



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 22 March, 2023

1. The House met at 11.53 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 Tuesday, 21 March, 2023.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Petitions**

The following Petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso (Orlu/Orsu/Oru East Federal Constituency):

- (a) Duncan Sola Williams and 1 other, on behalf of Rights and Democracy Volunteers, on alleged criminal misappropriation and embezzlement of public funds against the Comptroller-General of the Federal Fire Service;
- (b) Anti-corruption and Integrity Forum, on the following:
 - (i) alleged mismanagement and abuse of office on construction/administration of Presidential Wing of the Villa Clinic against Tijani Umar, the Permanent Secretary,
 - (ii) alleged importation of substandard products and deceit of the Nigeria Public against Coleman Wires and Cable,
 - (iii) alleged Management excesses and illegal recruitment by Nigeria Midstream and Downstream Regulatory Agency (NMDPRA),
 - (iv) alleged financial excesses, infractions against Ponkap Zwalda, the General Manager, Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Funds (NSITF).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. **Presentation of Report**

Report of the Conference Committee:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Centre for the Coordination and Control of the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Nigeria and for Related Matters" (Hon. Adeogun Adejoro — Akoko South/West/East Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

6. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of the National Food Safety Council and National Food Safety Management Committee for the Official Control of Food and Feed Safety, the obligations of Food and Feed Business Operators and define the Functions and Powers of Institutions of Government with the objective of ensuring that food and Feed Safety Risks are effectively managed; and for Related Matters (IIB.2176) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of the National Food Safety Council and National Food Safety Management Committee for the Official Control of Food and Feed Safety, the obligations of Food and Feed Business Operators and define the Functions and Powers of Institutions of Government with the objective of ensuring that food and Feed Safety Risks are effectively managed; and for Related Matters (IIB.2176) be read a Second Time" (Hon. Peter Akputason — Deputy House Leader).

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.

7. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act, Cap. N30, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to confer additional Responsibility of the power to grant and revoke licenses for the cultivation of Cannabis (or any of its three species namely Cannabis Sativa, Cannabis Indica and Cannabis Ruderalis) Plant for Medicinal purposes; and for Related Matters (HB. 1190 and HB. 1918) — Second Reading**

Order read.

Privilege (Order Six, Rule 2):

Hon. Mariam Odinaka Onuoha drew the attention of the House to the Cannabis Control Bill, 2020 (HB.837), standing in her name. She noted that the Bill was read the First Time on Tuesday, 5 May, 2020 and that the two Bills being of the same subject matter have not been consolidated in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of the House. She therefore considered the Second Reading of the Bill as a breach of her privilege.

Debate.

Ordered: Mr Speaker directed the Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business to consolidate the Bill with the Cannabis Control Bill, 2020.

8. **Discharge of Committees on Referrals on Bills, Pursuant to Order Eighteen, Rule 3 (1) (g) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the following Bills were separately read a Second time and referred to various Committees of the House for legislative actions, namely:

<i>S/No.</i>	<i>Title of Bill</i>	<i>Committee</i>
1.	Federal University of Education, Igueben, Edo State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1391)	Tertiary Education and Services,
2.	Federal Eye Centre, Iruekpen Ekpoma (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1390)	Health Institutions,
3.	Federal Medical Centre, Illeh Ekpoma, Edo State (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1389)	Health Institutions;

Aware that the Committees are yet to present Reports on the Bills, contrary to the provisions of Order Eighteen, Rule 3 (1) (g) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives, to wit:

"Any matter referred to any Committee shall be treated within 30 days, otherwise the Committee shall stand discharged after 60 days and the matter committed to the Committee of the Whole for consideration";

Resolves to:

Discharge the Committees of the Bills and commit same to the Committee of the Whole for consideration (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kassama Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

9. 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) Arbitration and Conciliation Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 91),
- (ii) Customs and Excise Management Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1729),
- (iii) Federal Medical Centre, Okigwe (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1603),
- (iv) Federal University of Health, Sciences and Technology, Enugu (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1604);

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-Kassama Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

10. Call on the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to Direct all Commercial Banks to Overhaul their Online Banking Service Platforms to Ease Electronic Banking Operations

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

11. Consideration of Reports

- (i) A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Customs and Excise Management Act, Cap. C45, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and other Customs and Excise Legislation and Enact the Nigeria Customs Service Act, 2022 to Provide for the Reform of the Administration and Management of Customs and Excise in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB.1729) (Committee of the Whole):

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Customs and Excise Management Act, Cap. C45, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and other Customs and Excise Legislations and Enact the Nigeria Customs Service Act, 2022 to Provide for the Reform of the Administration and Management of Customs and Excise in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB.1729)" (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 REPEAL THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE MANAGEMENT ACT, CAP. C45, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004 AND OTHER CUSTOMS AND EXCISE LEGISLATION AND ENACT THE NIGERIA CUSTOMS SERVICE ACT, 2022 TO PROVIDE FOR THE REFORM OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE IN NIGERIA; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 1729)

Clause 4: Functions of the Service.

