



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA  
FIRST VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

Tuesday, 24 January, 2023

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1. The House met at 11.52 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
  2. The House recited the National Pledge.
  3. **Votes and Proceedings**  
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 19 January, 2023.

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

4. **Petition**  
A petition from Isaac Dennis Folorunso & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Ikot Akpan/Nkuk/Nyakiba/Usung Atiat/Ikot Akpa Idem/Ikot Udombang communities in Akwa Ibom State, on the non-completion of Ikot Akpan - Nkuk - Nyakiba - Usung Atiat - Ikot Akpa Idem - Ikot Udombang road by the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, was presented and laid by Hon. Unyime Josiah Idem (*Ukanafun/Oruk Anam Federal Constituency*).

*Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.*

5. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**  
***Need for the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to Review the Cashless Policy and Extend the Timeframe of the Currency Swap:***

Hon. Sada Soli (*Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

**Need for the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to Review the Cashless Policy and Extend the Timeframe of the Currency Swap:**

The House:

*Notes* that pursuant to Section 2, paragraphs (a) and (d) of the Central Bank of Nigeria (Establishment) Act, 2007, the objects of the Central Bank of Nigeria shall be to ensure monetary and price stability, and promote a sound financial system in Nigeria, respectively;

*Recalls* that in December 2022, the House of Representatives met with the CBN Governor on the cashless policy and introduction of the redesigned ₦200, ₦500 and ₦1,000 notes;

*Aware* that the cashless policy is in tandem with global best practices;

*Also aware* that for such a policy to be successful, it should not be overbearing on the people and the economy;

*Concerned* that the financial institutions in Nigeria lack the infrastructure to handle a sudden increase in customer base as well as adequate employees to handle any challenges that could arise in the process of the timely implementation of the cashless policy given by the CBN;

*Also concerned* that Banks and Point of Sale (PoS) outlets are faced with shortage of the redesigned new Naira notes ahead of the CBN deadline of 31 January, 2023, consequently, making it difficult for them to comply with the CBN directives as regards availability of the new notes;

*Further concerned* that despite several appeals by the National Assembly, the Governors Forum, the Bank Customers Association of Nigeria, and other stakeholders in the country for the CBN to extend the period for the currency swap of the new Naira notes as well as review of the cashless policy, the CBN has remained adamant on the given deadline;

*Worried* that due to inadequate sensitization and the rush in the implementation of the policy, the country is now exposed to a situation whereby businesses are rejecting the old currency in the face of unavailability of the redesigned new Naira notes;

*Also worried* that as a result of the rigidity in the implementation of the policy, there is a tendency of decline in the economy if cash withdrawals are delayed due to short supply of the new Naira notes;

*Cognizant* that in order for the policy to be successful and acceptable, the CBN should keep its relationship closer to reality, rather than theorized assumptions;

*Also cognizant* that in global best practices, currencies are phased out, not forced out, thus adequate time is required for such policy;

*Further cognizant* that the policy, though a good one, is not fair on the incoming government which will require a smooth transition, that would help promote a sound financial system in the country;

*Disturbed* that coercing the people to accept the new CBN policy within the stipulated timeframe may pose serious monetary challenges and impact negatively on micro economic activities across the country;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to extend the implementation of the Cashless Policy to at least 1 year as well as review the daily withdrawal Limit and the charges therefrom;

- (ii) also urge the CBN to expedite action on making the redesigned ₦200, ₦500 and ₦1,000 notes available to Nigerians;
- (iii) call on President Muhammadu Buhari to intervene in the insistence of the CBN on the tight deadline for the implementation of the Cashless Policy and currency swap (*Hon. Sada Soli — Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendments Proposed:**

- (i) In Prayer (i), *leave out* the figure and word “1 year”, and insert the figure and word “6 months” (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

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

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (iv) as follows:  
“Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to interface with the Managing Directors of Banks and subsequently Central Bank of Nigeria to ascertain the availability of the new notes and level of circulation in the country” (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

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

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

The House:

*Noted* that pursuant to Section 2, paragraphs (a) and (d) of the Central Bank of Nigeria (Establishment) Act, 2007, the objects of the Central Bank of Nigeria shall be to ensure monetary and price stability, and promote a sound financial system in Nigeria, respectively;

*Recalled* that in December 2022, the House of Representatives met with the CBN Governor on the cashless policy and introduction of the redesigned ₦200, ₦500 and ₦1,000 notes;

*Aware* that the cashless policy is in tandem with global best practices;

*Also aware* that for such a policy to be successful, it should not be overbearing on the people and the economy;

