.**

- (1) Service in the Medical Centre shall be approved service for the purposes of the Pensions Reforms Act.
- (2) The officers and other persons employed in the Medical Centre shall be entitled to pensions, gratuities and other retirement benefits as are enjoyed by persons holding equivalent grades in the civil service of the Federation.
- (3) Nothing in subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall prevent the appointment of a person to any office on terms which preclude the grant of pension and gratuity in respect of that office (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 12: Establishment of the Medical Advisory Committee, etc.**

- (1) There shall be for the Medical Centre a Medical Advisory Committee which shall:

- (a) consist of a chairman who shall be the Director, Clinical Services and such number of other members as may be determined from time to time;
  - (b) be responsible to the Chief Medical Director for all the clinical and training activities of the Medical Centre; and
  - (c) be appointed by the Board.
- (2) Subject to this Bill, the Board shall have power to appoint either directly or on secondment and discipline consultants holding or acting in any office in the hospital; and any such appointment shall be made having due regard to the approved personnel establishment of the Medical Centre.
- (3) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, the Board may, from time to time, appoint consultants outside the hospital to perform such medical duties as the Board or the Chief Medical Director may assign to such consultants (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

#### PART IV — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

**Clause 13: Fund of the Medical Centre.**

There shall be established and maintained for the Medical Centre a fund into which shall be paid and credited:

- (a) all subventions and budgetary allocation from the Government of the Federation;
- (b) all fees and funds accruing from the sale of drugs and other services;
- (c) all sums accruing to the Medical Centre by way of gifts, endowments, bequests, grants or other contributions by persons and organisations;
- (d) foreign aid and assistance from bilateral agencies; and
- (e) all other sums which may, from time to time, accrue to the Medical Centre (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 14: Expenditure of the Medical Centre.**

The hospital shall, from time to time, apply the funds at its disposal to —

- (a) the cost of administration and maintenance of the Medical Centre;
- (b) publicize and promote the activities of the Medical Centre;
- (c) pay allowances, expenses and other benefits of members of the Board and committees of the Board;
- (d) pay the salaries, allowances and benefits of employees of the Medical Centre;
- (e) pay other overhead allowances, benefits and other administrative costs of the Medical Centre; and

- (f) undertake such other activities as are connected with all or any of the functions of the Medical Centre under this Bill (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 15: Power to accept gifts.**

- (1) The Medical Centre may accept gifts of land, money or other property on such terms and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the person or organisation making the gift.
- (2) The Medical Centre shall not accept any gift if the conditions attached by the person or organisation making the gift are inconsistent with the functions of the Medical Centre under this Bill (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 16: Annual estimates and expenditure.**

- (1) The Board shall, not later than 30 September in each year, submit to the President through the Secretary to the Government of the Federation an estimate of the expenditure and income of the Medical Centre during the next succeeding year.
- (2) The Board shall cause to be kept proper accounts of the Medical Centre in respect of each year and proper records in relation thereto and shall cause the accounts to be audited not later than six months after the end of each year by auditors appointed from the list and in accordance with the guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General for the Federation (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 17: Annual report.**

The Board shall prepare and submit to the President, not later than 30 June in each year, a report in such form as the President may direct on the activities of the Medical Centre during the immediately preceding year, and shall include in the report a copy of the audited accounts of the Federal Medical Centre for that year and the auditor's report thereon (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 18: Power to borrow.**

- (1) The Medical Centre may, from time to time, borrow by overdraft or otherwise such sums as it may require for the performance of its functions under this Bill.
- (2) The Medical Centre shall not, without the approval of the President, borrow money which exceeds, at any time, the limit set by the President.
- (3) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, where the sum to be borrowed is in foreign currency, the Medical Centre shall not borrow the sum without the prior approval of the President (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 19: Exemption from tax.**

- (1) The Medical Centre shall not pay income tax on any income derived by the Federal Medical Centre under this Bill or accruing to it from any of its investments.
- (2) Accordingly, the provisions of any enactment relating to the taxation of companies or trust funds shall not apply to the Board of the Federal Medical Centre (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 20: Exemption from customs duties, etc.**

