



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 21 March, 2023

1. The House met at 12.01 p.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, 1 March, 2023.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Mr Speaker's Remark**

Protocols:

Good morning and welcome back to the House of Representatives. I thank you all for being here this morning.

2. *The 2023 general elections have effectively come to an end, with the exception of those areas where the electoral body has declared elections inconclusive or scheduled reruns. As I said two weeks ago, this has been a hard-fought election season. Expectedly, the declaration of results will not by itself suffice to assuage the passions or calm the tensions aroused by this electoral competition. For that, we need time and the deliberate efforts of political, religious, social and economic leaders acting in recognition of the fact that while elections will come and go, our highest imperative remains the progress of Nigeria and the prosperity of her people.*

3. *I wish to thank the chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and all the staff of the commission for their hardwork and commitment to ensuring free and fair elections across the country. I wish to also express my gratitude to the men and women of the security agencies who ensured the worst predictions of crises and conflict did not come to pass. Any objective assessment of these elections will show marked improvements from prior outings. This is not to suggest perfection but to acknowledge evident progress in our collective efforts to ensure elections we can all be proud of.*

4. Amendments to our nation's electoral laws by the legislature, pronouncements by the judiciary and operational reforms by the electoral commission have significantly improved elections in Nigeria since 1999. The amendments to the Electoral Act by the 9th National Assembly have been particularly instrumental in improving the elections process through the use of technology tools to facilitate voter accreditation and transmission of results. With each new election season, we become more aware of areas requiring changes to ensure a better outing next time. This process of ongoing reform and continuous improvement must continue. As a necessary first step, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) should collaborate with stakeholders to conduct a meticulous assessment of the election process. This is necessary to inform further reforms and improvements.

5. The Electoral Offences Act is one area where we must take action before the culmination of the 9th House of Representatives. The Act is necessary to ensure effective enforcement against individuals and organisations whose violations of our electoral laws undermine our constitution and threaten our democracy. A system of vigorous prosecution and punishment of electoral offenders will serve as a deterrent to others in the future and help build confidence in our elections.

6. When we began the constitutional review process in the 9th House of Representatives, I said this was an opportunity to achieve a constitution that resolves many issues that fracture our nation and hinder our progress. Last week, His Excellency Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, signed into law constitutional amendments enacted by the National Assembly and ratified by the State Legislatures across the country. These constitutional amendments include consequential reforms to the design and operations of the Nigerian State, particularly with regards to the devolution of powers to the States and strengthening the judiciary and legislature at the sub-national level. Taken together, they advance the cause of our federation, bringing us closer to achieving our highest national ambitions.

7. Whilst these amendments represent a significant step forward for our country, the work is not yet done because nation-building is a continuum. Each new generation must build on the efforts of the past until, by our common endeavour, we achieve a just, peaceful, and prosperous society. We fell short this time in our commitment to ensuring political empowerment and representation for women and other marginalised groups in our country. In the time we have left, we will work to understand why, as a first step towards ensuring the success of subsequent efforts.

8. Nation-building is also a joint effort; every significant advancement is the product of collaborative efforts by numerous people acting in different capacities. I wish to thank all those who worked to facilitate these amendments. I want to especially thank my brother, the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt Hon. Ahmed Idris for leading the constitutional review process with courage and determination.

9. Now, our national priorities must return to the issues of governance, ensuring that the institutions of government work towards the ends of development, national security and the welfare of the Nigerian people. As representatives of the people, this is our highest obligation; it is a duty that persists so long as we hold office in the government of our republic. I am confident that all of us in the 9th House of Representatives recognise this and will continue to act accordingly as we have always done.

10. On that note, honourable colleagues, I welcome you all back to the people's chamber, and I thank you again for being here today.

Good morning.

5. **Announcement**

Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Insurance Act, Cap. I17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Insurance Bill, 2020 to provide a Comprehensive Legal Framework for Insurance Business in Nigeria; and for Related Matters, 2020 (HB. 967):

Mr Speaker announced membership of the Committee as follows:

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|---|----------|
| (1) | Hon. Darlington Nwokocha | — | Chairman |
| (2) | Hon. Mohammad Ali Wudil | — | Member |
| (3) | Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu | — | Member |
| (4) | Hon. Busayo Oluwole Oke | — | Member |
| (5) | Hon. Johnson Ganiyu Abiodun | — | Member |
| (6) | Hon. Ari Abdulmumin Mohammed | — | Member |
| (7) | Hon. Ejiroghene Francis Waive | — | Member |

S

6. **Petition**

A petition from H. E. Pokes & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Mr Malan David, on alleged act of trespass and failure to pay compensation by Airtel Networks Limited, was presented and laid by Hon. Bulus Solomon Maren (*Bokkos/Mangu Federal Constituency*);

Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

7. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**

Need to Curb the Incessant Loss of Lives and Destruction of Properties in Train Mishaps:

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.

