



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 17 January, 2023

1. The House met at 11.0 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Second Votes and Proceedings* of Wednesday, 28 December, 2022.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. Mr Speaker's Remarks

Protocols

1. *Good morning honourable colleagues. I welcome you all back to the chambers after the Christmas and New Year holidays, and I thank you all for being here this morning. Though the House has not been in session these past few weeks, I know that the work has never stopped for many of us, and our obligations have not been any less demanding. Still, I hope you have taken time to rest, recover, and prepare yourselves for the responsibilities that will continue to demand our time, abilities, and efforts.*
2. *When the 9th House of Representatives was inaugurated in 2019, we hit the ground running to discover and present solutions to our country's problems. Some of our efforts have yielded positive results in some regards, and in other areas, there is still work to do. We must resolve to continue to do the people's work despite the obligations and distractions of the political campaign season. As we approach the end of our term in office, I am hopeful that we will continue to meet and exceed expectations in this new year.*
3. *Let us begin this new year with a renewed commitment to legislative action that brings us closer to achieving our highest aspirations for our nation. Let us resume with renewed determination to achieve better oversight of government spending priorities through a collaborative effort with the executive arm of government and civil society. And we remain dedicated to the lofty yet clear ambitions we articulated in our Legislative Agenda when we resumed in the 9th Assembly.*

4. *This year, it is imperative that we focus our efforts on completing the tasks we have already initiated and closing out the assignments on which our legacy in this 9th House will be assessed. Several Bills still in the legislative process need to be actioned as a matter of urgency, as these bills propose significant improvements across different sectors of our national life. Some of these bills are still in committee, while others are awaiting concurrence in the Senate. We will see to it that we conclude work on these Bills so that they can be presented to Mr president during the life of this administration.*
5. *One recurring criticism of the legislature in Nigeria has been the lack of continuity and the absence of tools and procedures for establishing an institutional memory. Government is a continuum; the actions of one administration will continue to impact the country long into the future. As the democratic process leads to continuous personnel turnover, it is vital to have a system that allows future officeholders to understand the decisions made by their predecessors. In the executive arm of government, it is established practice to prepare handover notes. I wish today to propose to the House that we adopt this practice at the Committee level. The House Committee on Rules and Business will lead this effort by formulating guidelines to make this possible.*
6. *Over the last few appropriation cycles, the dire conditions of our national finance have required significant borrowing to finance government operations, sustain investments in infrastructure and national security and improve the living conditions of the Nigerian people. Just as the 9th Assembly has reformed the appropriations process to ensure timely budget passage, we also intend to leave a legacy of transparency and accountability as a standard for the future. Therefore, as part of preparing our reports, we must make a deliberate effort to give a complete account of our oversight activities in the 9th House of Representatives.*
7. *Early in our term, we adopted the Legislative Agenda as a statement of our governing priorities in the 9th House of Representatives. We termed the agenda 'Our Contract With Nigerians' to reflect our determination to be held accountable for the commitments we made therein. Despite many challenges, including the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the contraction of our national economy, and a drastic reduction in resources available for development, we have made reasonable progress in achieving the objectives we set in our agenda. It is time to consider what has been done, what we didn't do, and why.*
8. *The Committee on Monitoring and Implementation of the Legislative Agenda will review activities of the 9th House of Representatives and present a report on the implementation of our legislative agenda to the House. This is necessary to ensure that we have a report card to show the Nigerian people at the end of our term. But just as importantly, this review will allow us to better understand where we succeeded and where we didn't as a guide for the future.*
9. *Honourable colleagues, as we approach the general elections, there has been a marked increase in incidents of insecurity and vicious attacks on political actors in parts of the country. We must unite to ensure this dangerous trend does not lead to circumstances that threaten the forthcoming elections. The quality of the political conversations in society, particularly in the lead-up to elections, is a determining factor in the electoral outcomes and the quality of governance that will result therefrom. When political discourse seeks to unite the people behind an agenda of shared prosperity, social development, and respect for the humanity of persons, governance will also reflect these priorities.*
10. *"The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government". With these words, the constitution obligates all of us who swear to serve in government to do everything to protect the lives and property of all citizens and promote their well-being above all else. This obligation is central to the governing contract between the government and the citizenry. As leaders in our various communities and constituencies, we must adopt a politics of accommodation and brotherhood. And we must ensure that no insecurity threatening our*

country's peace can be attributed to our actions or utterances. This is our constitutional obligation and a moral duty from which we must not deviate.