The Medical Centre shall not pay customs duty on or be restricted or prohibited from importing any equipment, material, supply and any other thing (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

**PART V — GENERAL****Clause 21: Discipline of students.**

- (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any other enactment, where it appears to the Board that any student of the Medical Centre has been guilty of misconduct, the Board may, without prejudice to any other disciplinary powers conferred on it by regulations, direct:
  - (a) that the student shall not, during such period as may be specified in the direction, participate in such activities of the Medical Centre, or make use of such facilities of the Medical Centre as may be so specified;
  - (b) that the activities of the student shall, during such period as may be specified in the direction, be restricted in such manner as may be so specified;
  - (c) that the student be rusticated for such period as may be specified in the direction; or
  - (d) that the student be expelled from the Medical Centre.
- (2) The fact that an appeal from a direction is brought in pursuance of subsection (1) of this section shall not affect the operation of the direction while the appeal is pending.
- (3) The Board may delegate its powers under this section to a disciplinary committee consisting of such members of the Medical Centre as the Board may nominate.
- (4) Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing the restriction or termination of student's activities at the Medical Centre otherwise than on the ground of misconduct.
- (5) A direction issued under subsection (1) (a) of this section may be combined with a direction issued under subsection (1) (b) of this section.

- (6) Nothing in this Bill shall affect the provisions of any enactment relating to the discipline of medical practitioners, pharmacists, midwives, nurses or members of any other profession or calling (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 22: Removal and discipline of clinical, administrative and technical staff.**

- (1) If it appears to the Board that there are reasons for believing that any person employed as a member of the clinical, administrative or technical staff of the Medical Centre, other than the Chief Medical Director, should be removed from his office or employment, the Board shall require the Director of Administration to:
- (a) give notice of those reasons to the person in question;
  - (b) afford him an opportunity of making representations in person on the matter to the Board; and
  - (c) if the person in question so requests within a period of 1 month beginning with the date of the notice, make arrangements for:
    - (i) a committee to investigate the matter and report on it to the Board, and
    - (ii) the person in question to be afforded an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by an investigating committee set up with respect to the matter, and if the Board, after considering the report of the investigating committee, is satisfied that the person in question should be removed as aforesaid, the Board may so remove him by a letter signed on the direction of the Board.
- (2) The Chief Medical Director may, in a case of misconduct by a member of the staff which in the opinion of the Chief Medical Director is prejudicial to the interest of the Medical Centre, suspend any such member and any such suspension shall forthwith be reported to the Board.
- (3) For good cause, any member of staff may be suspended from his duties or his appointment may be terminated or he may be dismissed by the Board and for the purposes of this section, "good cause" means:
- (a) a conviction for any offence which the Board considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit for the discharge of the functions of his office;
  - (b) any physical or mental incapacity which the Board, after obtaining medical advice, considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit to continue to hold his office;
  - (c) conduct of a scandalous or other disgraceful nature which the Board considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit to continue to hold his office; or

- (d) conduct which the Board considers to be such as to constitute a failure or inability of the person concerned to discharge the functions of his office or to comply with the terms and conditions of his service.
- (4) Any person suspended shall, subject to subsections (2) and (3) of this section be on half pay and the Board shall before the expiration of a period of three months after the date of such suspension consider the case against that person and come to a decision as to:
  - (a) whether to continue the person's suspension and if so, on what terms (including the proportion of his emoluments to be paid to him);
  - (b) whether to reinstate the person, in which case the Board shall restore his full emoluments to him with effect from the date of suspension;
  - (c) whether to terminate the appointment of the person concerned, in which case he shall not be entitled to the proportion of his emoluments withheld during the period of suspension; or
  - (d) whether to take such lesser disciplinary action against the person (including the restoration of his emoluments that might have been withheld), as the Board may determine, and in any case where the Board, pursuant to this section, decides to continue a person's suspension or decides to take further disciplinary action against a person, the Board shall before the expiration of a period of three months from such decision come to a final determination in respect of the case concerning any such person.
- (5) It shall be the duty of the person by whom a letter of removal is signed in pursuance of subsection (1) of this section to use his best endeavors to cause a copy of the letter to be served as soon as reasonably practicable on the person to whom it relates.
- (6) Nothing in the foregoing provisions of this section shall preclude the Board from making such regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this Bill for the discipline of students and all other categories of employees of the hospital as the Board may prescribe.
- (7) Regulations made under subsection (6) of this section need not be published in the Gazette but the Board shall cause them to be brought to the notice of all affected persons in such manner as it may, from time to time, determine (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba. — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 23: Discipline of junior staff.**