The Functions of the Service are to —

- (a) administer, direct, manage and enforce the provisions of this Bill and the customs and excise laws;
- (b) collect and account for revenue from customs duties, excise duties, charges, fees and special assessments as may be assigned to it by the Government;
- (c) administer trade and fiscal policies of the Government as it relates to this Bill;
- (d) promote trade facilitation in line with international conventions and agreements as it relates to customs administration;
- (e) prevent smuggling, customs fraud and all other violations under this Bill;
- (f) carry out all border enforcement and regulatory activities required by law in collaboration with relevant agencies;

- (g) collate and publish accurate trade statistics and other relevant data as it relates to Customs and Excise”;
- (h) engage in regular consultations with individual traders, trade associations and other relevant stakeholders to promote industrial harmony;
- (i) approve and license customs agents, who shall be citizen of Nigeria; and
- (j) do such other things as are necessary for or incidental to the performance of its functions and discharge of its duties under this Bill and the Laws of Nigeria (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

Clause 12: Board to be subject to general control of Minister.

In the exercise of the powers and duties conferred upon the Board, the Board shall be subject to the authority, direction and control of the Minister and any written direction, order or instruction given by him after consultation with the Comptroller General shall be carried out by the Board” (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

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

Clause 184: Power to regulate the manufacture of Alcoholic Beverages.

The Minister may make regulations —

- (a) regulating the manufacture of alcoholic beverages for calculating, securing and collecting the excise duty on beer; and
- (b) as to the books and other documents relating to sugar to be kept by brewers (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 184 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 212: Power to enter premises.

- (1) A Proper officer may at any time enter upon any premises without a warrant in respect of which an entry was made, or is required under the excise laws to be made, or any other premises owned or used by an excise trader for the purpose of ensuring compliance with provisions of excise laws and regulations made under the excise laws.
- (2) An officer who demands admission into the premises referred to in subsection (1) shall identify himself at the entrance, and if not immediately admitted, the customs officer and any person assisting the customs officer in the execution of his duties under this Bill may use reasonable force as a last resort to enter the premises, including, when other means are ineffective, breaking open any door or window of the premises or breaking through any wall of the premises for the purpose of entering into the premises.
- (3) A customs officer who has reasonable grounds to suspect that anything subject to forfeiture under this part is in or upon land or premises other than those of an excise trader may enter upon those premises, if need be by force, and search the land or premises and seize and remove anything the officer has reasonable grounds to believe to be subject to the forfeiture.

- (4) An officer may inspect the premises and search for, examine, and take account of any machinery, vessels, utensils, goods or materials belonging to or in any way connected with that trade.
- (5) An officer is authorised to make an account of and determine the balance of the quantity of stocks on hand on the premises of an excise license-holder.
- (6) An officer who enters premises for excise duty purposes shall carry out his duties in an efficient and professional manner and, whenever compatible with effective excise duty enforcement, accommodate the reasonable convenience of owners or occupiers of premises regarding the time, place, and manner of a visit.
- (7) An officer acting in accordance with the provisions of subsections (1) or (2) shall be given immediate access to the premises and an excise trader or any other person who refuses an officer immediate entry into any land or premises, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of ₦1,500,000 or imprisonment up to one year, or both (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 212 stands part of the Bill — 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 Repeal the Customs and Excise Management Act, Cap. C45, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and other Customs and Excise Legislations and Enact the Nigeria Customs Service Act, 2022 to Provide for the Reform of the Administration and Management of Customs and Excise in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB.1729) and adopted the Report.