*Concerned* that the financial institutions in Nigeria lack the infrastructure to handle a sudden increase in customer base as well as adequate employees to handle any challenges that could arise in the process of the timely implementation of the cashless policy given by the CBN;

*Also concerned* that Banks and Point of Sale (PoS) outlets are faced with shortage of the redesigned new Naira notes ahead of the CBN deadline of 31 January, 2023, consequently, making it difficult for them to comply with the CBN directives as regards availability of the new notes;

*Further concerned* that despite several appeals by the National Assembly, the Governors Forum, the Bank Customers Association of Nigeria, and other stakeholders in the country for the CBN to extend the period for the currency swap of the new Naira notes as well as review of the cashless policy, the CBN has remained adamant on the given deadline;

*Worried* that due to inadequate sensitization and the rush in the implementation of the policy, the country is now exposed to a situation whereby businesses are rejecting the old currency in the face of unavailability of the redesigned new Naira notes;

*Also worried* that as a result of the rigidity in the implementation of the policy, there is a tendency of decline in the economy if cash withdrawals are delayed due to short supply of the new Naira notes;

*Cognizant* that in order for the policy to be successful and acceptable, the CBN should keep its relationship closer to reality, rather than theorized assumptions;

*Also cognizant* that in global best practices, currencies are phased out, not forced out, thus adequate time is required for such policy;

*Further cognizant* that the policy, though a good one, is not fair on the incoming government which will require a smooth transition, that would help promote a sound financial system in the country;

*Disturbed* that coercing the people to accept the new CBN policy within the stipulated timeframe may pose serious monetary challenges and impact negatively on micro economic activities across the country;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to extend the implementation of the Cashless Policy to at least 6 months as well as review the daily withdrawal Limit and the charges therefrom;
- (ii) also urge the CBN to expedite action on making the redesigned ₦200, ₦500 and ₦1,000 notes available to Nigerians;
- (iii) call on President Muhammadu Buhari to intervene in the insistence of the CBN on the tight deadline for the implementation of the Cashless Policy and currency swap;
- (iv) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to interface with the Managing Directors of Banks and subsequently Central Bank of Nigeria to ascertain the availability of the new notes and level of circulation in the country (HR. 08/01/2023).

***Ad-hoc Committee on the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Cashless Policy and Extension of the Timeframe of the Currency Swap (HR. 08/01/2023):***

Mr Speaker announced the membership of the Committee as follows:

- |      |                               |   |                 |
|------|-------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| (1)  | Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba       | — | <i>Chairman</i> |
| (2)  | Hon. Obinna Chidoka           | — | <i>Member</i>   |
| (3)  | Hon. Sergius Oseasochie Ogun  | — | <i>Member</i>   |
| (4)  | Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Halims | — | <i>Member</i>   |
| (5)  | Hon. Abubakar Makki Yalleman  | — | <i>Member</i>   |
| (6)  | Hon. Sada Soli                | — | <i>Member</i>   |
| (7)  | Hon. Jaha Ahmadu Usman        | — | <i>Member</i>   |
| (8)  | Hon. Ahmed Munir              | — | <i>Member</i>   |
| (9)  | Hon. Mohammed Alkali          | — | <i>Member</i>   |
| (10) | Hon. Nkem-Abonta Uzoma        | — | <i>Member</i>   |
| (11) | Hon. Momah Ifeanyi Chudy      | — | <i>Member</i>   |
| (12) | Hon. Babangida Ibrahim        | — | <i>Member</i>   |
| (13) | Hon. Edun Olanrewaju Oladipo  | — | <i>Member</i>   |
| (14) | Hon. Oghuma Johnson Egwakhide | — | <i>Member</i>   |
| (15) | Hon. Olanrewaju Ibrahim Kunle | — | <i>Member</i>   |
| (16) | Hon. Ashiru Mani Aminu        | — | <i>Member</i>   |
| (17) | Hon. Abubakar Yunusa Ahmad    | — | <i>Member</i>   |

**6. Presentation of Bills**

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Ezira, Anambra State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.2170).
- (2) University of Chartered Institute of Administrators and Registrars, etc. (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.2171).
- (3) Traditional Complementary and Alternative Medicine Council of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.2172).
- (4) Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2023 (HB.2173).