- (1) If any junior staff is accused of misconduct or inefficiency, the Chief Medical Director may suspend him for not more than a period of 3 months and shall direct a committee to:
  - (a) consider the case; and
  - (b) make recommendations as to the appropriate action to be taken by the Chief Medical Director.



- (2) In all cases under this section of this Bill, the officer shall be informed of the charge against him and given a reasonable opportunity to defend himself.
- (3) The Chief Medical Director may, after considering the recommendation made pursuant to subsection (1) (b) of this section, dismiss, or take such other disciplinary action against the officer concerned.
- (4) Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Chief Medical Director made under subsection (3) of this section may, within a period of 21 days from the date of the letter communicating the decision to him, address a petition to the Board to reconsider his case (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

**Amendments Proposed:**

In Subclause (1), immediately after the word "Director", insert the words "Junior Staff Committee" (*Hon. Sada Soli — Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*).

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

- (ii) In Subclause (2), leave out the word "reasonable", insert the words "Junior Staff Committee" (*Hon. Sada Soli — Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*).

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

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

**PART VI — MISCELLANEOUS****Clause 24: Power to make regulations:**

- (1) The Board may, with the approval of the President, make regulations
  - (a) as to the access of members of the public either generally or of a particular class, to premises under the control of the Board and as to the orderly conduct of members of the public on those premises; and
  - (b) for safeguarding any property belonging to or controlled by the Board from damage by members of the public.
- (2) Bye-laws under this section shall not come into force until they are confirmed (with or without modification) by the National Assembly and published in such manner as he may direct (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 25: Power to give directives.**

The President may give to the Board directions of a general character or relating generally to particular matters (but not to any individual person or case) with regard to the exercise by the Board of its functions under this Bill, and it shall be the duty of the Board to comply with the directions; but no direction shall be given which is inconsistent with the duties of the Board under this Bill (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 26: Transition and savings Provision.**

- (1) On the commencement of this Bill, any person employed by or serving in, the Medical Centre shall be deemed to have been employed or serving in the Medical Centre established under this Bill.
- (2) All Assets or liabilities belonging to the Medical Centre shall be deemed to belong to the Medical Centre established under this Bill (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 27: Interpretation.**

In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires:

"associate universities" means the universities whose medical students receive aspects of their training from the Medical Centre (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

"Board" means the Board of Management of the Medical Centre (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

"Chairman" means the Chairman of the Board (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

"functions" include powers and duties (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

"Federal Medical Centre" means the Medical Centre, Owutu Edda (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

"junior staff" means staff of such grade as may be determined, from time to time, by the Board (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

"medical student" means a student whose course of instruction is:

- (a) designed (either alone or in conjunction with other courses) to enable him to qualify as a medical practitioner; or

- (b) designed for the further training of medical practitioners (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

"Minister" means the Minister charged with responsibility for matters relating to health and "Ministry" shall be construed accordingly (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

"student" means a person enrolled at an institution controlled by the Board for the purpose of pursuing a course of instruction at the institution (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

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

**Clause 28: Short Title.**

This Bill may be cited as the Federal Medical Centre, Owutu Edda (Establishment) Bill, 2022 (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

## SCHEDULE

[Section 3 (3)]