Need to Curb the Incessant Loss of Lives and Destruction of Properties in Train Mishaps:

The House:

Aware that on Thursday, 15 December, 2022, a train accident was reported in the Kubwa axis of Abuja, which claimed the life of Selimota Suleiman, a staff of the Nigerian Television Authority;

Also aware that on Thursday, 9 March, 2023, a moving train rammmed into a BRT bus in Lagos State, claiming about six lives and many others injured;

Notes that on Monday, 28 March, 2022, an Abuja - Kaduna train was attacked, and many Nigerians lost their lives while others were either injured or abducted;

Also notes that a Warri - Itakpe train derailed in Kogi forest, leaving not less than 300 passengers stranded barely a month after about 20 passengers were abducted from a train station in Igueben, Edo State;

Saddened that in spite of these unfortunate trends, which are, as a result of the carelessness of some individuals, no one has ever been held to account for the unfortunate loss of lives;

Concerned that these unfortunate incidents are occurring very often because not much seems to be done to forestall the occurrence;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the casualties of the various train mishaps;
- (ii) urge the Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau (NSIB) to investigate the causes of the various train incidences;
- (iii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government through the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) to provide measures to curb these unfortunate occurrences;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Land Transport, Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and report within three (3) weeks (*Hon. Unyime Idem — Ukanafun/Oruk Anam Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 15/03/2023).

Motion referred to the Committees on Land Transport, Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, and Legislative Compliance, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

8. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Defence Industry Corporation of Nigeria Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 2178).
- (2) Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 2179).
- (3) African Union Development Agency-new Partnership for Africa's Development Bill, 2023 (HB.2180).
- (4) Carriage of Goods by land (Road and Rail) Bill, 2023 (HB. 2181).
- (5) Nigeria Shippers' Council Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 2182).
- (6) Nigeria Weight and Measures Regulatory Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 2183).

9. Presentation of Report

Committee on Public Accounts:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Accounts on a Bill for an Act to provide for Establishment of an Independent Office of the Auditor General for Area Councils in the Federal Capital Territory and provide for the Audit of Area Councils Public Accounts and for Related Matters (HB.1782) (*Hon. Oke Busayo Oluwole — Obokun/Oriade Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

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

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Daura, Kastina State; and for Related Matters (HB.2145) be now read the *Third Time*" (*Hon. Onyejeocha Nkeiruka — Deputy Chief Whip*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

11. A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Identity Management Commission; and for Related Matters (HB. 1447) — *Second Reading*

Motion made and Question proposed., “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Identity Management Commission; and for Related Matters (HB. 1447) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Ogun Sergius Oseasochie — Esan North East/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 Population.

12. A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Road Safety Commission Road Marshal Assistants Training as National Diploma and National Certificate of Education Awarding Institution to Provide Academic and Professional Training; and for Related Matters (HB. 1619) — *Second Reading*

Motion made and Question proposed., “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Road Safety Commission Road Marshal Assistants Training as National Diploma and National Certificate of Education Awarding Institution to Provide Academic and Professional Training; and for Related Matters (HB. 1619) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Mayowa Samuel Akinfolarin — Ileoluji-Okeigbo/Odigbo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Federal Road Safety Commission.

13. Re-committal of Bills

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Recalls that the following Bills were passed by the National Assembly and transmitted to the President for assent;

- (i) Federal Colleges of Education (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 1455),
- (ii) National Senior Secondary Education Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2022 (HB. 1940),
- (iii) Environmental Practitioners of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 353),
- (iv) Federal Medical Centre, Igboho, Oyo State (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB.733), and
- (v) Federal College of Education, Mutum Biyu (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2020 (HB. 1136);

Observes that some fundamental issues which require fresh legislative actions had emerged hence, re-committal of the Bills to address the issues;

Resolves to:

Commit the Bills to the Committee of the Whole for reconsideration (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

14. Need to Rehabilitate Jos-Bauchi Road

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the continued loss of lives through fatal accidents, along the Jos-Bauchi Road on daily basis;

Also notes that early this year over 20 persons died on the spot, with scores injured due to the abandonment of broken-down trailers on the highway in Anguwan Rogo/Rimi, and its environs within Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State;

Further notes that eight family members of the late Alhaji Sule Kayarda met their untimely death on the Jos-Bauchi Road due to the dilapidated state of the road;

Aware of the Blueprint Newspaper, publication of August, 18 2022 of an accident that claimed the lives of 10 persons along Babale Village on the Jos-Bauchi highway which was confirmed by the Plateau State Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Alphonso Godwin;

Recalls the car accident that led to the death of the late Doctor Zuwaira Hassan, the former Bauchi State Commissioner of Health, another accident claimed the lives of about 20 travellers, similarly some members of an Islamic organization, JIBWIS lost their lives in a separate accident while others were left severely injured;

Worried that the dilapidated state of the road, coupled with reckless driving, abandoned broken down trucks on the road, as well as other traffic violations endangers commuters and residents of the surrounding villages from Kunga hills-Zakaliyo-Babale, linking Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State to the entire North East and some parts of the North Western States in grave danger;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency, FERMA to urgently rehabilitate the Jos-Bauchi road and enlighten commercial and heavy trucks drivers to ensure safety-drive and vehicle maintenance;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Road Safety Corps, to introduce regular vehicular checks, and also intensify highway patrols on the road, to ensure strict compliance to traffic regulations;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA), and Federal Road Safety Commission to ensure compliance (*Hon. Muhammad Adam Alkali — Bassa/Jos North Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 16/03/2023).

Motion referred to the Committees on Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA), and Federal Road Safety Commission, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

15. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 22 March, 2023 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Onyejeocha Nkeiruka — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.55 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila
Speaker