**7. Presentation of Report**

*Committee on Commerce:*

*Motion made and Question propose*, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Commerce on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria Act, 2011 to among other things streamline the Membership of the Governing Board to strengthen the Council to discharge effective Regulatory responsibilities on Financial Reporting and Corporate Governance in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 1817)" (*Hon. Olufemi Fakeye Julius — Boluwaduro/Ifedayo/Ila Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

**8. A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Teaching Hospital, Makurdi, Benue State and Provide for Composition, Administration and Functions of the Management Board; and for Related Matters (HB.1889) — Third Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Teaching Hospital, Makurdi, Benue State and Provide for Composition, Administration and Functions of the Management Board; and for Related Matters (HB.1889) 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 Establish Federal Institute of Industrial Research for Development of Micro, Small, Medium and Large Industries aimed at rapid Industrialization and Socio-Economic Development of Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 55) — Third Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Institute of Industrial Research for Development of Micro, Small, Medium and Large Industries aimed at rapid Industrialization and Socio-Economic Development of Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 55) 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 Establish Federal University of Environment, Nanka, Anambra State; and for Related Matters (HB. 1168) — Third Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Environment, Nanka, Anambra State; and for Related Matters (HB. 1168) 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 Establish Federal College of Education, Jengre, Plateau State to provide full-time courses, Teaching Instruction and Training in Technology, Applied Science, Arts, Social Sciences, Humanities and Management; and for Related Matters (HB. 2106) — Third Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act Establish Federal College of Education, Jengre, Plateau State to provide full-time courses, Teaching Instruction and Training in Technology, Applied Science, Arts, Social Sciences, Humanities and Management; and for Related Matters (HB. 2106) be now read the Third Time" (Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader).*

*Agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third Time and passed.*

12. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Medicine and Medical Sciences, Abeokuta, Ogun State as a Training Institution for the Development of Medicine and Medical Sciences, make Comprehensive Provision for the Management and Administration of the University; and for Related Matters (HB. 1484) — Third Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Medicine and Medical Sciences, Abeokuta, Ogun State as a Training Institution for the Development of Medicine and Medical Sciences, make Comprehensive Provision for the Management and Administration of the University; and for Related Matters (HB. 1484) be now read the Third Time" (Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader).*

*Agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third Time and passed.*

13. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko, Delta State; and for Related Matters (HB.1133) — Third Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko, Delta State; and for Related Matters (HB.1133) be now read the Third Time" (Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader).*

*Agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third Time and passed.*

14. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Centre for Women Development Act, Cap. N15, Laws of the Federation, 2004 to Enhance the Functions of the Centre and Rename the Centre after Maryam Babangida, and for Related Matters (HB. 1147) — Third Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Centre for Women Development Act, Cap. N15, Laws of the Federation, 2004 to Enhance the Functions of the Centre and Rename the Centre after Maryam Babangida, and for Related Matters (HB. 1147) be now read the Third Time" (Hon. Garba Alhassan Ado — House Leader).*

*Agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third Time and passed.*

15. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Fiscal Responsibility Act, Cap. F40, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Related Matters (HB. 1713) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Fiscal Responsibility Act, Cap. F40, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Related Matters (HB. 1713) be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Sergius Oseasochie Ogun — Esan North/Esan South East Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

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

*Bill read the Second Time.*

*Bill referred to the Committee on Finance.*

**16. A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Agriculture, Ukanafun, Akwa Ibom State; and for Related Matters (HB. 1335) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Agriculture, Ukanafun, Akwa Ibom State; and for Related Matters (HB. 1335) be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Unyime Josiah Idem — Ukanafun/Oruk Anam Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

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

*Bill read the Second Time.*

*Bill referred to the Committee on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions.*

**17. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, and Establish Federal Medical Centre, Daura, Kastina State; and for Related Matters (HB.2145) — Second Reading**

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

**18. Need to Complete the Ivo Dam Project in Ebonyi and Enugu States**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that in 2014, the Federal Ministry of Water Resources contracted the construction of Ivo Dam at the confluence of Ivo and Ikeh rivers border of Ivo Local Government Area, Ebonyi State and Aninri Local Government Area, Enugu State to Messrs Anbeez Services Nigeria Limited;

*Also notes* that while Mpu and Okpanku communities of Aninri Local Government Area of Enugu State are downstream of the dam, Ngwogwo, Amaokwe, Okue and Amaeke communities of Ishiagu, Ivo Local Government Area are on the upstream side;

*Aware* that the Federal Government specifically embarked on the construction of the Dam project for irrigation farming, fishery and electricity generation in the interest of communities in Ebonyi and Enugu States who are predominantly agrarian farmers to encourage the cultivation of edible and industrial crops, food processing, and agro-allied businesses and marketing of farm products;

*Also aware* that though the construction of the Dam has attained an advanced stage, the project was abandoned on account of lack of funds, resulting in the impounding of water at the upstream side, especially during the rainy seasons;