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

#### *Proceedings of the Board*

1. (1) Subject to this Bill and section 27 of the Interpretation Act, the Board may make standing orders regulating its proceedings or those of any of its committees.
- (2) The quorum of the Board shall be the chairman or the person presiding at the meeting and 5 other members of the Board, 2 of whom shall be ex-officio members, and the quorum of any Committee of the Board shall be as determined by the Board.
2. (1) The Board 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 8 other members, he shall summon a meeting of the Board to be held within 14 days from the date on which the notice is given.
- (2) At any meeting of the Board, the chairman shall preside but if he is absent, the members present at the meeting shall appoint one of their number to preside at the meeting.
- (3) Where the Board desires to obtain the advice of any person on a particular matter, the Board may co-opt him to the Board for such period as it deems fit, but a person who is in attendance by virtue of this sub-paragraph shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Board and shall not count towards a quorum.

*Committees*

3. (1) The Board may appoint one or more committees to carry out, on behalf of the Board, such functions as the Board may determine.
- (2) A committee appointed under this paragraph shall consist of such number of persons as may be determined by the Board and a person shall hold office on the committee in accordance with the terms of his appointment.
- (3) A decision of a committee of the Board shall be of no-effect until it is confirmed by the Board.

*Miscellaneous*

4. (1) The fixing of the seal of the Medical Centre shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Chairman, the Chief Medical Director or any person generally or specifically authorized by the Board to act for that purpose.
  - (2) Any contract or instrument which, if made or executed by a person not being a body corporate, would not be required to be under seal may be made or executed on behalf of the Medical Centre by the Chief Medical Director or any person generally or specifically authorized by the Board to act for that purpose.
  - (3) A document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal of the Medical Centre 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 Board or of a committee shall not be adversely affected by:
    - (a) a vacancy in the membership of the Board or committee;
    - (b) a defect in the appointment of a member of the Board or committee; or
    - (c) reason that a person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings of the Board or committee (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

**Explanatory Memorandum:**

This Bill seeks to provide for the Legal framework to establish the Federal Medical Centre, Owutu Edda (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

**Long Title:**

A Bill for an Act to Provide the Legal Framework to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Owutu Edda; and for Related Matters (HB.1647) (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

*Chairman to report Bill.*

**(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal Medical Centre, Owutu Edda; and for Related Matters (HB. 1647) and approved Clauses 1 - 22, approved Clause 23 as amended, approved Clauses 24 - 29, 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 Ecological Fund:**

*Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Ecological Fund on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Regulation of Ecological Funds, to Address Nigeria's Ecological Challenges particularly Erosion, Landslide, Desertification, Floods, Oil Spillage, Draught, etc; and for Related Matters (HB. 739)" (Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency).*

*Agreed to.*

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

**(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)**

*(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)*

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE REGULATION OF  
ECOLOGICAL FUNDS, TO ADDRESS NIGERIA'S ECOLOGICAL  
CHALLENGES PARTICULARLY, EROSION, LANDSLIDE, DESERTIFICATION,  
FLOODS, OIL SPILLAGE, DRAUGHT, RE-AFORESTATION, ETC.;  
AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 739)

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 1: Establishment for the Regulation of Ecological Projects.**

- (1) There is established for the Federal Republic of Nigeria Ecological Project (hereinafter called "the Project") and the Office for Management of Ecological Project (hereinafter called "the Office").
- (2) The Office shall be:
  - (a) a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal;
  - (b) may sue and be sued in this corporate name;
  - (c) may acquire, hold or dispose of any property, movable or immovable for the purpose of carrying out any of its functions under this Bill
- (3) The Headquarters of the Office shall be located in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and may maintain offices in each of the 36 States of the Federation and Abuja, the Federal Capital (Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 2: Establishment of the Governing Council of the Office.**