11. *I wish to acknowledge with the most incredible gratitude the efforts of our men and women in uniform who, at this moment, are stationed in different parts of the country, taking risks and offering the supreme sacrifice to keep the peace. They are the best of us, to whom we owe not only our gratitude but also our continued dedication to the offices we hold. Through our efforts to improve the lives of our people, let us make ourselves worthy of the sacrifices these men and women have made and continue to make on our behalf.*
12. *Honourable colleagues, I welcome you back to the House of Representatives for a new legislative year. I look forward to a successful year of measurable achievement in the joint task of nation-building. And I thank you all most sincerely for your presence here this morning. God bless you all, and God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.*

5. Announcement

(i) *Conference Committee on National Human Rights Commission Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2021:*

Mr Speaker announced Members of the Committee as follows:

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| (1) | Hon. Kalu Benjamin Okezie | — | Chairman |
| (2) | Hon. Emmanuel Igwe Chinyere | — | Member |
| (3) | Hon. Babangida Alhassan | — | Member |
| (4) | Hon. Jafaru Mohammed | — | Member |
| (5) | Hon. Kolade Victor Akinjo | — | Member |
| (6) | Hon. Dachung Bagos Musa | — | Member |

(ii) *Conference Committee on Nigerian Peace Corps (Establishment) Bill, 2022:*

Mr Speaker announced Members of the Committee as follows:

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| (1) | Hon. Babangida Ibrahim | — | Chairman |
| (2) | Hon. Tijani Kayode Ismail | — | Member |
| (3) | Hon. Chinedu Ogah | — | Member |
| (4) | Hon. Ibrahim Umar Potiskum | — | Member |
| (5) | Hon. Abdulmumini Ari | — | Member |
| (6) | Hon. Legor Idagbo | — | Member |

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

(i) *Kidnapping of Mr Enobong Williamson and Need to Curb Incessant Kidnappings in Nigeria:*

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

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

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

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

Kidnapping of Mr Enobong Williamson and Need to Curb Incessant Kidnappings in Nigeria:

The House:

Notes with concern and sadness the reoccurring incidences of incessant abduction, disappearance and kidnapping going on across the Country and most importantly and recently in Ukanafun/Oruk Anam Federal Constituency of Akwa Ibom State;

Also notes that Oruk Anam Local Government Area was greeted with the sad news of the kidnapping and disappearance of Mr Enobong Williamson who until his disappearance was the Treasurer, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Ward 3, Oruk Anam LGA, Akwa Ibom State;

Further notes that Mr Enobong Williamson was kidnapped on the 3rd day of November, 2022, by unknown men and all attempts to locate him has proved abortive. The entire community has since commenced a search for him, but no information has been obtained regarding his whereabouts.

Worried that the family and associates of Mr. Enobong Williamson have been traumatized and agonized due to his disappearance on 3 November, 2022.

Resolves to:

- (i) condemn in strong terms the kidnapping and disappearance of Mr. Enobong Williamson and other incidences of kidnapping across the country;
- (ii) urge the Inspector-General of Police and other security agencies to intensify efforts in securing the release of Mr Enobong Williamson and others in the same predicament from the dens of kidnappers (*Hon. Unyime Idem — Ukanafun/Oruk Anam Federal Constituency*)

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with concern and sadness the reoccurring incidences of incessant abduction, disappearance and kidnapping going on across the Country and most importantly and recently in Ukanafun/Oruk Anam Federal Constituency of Akwa Ibom State;

Also noted that Oruk Anam Local Government Area was greeted with the sad news of the kidnapping and disappearance of Mr Enobong Williamson who until his disappearance was the Treasurer, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Ward 3, Oruk Anam LGA, Akwa Ibom State;

Further noted that Mr Enobong Williamson was kidnapped on the 3rd day of November, 2022, by unknown men and all attempts to locate him has proved abortive. The entire community has since commenced a search for him, but no information has been obtained regarding his whereabouts.