*Concerned* that the abandonment of the project without the spillway in place, farmlands and rural settlements in the upstream communities of Ngwogwo, Amaokwe, Okue and Amaeke communities

are inundated and sacked by the flood. Until the abandonment of the project, these communities have never been flooded and sacked by water since the ages;

*Also concerned* that with the abandonment of the Dam embankment Project without the spillway, over 40,000 acres of arable farmlands and rural settlements have remained permanently flooded, given that during the rainy seasons, the embankment itself aggravates the flood, which gets higher and spreads to inland communities with great velocity, thus, sacking the rural dwellers, destroying farmlands and rendering over 10,000 families homeless with no source of income, given that farming is their main source of livelihood;

*Worried* that since the abandonment of the project, the flood has become a menace and death trap to the hapless farmers, especially during the rainy season, as they resort to using improvised canoes to access their far away farmlands and in the process gets drowned;

*Also worried* on November 15, 2020 Mrs Udu Ajah got drowned and Mr Roland Ajah Orji and Mr Ivoke Ajah Victor lost their lives to the flood on 8 December 2020, while returning from their distant farms, using a locally made canoe. Similarly, on December, 20, 2020, Mr Cletus Okorie died in the same dam flood, more scores of death were recorded between 2020 and 2022;

*Observes* that the affected communities have written severally to the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to come to their aid but to no avail, NEMA personnel visited the site on few occasions, to access the situation and later made deliveries of relief materials, only Mpu and Okpanku Communities in Enugu State benefited, while Ngwogwo, Amaokwe, Okue and Amaeke communities of Ivo Local Government Area in Ebonyi State were worst affected and neglected;

*Cognizant* of the need for the Federal Government to urgently review the circumstances surrounding the non-completion of the Ivo Dam project as envisaged and prevent disasters and loss of lives and properties;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to immediately intervene in the predicament of Ngwogwo, Amaokwe, Okue and Amaeke Communities of Ivo Local Government Area, Ebonyi State and provide relief materials, shelter and alternative means of livelihood, pending the completion of the Ivo Dam;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Water Resources to interface with the Ministry of Water Resources to audit the Ivo Dam project contract performance and to complete the project in earnest and as a matter of urgent national importance;
- (iii) also mandate the Committees on Water Resources, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance (*Hon. Makwe Livinus Makwe — Ivo/Ohaozara/Onicha Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**(HR. 09/01/2023).**

*Motion referred to the Committees on Water Resources, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).*



**19. Need to Commence Rehabilitation of Malondo - Garin Baka - Ngaski - Warah Road in Ngaski/Shanga/Yauri Local Government Areas, Kebbi State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the Malondo - Garin Baka - Ngaski - Warah Road, is an important means of land transportation networks which aids the movement of humans and goods and enhances service delivery in the country;

*Also notes* that Malondo - Warah roads provides a shortcut to the southwest and serves as a link to Mokwa town in Niger State;

*Aware* that the Malondo - Warah road is the major route used by vehicles, and heavy trucks for the conveyance of agricultural produce especially rice for which Kebbi State is famous;

*Also aware* that the road is about 70 kilometres, the transit time is about 5 hours and more than that during the rainy season;

*Further aware* that the Kebbi state government had rehabilitated the road twice, but due to heavy trucks plying the road, the road is currently in deplorable condition;

*Cognizant* that the Federal Executive Council exploring Executive Order 007 of 2019 (Roads Infrastructure Development and Refurbishment Investment Tax Credit Scheme) approved the sum of Twenty-Eight Billion, Three Hundred and Forty-Five Million Naira in October 2021 for rehabilitation of the road through the Mainstream Energy Solutions;

*Also cognizant* of the negative impact of the deplorable state of the road on the economy, security, and free movement of persons and the fact that the contractor is yet to be mobilized to the site;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Finance, Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, Federal Inland Revenue Services and Mainstream Energy Solutions to complete all the necessary paperwork and compel the contractor to immediately commence Rehabilitation of Malondo - Garin Baka - Ngaski - Warah Road in Ngaski/Shanga/Yauri Federal Constituency of Kebbi State;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Finance, Works, and Housing and Habitat to ensure compliance (*Hon. Yusuf Tanko Sununu — Ngaski/Shanga/Yauri Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

(HR. 10/01/2023).

*Motion referred to the Committees on Finance, Works, and Housing pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).*

**20. Order of the Day**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That the House do set down items 13 - 18, on the Order Paper to the next legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (3)" (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**21. Adjournment of First Sitting**

*That the House do adjourn the First Sitting till 1.10 p.m. (Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader).*

*The House adjourned accordingly at 12.55 p.m.*

**Femi Hakeem Gbajabamila**  
*Speaker*