- (1) There is established for the office, a Governing Council (in this Bill, referred to as "the Council") which shall have overall control of the office.
- (2) The council consist of:
  - (a) the Secretary of the Government of the Federation (SGF) as the Chairman;
  - (b) the Minister of Environment;
  - (c) the Attorney-General of the Federation;
  - (d) the Minister of Finance;
  - (e) the Minister of Water Resources;
  - (f) the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria;
  - (g) the Accountant General of the Federation;
  - (h) one person each from the six geo-political zones of Nigeria who shall each have cognate experience and expertise in law, engineering, economics or public administration and two of whom shall be women;
  - (i) the Executive Secretary of the office.
- (3) The Chairman and members of the Office shall be appointed by the President.
- (4) The supplementary provisions set out in the schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the council and other matters mentioned therein (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 3: Tenure of Office.**

The Chairman and Members of the Council shall hold office on such terms and conditions as may be specified in their letters of appointment (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

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

- (1) A member of the Council shall cease to a member of the Council if —
  - (a) he resigns his appointment as a member of the Council by notice, under his hand, addressed to the President;
  - (b) he becomes of unsound mind;

- (c) he is convicted of a felony or of any offence involving dishonesty or corruption;
  - (d) he becomes incapable of carrying out the function of his office either arising from an infirmity of mind or body.
- (2) Where a vacancy occurs in the membership of the council, it shall be filled by the appointment of a successor to hold office for the remainder of the term of office of his predecessor, so however that the successor shall represent the same interest as his predecessor (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 5: Allowances, etc. of members.**

The Chairman and members of the Council shall be paid such allowances and benefits as may have been recommended by the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 6: Powers of the Office.**

The Council shall have power to:

- (a) be the governing body of the office;
- (b) manage and superintend the policies of the office;
- (c) provide the general policy guidelines relating to the functions of the office;
- (d) subject to the provisions of this Bill, make, alter and revoke rules and regulations for carrying on the functions of the office;
- (e) determine the terms and conditions of service of the employees of the office;
- (f) do such other things which in the opinion are necessary to ensure the efficient performance of functions of the office under this Bill (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 7: Functions of the Office.**

The office shall —

- (a) take custody and monitor the ecological fund for the purposes of addressing any of the following challenges:
  - (i) erosion,
  - (ii) landslide,
  - (iii) desertification,

- (iv) floods,
  - (v) oil spillage and soil remediation,
  - (vi) draught,
  - (vii) re-forestation, and
  - (viii) any other environmental challenges that may arise in the application of the fund;
- (b) ensure efficient application of the Fund;
- (c) perform such other duties as may be directed by the President, from time to time, and as are necessary or expedient to ensure the efficient performance of the functions of the office under this Bill (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 8: Funds of the Office.**

The office shall establish and maintain a fund with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to which shall be paid:

- (a) by way of allocation of 5% of the Consolidated Revenue from the Federation Account of the Federation;
- (b) gifts, grants-in-aid from national, bilateral and multilateral organizations and agencies;
- (c) all other sums accruing to the office, from time to time (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 9: Expenditure of the Office.**

The Office may, from time to time, apply the proceeds of the Fund established under section 8 of this Bill:

- (a) distribute to the following components in the following formula:
  - (i) Federal Government Direct Ecological Intervention through the Ecological Project Office (EFO) 2%,
  - (ii) States (36 States of the Federation and FCT) 1.5%,
  - (iii) Local Governments 1%,
  - (iv) other established Agencies deriving funding from Ecological Fund 0.5%;
- (b) apply the proceeds of the fund for the benefits of 36 States of the Federation and Abuja;



- (c) for maintaining general ecological reserves subject general or specific directives that may be given in that behalf by the President in accordance with the provision of this Bill;
- (d) to the cost of administration of the Council;
- (e) to the payment of the allowances and benefits of members of the council and for reimbursing members of the council or of any committee set up by the council and for such expenses as may be expressly authorized by the council;
- (f) to the payment of the salaries, fees and other remuneration, gratuities and pension and other benefits payable to the staff of the office (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 10: Annual estimates and accounts.**