Worried that the family and associates of Mr Enobong Williamson have been traumatized and agonized due to his disappearance on 3 November, 2022.

Resolved to:

- (i) condemn in strong terms the kidnapping and disappearance of Mr. Enobong Williamson and other incidences of kidnapping across the country;
- (ii) urge the Inspector-General of Police and other security agencies to intensify efforts

in securing the release of Mr Enobong Williamson and others in the same predicament from the dens of kidnappers (HR. 01/01/2023).

(ii) ***Need to Empathize with and Provide Relief Materials for Victims of the Recent Fire Incidence at Abak Main Market in Abak Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State:***

Hon. Aniekan Umanah (*Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency and 6 others*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Need to Empathize With and Provide Relief Materials for Victims of the Recent Fire Incidence at Abak Main Market in Abak Etim Ekpo, Ika Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State:

The House:

Notes that on 30 December, 2022, while people all over the world were eagerly preparing and waiting to usher in the new year 2023 with joy, a devastating fire gutted the popular Abak market at the Abak Market square area of Abak Town, in Abak Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State;

Also notes that the inferno which began at about 12 midnight lasted for over four hours before it was brought under control through community efforts and intervention by men of the Federal Fire Service, Uyo;

Aware that there has been an alarming increase in fire disasters in the markets across the country in the recent past;

Observes that the inferno wrecked havoc on people and properties resulting in several burns, injuries and huge losses incurred by the hapless citizens and traders;

Disturbed that the ugly incident has left its victims distraught and helpless especially that the market served as their only source of livelihood with so much responsibilities to cater for;

Also disturbed that majority of the victims obtained various forms of loans to finance their trading ventures and with the unfortunate situation are now jobless and unable to meet their daily responsibilities;

Worried that the highly industrious people of this community are majorly traders, farmers, artisans and small scale entrepreneurs and have contributed their quota in the maintenance of peace and general development of the country and face imminent outbreak of epidemics arising from hunger and unhealthy lifestyle;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management to immediately take stock of the affected innocent citizens and work out measures to assist them in restoring their means of livelihood;

- (ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency to urgently arrange for relief materials to cushion the effect of losses incurred;
- (iii) urge the Federal Fire Service to enhance the operational capacity of their outpost to enable them rise to the occasion whenever fire disaster occurs;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Poverty Alleviation, and Interior to ensure compliance (*Hon. Aniekan Umanah — Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency and 6 others*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on 30 December, 2022, while people all over the world were eagerly preparing and waiting to usher in the new year 2023 with joy, a devastating fire gutted the popular Abak market at the Abak Market square area of Abak Town, in Abak Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State;

Also noted that the inferno which began at about 12 midnight lasted for over four hours before it was brought under control through community efforts and intervention by men of the Federal Fire Service, Uyo;

Aware that there has been an alarming increase in fire disasters in the markets across the country in the recent past;

Observed that the inferno wrecked havoc on people and properties resulting in several burns, injuries and huge losses incurred by the hapless citizens and traders;

Disturbed that the ugly incident has left its victims distraught and helpless especially that the market served as their only source of livelihood with so much responsibilities to cater for;

Also disturbed that majority of the victims obtained various forms of loans to finance their trading ventures and with the unfortunate situation are now jobless and unable to meet their daily responsibilities;

Worried that the highly industrious people of this community are majorly traders, farmers, artisans and small scale entrepreneurs and have contributed their quota in the maintenance of peace and general development of the country and face imminent outbreak of epidemics arising from hunger and unhealthy lifestyle;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management to immediately take stock of the affected innocent citizens and work out measures to assist them in restoring their means of livelihood;
- (ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency to urgently arrange for relief materials to cushion the effect of losses incurred;
- (iii) urge the Federal Fire Service to enhance the operational capacity of their outpost to enable them rise to the occasion whenever fire disaster occurs;

- (iv) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Poverty Alleviation, and Interior to ensure compliance (HR. 02/01/2023).

7. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Labour Act (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (HB.2162).
- (2) University of Benin (Transitional Provisions) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (HB.2163).
- (3) Federal Medical Centre, Otun-Ekiti (Establishment) Bill, 2022 (HB.2164).
- (4) Federal Institute of Vocational and Technical Education, Akure North, Ondo State (Establishment) Bill, 2022 (HB.2165).

8. Presentation of Report

Committee on Finance:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Finance on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria Act, Cap. I11, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Address Emerging Trends in the Nigerian Economic Environment; and for Related Matters (HB.1178)" (*Hon. Saidu Musa Abdullahi — Bida/Gbako/Katcha Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

- 9. A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Youth Service Corps Act, Cap. N84 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Review Upward the Accommodation and Transport Allowances of Corps Members in line with Current realities; and for Related Matters (HB.716, HB.1305, HB.1657, HB.1922, HB.1945 and HB.1674) — *Second Reading***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Youth Service Corps Act, Cap. N84 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Review Upward the Accommodation and Transport Allowances of Corps Members in line with Current realities; and for Related Matters (HB.716, HB.1305, HB.1657, HB.1922, HB.1945 and HB.1674) be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Eta Mbora — Calabar Municipal/Odukpani Federal Constituency and 6 Others*).

Debate.

Debate adjourned for further consultation.

- 10. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Family Economic Advancement Programme Act, Cap. F3 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for Replacement of the Peoples Bank with Bank of Industry; and for Related Matters (HB.1946) — *Second Reading***

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

- 11. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Council for Management Development Act, No. 24, 2022 to restore the Membership of the Council to its original size, provide for the Tenure of the Chairman and Members of the Council and correct the inconsistency in description of the Supervising Minister; and for Related Matters (HB.2095) — *Second Reading***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Council for Management Development Act, No. 24, 2022 to restore the Membership of the Council to its original size, provide for the Tenure of the Chairman and Members of the Council and correct the inconsistency in description of the Supervising Minister; and for Related Matters (HB.2095) be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Abbas Tajudeen — Zaria 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 of the Whole.

12. Need to Provide an Alternative Funding Source for the Reconstruction of Bida-Zungeru Road in Niger State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the 92Km Bida-Zungeru 'Trunk A' Road is a link between North and South-Western Nigeria, it was first constructed by Costain West Africa in 1962 in the first republic and reconstructed by the Administration of former President Ibrahim Babangida in 1989;

Also notes that aside from the recent maintenance on failed portions of the road through the COVID-19 Intervention by FERMA, no rehabilitation has been carried out on the road and its bridges (one-lane bridge) for over 30 years;

Aware that Zungeru town is host to the ongoing \$1.3 billion, 700 megawatts Hydro Electric Power Station project embarked on by the Federal Government of Nigeria, which forms part of the Federal Government's strategies to reposition power generation in phases in the Country and upon completion, will have the recognition of a strategic National Asset;

Also aware that Bida to Zungeru is a major rice belt, with potential for other agricultural produce that contributes to the country's drive at food security;

Concerned that the road leading to the Zungeru Hydro Dam is in a total state of disrepair which often results in road accidents and heavy post-harvest losses, thus, lowering the ability of farmers in the communities to monetize their farm produce;

Also concerned that despite the approval of the Minister of Works and Housing for the redesign and reconstruction of the road, the amount captured in the 2023 Appropriation Act for the road is grossly inadequate and cannot make any significant impact on the Project;

Cognizant that if the Bida-Zungeru Trunk 'A' Road is reconstructed, it will enhance the Western link of the Country to the Zungeru Hydro Power Project which will generate 700 megawatts of electricity close to 10% of the Nation's total domestic energy need and positive impact on the Country's GDP through enhanced agricultural productivity and commercial activities;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, Federal Ministry of Finance, Federal Inland Revenue Service and other relevant stakeholders to explore Executive Order 007 of 2019 (Road Infrastructure Development and Refurbishment Investment Tax Credit Scheme) to provide an alternative funding source to finance the reconstruction of Bida-Lemu-Wushishi-Zungeru Road in Niger State;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Works, Finance, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Saidu Musa Abdullahi — Bida/Gbako/Katcha Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 03/01/2023).

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

13. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 18 January, 2023 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Chief Whip).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.41 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabamila
Speaker