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

(ii) *Committee on Public Petitions:*

Report on the petition by H. N. Olise & Associates:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Public petitions on the petition by H. N. Olise & Associates against Nigeria Agip Oil Company Limited over non-compliance with terms of settlement contained in the Court Order of the High Court of Asaba, Delta State in suit No. FHC/ASB/CS/46/2010" (*Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso — Orlu/Orsu/Oru East 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)

Recommendation (i):

"Urge the General Manager of Nigerian Agip Oil Company Ltd to obey the Consent Judgment of the High Court of Asaba, Delta State vide suit No. FHC/ASB/CS/56/201 dated 17 October, 2017" (*Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso — Orlu/Orsu/Oru East Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (ii):

“Appeal to the management of Nigerian Agip Oil Company and late Chief Congress Ukposi to respectively abide by the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding they signed on 8 December, 2017 to ensure an amicable resolution of their matter” (*Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso — Orlu/Orsu/Oru East Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report proceeding.

(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 Public petitions on the petition by H. N. Olise & Associates against Nigeria Agip Oil Company Limited over non-compliance with terms of settlement contained in the Court Order of the High Court of Asaba, Delta State in suit No. FHC/ASB/CS/46/2010 and approved Recommendations (i) and (ii) of the Report.

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

(iii) Committee on Public Petitions:

Report on the petition by Mrs Zainab Jibril:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Public petitions on the petition by Mrs Zainab Jibril against the Branch Manager, First City Monument Bank, National Assembly Branch on Illegal, Fraudulent and Unauthorized withdrawal of Forty-One Thousand Two Hundred Naira from her son, Umar Farouq Oshomah Mustapha's Kid's Account No. 5312840019 on 4 November, 2021” (*Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso — Orlu/Orsu/Oru East 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)

Recommendation:

“Urge the House to discontinue the matter as both parties have settled the matter amicably via Mrs. Zainab Jibril letter to the Committee on 21 December, 2021 informing the Committee that the First City Monument Bank (FCMB) has reversed the illegal withdrawal of ₦41,200.00 from her kids Bank Account on 25 November, 2021” (*Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso — Orlu/Orsu/Oru East Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report proceeding.

(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 Public petitions on the petition by Mrs Zainab Jibril against the Branch Manager, First City Monument Bank, National Assembly Branch on Illegal, Fraudulent and

Unauthorized withdrawal of Forty-One Thousand Two Hundred Naira from her son, Umar Farouq Oshomah Mustapha's Kid's Account No. 5312840019 on 4 November, 2021 and approved the only Recommendation of the Report,

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

(iv) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

Report on the petition by Mrs Salihu Dahiru:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Public petitions on the petition by Mrs Salihu Dahiru against the United Bank for Africa Plc (UBA) on Fraudulent and Unauthorized withdrawal of six hundred and forty-six thousand Naira, only from her account on 24th January 2022" (Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso — Orlu/Orsu/Oru East 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)

Recommendation:

"Urge the House to discontinue the matter as both parties have settled the matter amicably" (Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso — Orlu/Orsu/Oru East Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report proceeding.

(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 Public petitions on the petition by Mrs Salihu Dahiru against the United Bank for Africa Plc (UBA) on Fraudulent and Unauthorized withdrawal of six hundred and forty-six thousand Naira, only from her account on 24th January 2022 and approved the only Recommendation of the Report.

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

(v) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

Report on the petition by G. B. Diamond & Co. on behalf of Mr Joseph Ohwojorho:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Public petitions on the petition by G. B. Diamond & Co. on behalf of Mr Joseph Ohwojorho against the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Tourism on unlawful dismissal and flagrant abuse of Fundamental Human Rights" (Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso — Orlu/Orsu/Oru East 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)***Recommendation (i):**

"Urge the Chairman, Federal Civil Service Commission to convert Mr Joseph Ohwojorho's dismissal to compulsory retirement in line with Clause (ii) of the Circular reference No. HCSF/A/Appeals/001/Vol.1/333 of February 9, 2007 wherein all cases of dismissal/termination were converted to retirement" (*Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso — Orlu/Orsu/Oru East Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (ii):

"Pay him all the arrears of salaries from April, 1997 to date after reflecting his due promotion" (*Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso — Orlu/Orsu/Oru East Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report proceeding.

(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 Public petitions on the petition by G. B. Diamond & Co. on behalf of Mr Joseph Ohwojorho against the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Tourism on unlawful dismissal and flagrant abuse of Fundamental Human Rights and approved Recommendations (i) and (ii) of the Report.

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

12.

Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 23 March, 2023 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.58 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila
Speaker