- (1) The office shall, not later than 30th Day of each Quarter in a Year, submit to the President an estimate of its expenditure for the next succeeding Quarter of the Year.
- (2) The office shall keep proper accounts in respect of each year and proper records in relation to those accounts and shall cause its accounts to be audited within six months after the end of each years by auditors appointed from the list and in accordance with the guideline supplied by the Auditor General of the Federation (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 11: Annual report.**

- (1) The office shall prepare reports and submit to the president not later than 30th June of each year a report in such form as the president may direct on the activities of the office during the immediate preceding year and shall include in the report a copy of the audited accounts report thereon.
- (2) The Auditor -General of the Federation shall lay a copy of the report and the auditor's report thereon, through the Committees of Ecological Funds to the National Assembly so soon after the receipt thereon (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 12: Power to accept gift.**

- (1) The Office may accept gift of land, money or other property on such terms and conditions deemed lawful
- (2) The office shall not accept any gift of the auditor attached by the organization making the gift inconsistent with the function of the office under this Bill (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 13: Staff of the Office (Executive Secretary).**

- (1) There shall be for the Office, Executive Secretary who shall —
  - (a) be appointed by the president;
  - (b) be the chief executive and accounting officer of the office;
  - (c) be responsible to the executive of the policy day-to-day administration of the office; and
  - (d) be a member and the Secretary General to the council
- (2) The Executive Secretary shall hold office —
  - (a) the Executive Secretary shall hold office for a term of four years — first instance and may be reappointed for a further period of four years and no more; and
  - (b) on such terms and conditions as may be specified in his/her letter of appointment.
- (3) Notwithstanding the provision of sub-clause of the clause, the Executive Secretary may —
  - (a) resign his/her appointment by a notice in writing under the hand addressed to the president therein the council;
  - (b) be removed by the president for inability to discharge the functions of his/her office (whether arising from infirmity of mind or body or any other cause) or for misconduct or corruption (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 14: Other staff of the Office.**

The office may subject to the approval of the council, appoint such other staff as may deem necessary and expedient from time to time —

- (a) for the proper and efficient performance of the function of the office; and
- (b) on such terms and conditions as may be determined from time to time, by the council (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 15: Pension.**

- (1) Service in the Office shall be appointed service for purpose of the pension Reform Act, and accordingly officers and employees of the Office shall be entitled to pension, gratuity and other retirement benefits as are prescribed under the pension Reform Act, 2014.

- (2) Without prejudice to the provision of sub-clause (1) of this clause nothing shall prevent the appointment of a person to any office on terms and conditions, which preclude the grant of a person, gratuity or other retirement benefits in respect of that office (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 16: Legal proceeding.**

Limitation of suit against the Office subject to the provision of this Bill the provision of the public offices protection Act shall apply in relation to any suit institution against any member or officer or employee of the office (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 17: Service of Document.**

- (1) A notice summon or other Documents required or authorized to be served on the office on the provisions of this Bill or any other law or enactment may be served by delivering it to the Executive Secretary or security in by registration post addressed to the Executive Secretary of the principal officer of the office.
- (2) Any sum of money which by the judgment of any court has been awarded against the office shall , subject to any directive given by the court, where on notice of appeal against the judgment has been given be paid from the fund of the office (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 18: Indemnity of officers.**

A member of the Council, the Executive Secretary or any officer or employee of the office shall be indemnified out of the assets of the office against any liability incurred by him defending any proceeding whether civil or criminal in the proceeding in brought against him in capacity as a member, Executive Secretary officer or other employee of the office (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 19: Directives by the President.**

The President may give the council such directives of a general nature or relating generally to matters of policy with regards to the exercise of it functions under this Bill as he may consider necessary and it shall be the duty of the council to comply with such directive or cause them to be committed with (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 20: Power to make regulations.**

- (1) The council may with the approval of the president make such regulations as in its opinion necessary or expectant for giving full effect to the provisions of this Bill and for due administrations of this Bill
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of sub clause (1) of this clause, the council may issue guidelines to give full effect to the provision of this Bill (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 21: Condition for accessing the Fund.**

All Federal, States, Local Governments and Established Agencies benefiting from the Ecological Fund, shall have their shares disbursed monthly (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 22: Interpretation.**

In this Bill:

"Council" means the Governing council of the office established under Clause 2 of this Bill (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

"Chairman" means the Chairman of the Governing Council appropriated under Clause 2 (1) of this Bill (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

"Executive Secretary" means the Executive Secretary of the Ecological Fund Office appointed under Clause 2 (c) (h) of this Bill (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

"Member" means a member of the Governing Council and includes the Chairman (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

"President" means the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 23: Short Title.**

This Bill may be cited as the Regulation of Ecological Project (Establishment) Bill, 2022 (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

## SCHEDULE

### PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL

1. Subject to this Bill and Section 27 of the Interpretation Act, the council shall have power to regulate its proceedings and may make standing Order with respect to the holding of its meetings, and those of its Committees, notice to be given, the keeping of minutes of its proceedings; the custody and introduction for inspection of such minutes and such other matters as the council may, from time to time, determine.
2. The council shall meet at least four ordinary meeting in every calendar year and subject thereto, the council shall meet whenever it is convened by the Chairman, or if the Chairman is requested by not less than half of the members, the Chairman shall convene a meeting to be held within fourteen days, from the date on which the notice was given.
3. The Chairman shall preside at every sitting of the Council and if the Chairman is unable to attend a particular meeting, the members present at the meeting shall elect one of their member to preside at the meeting.
4. The quorum of the Council meeting shall be determined by the Council.

**Amendment Proposed:**

*Leave out* all the words in paragraph 4 and *insert* as follows:

"The quorum of the Council Meeting shall be two-thirds of its members" (*Hon. Manu Soro Mansur—Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

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

5. A question put before the Council at a meeting shall be decided by consensus and where there is not possible by a majority of the votes of the members present and voting.
6. The Chairman shall, in the case of an equality of votes, have a casting vote in addition to his deliberative vote.
7. Where the Council seeks the advice of any person on a particular matter, the Council may invite that person to attend for such periods as it think fit, but a person who is invited by virtue of their paragraph shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Council and shall not count towards the quorum.

### Committees

8. The Council may appoint one or more Committees to carry out on behalf of the Council such of its functions as the Council may determine and report on any matter with which the Council is concerned.
9. A Committee appointed under paragraph 8 of this schedule shall be presided over by a member of the Council and shall consist of such number of persons (not necessary members

of the Council) as may be determined by the council and a person other than a number of the council shall hold office on the Committee in accordance with the terms of his appointment.

10. A decision of a Committee of the Council shall be of no effect until it is confirmed by the Council.

#### *Miscellaneous*

11. The fixing of the seal of the Council shall be authenticated in the signature of the Chairman and the Permanent Secretary or the Executive Secretary and such other person authorized by the Council to act for that purpose.
12. A document purporting to be a contract, an instrument and other document signed or sealed on behalf of the council shall be received as evidence and unless the contract is proved, be prescribed without further proof, to have been properly signed or sealed.
13. The validity of the proceedings of the Council or its Committees shall not be affected by:
  - (a) any vacancy in the membership of the Council or its Committees;
  - (b) reason that a person not entitled to vote took part in the proceedings; or
  - (c) any defect in the appointment of a member (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

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

#### **Long Title:**

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Regulation of Ecological Funds, to Address Nigeria's Ecological Challenges Particularly, Erosion, Landslide, Desertification, Floods, Oil Spillage, Draught, Re-Aforestation, etc.; and for Related Matters (HB. 739) (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Chairman to report Bill.*

#### **(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Ecological Fund on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Regulation of Ecological Funds, to Address Nigeria's Ecological Challenges particularly Erosion, Landslide, Desertification, Floods, Oil Spillage, Draught, etc.; and for Related Matters (HB. 739) and approved Clauses 1 - 23, approved the Schedule as amended, and approved the Long Title of the Bill.

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

#### **23. Adjournment**

*That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 22 February, 2022 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader).*

*The House adjourned accordingly at 2.02 p.m.*

**Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila**  
*Speaker*