



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 6 December, 2022

1. The House met at 11:31 a.m. Mr Deputy Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Second Votes and Proceedings* of Wednesday, 30 December, 2022.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Message**
Mr Deputy Speaker read a message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

29th November, 2022

*Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Dear Rt Hon. F. Gbajabiamila,

**TRANSMISSION OF THE FCT 2023 STATUTORY
BUDGET PROPOSAL**

Pursuant to Section 121 of Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), I forward herewith the Federal Capital Territory's 2023 Statutory Budget Proposal, for the kind consideration of the House of Representatives.

In the preparation of the Federal Capital Territory's 2023 Statutory Budget Proposal, the Federal Capital Territory Administration aligns with the Federal Government's laudable fiscal development policies. Accordingly, the FCT 2023 Budget proposal prioritizes improvement in Health Care Services, Job Creations, Youth Empowerment, Social Welfare Services, Education, and Increased productivity in Agriculture, in order to lift significant numbers of our citizens out of poverty.

While hoping that this submission will receive the usual expeditious consideration of the House, please accept, Right Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Muhammadu Buhari

5. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Federal University of Medicine and Medical Sciences, Egbe, Kogi State (Establishment) Bill, 2022 (HB. 2125).
- (2) Court of Appeal Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 2126).
- (3) Federal Polytechnic, Kabo (Establishment) Bill, 2022 (HB. 2127).
- (4) Federal University of Health Sciences, Azare, Bauchi State (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 2128).
- (5) Federal College of Education, Jama'are, Bauchi State (Establishment) Bill, 2022 (HB. 2129).
- (6) Medical and Dental Practitioners Act (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (HB.2130).
- (7) Nursing and Midwifery Registration, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (HB.2131).

6. A Bill for an Act to Establish Nigeria Correctional Service Trust Fund; and for Related Matters (HB. 1722) — Third Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish Nigeria Correctional Service Trust Fund; and for Related Matters (HB. 1722) be now read the Third Time" (Hon. Abubakar Makki Yalleman — M/Madori/Kaugama Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

7. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun, Act; and for Related Matters (HB. 613) — Third Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun, Act; and for Related Matters (HB. 613) be now read the Third Time" (Hon. Abubakar Makki Yalleman — M/Madori/Kaugama Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Secondary Education Commission, etc. Act, Cap. N73, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the National Senior Secondary Education Commission Bill to Prescribe Minimum Standards for Senior Secondary Education in Nigeria, Manage the National Senior Secondary Education Commission Fund; and for Related Matters (HB. 1940) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Secondary Education Commission, etc. Act, Cap. N73, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the National Senior Secondary Education Commission Bill to Prescribe Minimum Standards for Senior Secondary Education in Nigeria, Manage the National Senior Secondary Education Commission Fund; and for Related Matters (HB. 1940) be now read the Third Time" (Hon. Abubakar Makki Yalleman — M/Madori/Kaugama Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Agriculture, Abi, Cross River State to Provide Full-Time Courses Leading to the Award of Diploma, Higher National Diploma in Agriculture and Allied Fields, and be responsible for the due Administration of the College; and for Related Matters (HB. 1629) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Agriculture, Abi, Cross River State to Provide Full-Time Courses Leading to the Award of Diploma, Higher National Diploma in Agriculture and Allied Fields, and be responsible for the due Administration of the College; and for Related Matters (HB. 1629) be now read the Third Time" (Hon. Abubakar Makki Yalleman — M/Madori/Kaugama Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal Polytechnic, Nyak-Shendam, Plateau State; and for Related Matters (HB.1897) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal Polytechnic, Nyak-Shendam, Plateau State; and for Related Matters (HB. 1897) be now read the Third Time" (Hon. Abubakar Makki Yalleman — M/Madori/Kaugama Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Education, Dengi, Plateau State; and for Related Matters (HB.1871) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Education, Dengi, Plateau State; and for Related Matters (HB.1871) be now read the Third Time" (Hon. Abubakar Makki Yalleman — M/Madori/Kaugama Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Polytechnic, Rano, Kano State to Provide Full and Part-Time Courses in different fields of Study; and for Related Matters (HB. 929) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Polytechnic, Rano,

Kano State to Provide Full and Part-Time Courses in different fields of Study; and for Related Matters (HB. 929) be now read the Third Time" (Hon. Abubakar Makki Yalleman — M/Madori/Kaugama Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

13. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Sciences, Chibok, Borno State; and for Related Matters (HB. 1747) — Third Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Sciences, Chibok, Borno State; and for Related Matters (HB. 1747) be now read the Third Time" (Hon. Abubakar Makki Yalleman — M/Madori/Kaugama Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

14. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Gwoza, Borno State; and for Related Matters (HB. 1746) — Third Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Gwoza, Borno State; and for Related Matters (HB. 1746) be now read the Third Time" (Hon. Abubakar Makki Yalleman — M/Madori/Kaugama Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

15. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal Medical Centre, Okigwe, Imo State; and for Related Matters (HB. 1603) — Third Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal Medical Centre, Okigwe, Imo State; and for Related Matters (HB. 1603) be now read the Third Time" (Hon. Abubakar Makki Yalleman — M/Madori/Kaugama Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

16. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Chartered Institute of Power Engineers of Nigeria to Regulate, Control and Determine the Standards of Knowledge to be attained by people seeking to become Chartered Power Engineers; and for Related Matters (HB. 1086) — Third Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Chartered Institute of Power Engineers of Nigeria to Regulate, Control and Determine the Standards of Knowledge to be attained by people seeking to become Chartered Power Engineers; and for Related Matters (HB. 1086) be now read the Third Time" (Hon. Abubakar Makki Yalleman — M/Madori/Kaugama Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

17. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Education, Nduo Eduo Eket, Akwa Ibom 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. 2085) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

18. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Child Rights Act, Cap. C50, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to impose sanction on any parent who abandons a new born child and absconds after birth; and for Related Matters (HB. 1442) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Child Rights Act, Cap. C50, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to impose sanction on any parent who abandons a new born child and absconds after birth; and for Related Matters (HB. 1442) be read a Second Time" (Hon. Sergius Oseasochie Ogun — 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 Women Affairs.

19. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap. F17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to accommodate the newly Established Federal Polytechnics; and for Related Matters (HB.2118) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap. F17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to accommodate the newly Established Federal Polytechnics; and for Related Matters (HB.2118) be read a Second Time" (Hon. Aminu Suleiman — Fagge 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 Tertiary Education and Services.

20. **Reconsideration of Outstanding Bill from the Preceding Assembly**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

*Notes that pursuant to Order Twelve, Rule 16 of the Standing Orders of the House, Bills passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the Senate for concurrence for which no concurrence was made or negated or passed by the Senate and forwarded to the House for which no concurrence was made or negated or which were passed by the National Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but for which assent or withholding thereof was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the Assembly, the House may resolve that such Bill, upon being re-gazetted or clean copies circulated, be re-considered in the Committee of the Whole without being commenced *de-novo*;*

Also notes that the Nigerian Institute of Leather and Science Technology Bill, 2022(HB. 444) was passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but for which assent or withholding thereof was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the last Assembly;

Aware that the Bill was re-gazetted as HB. 444 and was read the first time;

Resolves to:

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

Agreed to.

21. Committal of Bills

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Specialized National Dermatology Hospital Bill, 2022 was passed by the National Assembly and transmitted to the President for assent but was not assented to with observations;

Also notes that the National Commission for Colleges of Education Bill, 2022 was passed and forwarded to the Directorate of Legal Services for further legislative action;

Aware that the observations raised by the Presidency and the Directorate of Legal Services of the National Assembly require further legislative action by the House of Representatives;

Appreciates the need to recommit the Bills for reconsideration to address the observations thereof;

Resolves to:

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

Agreed to.

22. Need to Continue the East-West Rail Line Project

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Executive Council had, in April 2017, granted approval for the construction of 1,400km Standard Gauge East-West Coastal Rail Line Project linking Lagos - Ore - Benin - Sapele - Warri - Yenagoa - Port Harcourt - Aba - Uyo - Calabar - Akamkpa - Ikom with a branch line from Benin to Asaba - Onitsha - Port Harcourt - Onne Deep Seaport;

Also notes that with the opting out of Exim Bank of China, the contractor with the responsibility to execute the project, the Federal Government, in March 2021, made arrangements for eleven billion Dollar (\$11bn) alternate counterpart funding with Standard Chartered Bank out of the Fourteen Billion, Four Million Dollar (\$14.4b) required to execute the project;

Aware that in August 2021, the Federal Executive Council approved the award of a contract valued at eleven billion, one hundred and seventy-four million, seven hundred and sixty-nine thousand Dollar (\$11,174,769,000) for the project;

Also aware of the importance of rail line project to the socio-economic development of the country which necessitated the accelerated completion of the project;

Disturbed that the project was stopped by the Federal Ministry of Transportation in 2022, despite the concluded arrangement with Standard Chartered Bank and the Federal Government's thirty billion Naira (₦30bn) commitment to the contractor;

Worried that the non-completion of the Rail Project has aggravated the problems of travelers who suffer delay due to the deplorable state of the road coupled with check-points along Calabar- Lagos road;

Cognizant that the inability to complete the project within the projected six (6) years period will

continue to put pressure on the two (2) Sea Ports located in Port Harcourt and Lagos and the existing roads;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to reverse its earlier decision on the project by continuing its implementation considering the economic importance of the Rail project to the nation;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to review its 25-Year Railway Strategic Plan part of which is to unbundle and commercialize the Nigeria Railway Corporation.
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Land Transport to liaise with Federal Ministry of Transportation and other relevant government agencies to ensure that the East-West Coastal Rail Project is captured in the 2023 budget estimates (*Hon. Dozie Ferdinand Nwankwo — Njikoka/Dunukofia/Anaocha Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 92/12/2022).

Motion referred to the Committee on Land Transport, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

23. Consideration of Reports

(i) *Committee on Telecommunications:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Telecommunications on the Issuance from the Statutory Revenue Fund of the Nigerian Communications Commission, the total Sum of ₦559,080,711,000.00 (five hundred and fifty-nine billion, eighty million, seven hundred and eleven thousand Naira) only, of which the sum of ₦86,752,963,000.00 (Eighty-six billion, seven hundred and fifty-two million, nine hundred and sixty-three thousand Naira) only, is for Recurrent Expenditure, while the sum of ₦5,224,501,000.00 (Five billion, two hundred and twenty-four million, five hundred and one thousand Naira) only, is for Capital Expenditure, the sum of ₦35,089,649,000.00 (Thirty-five billion, eighty-nine million, six hundred and forty-nine thousand Naira) only, is for Special Project, while the sum of ₦16,000,000,000.00 (Sixteen billion) Naira only, is for transfer to the Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF), ₦416,013,598,000.00 (Four hundred and sixteen billion, thirteen million, five hundred and ninety-eight thousand Naira) only, will be transferred to the Federal Government of Nigeria, and the sum of ₦16,000,000,000.00 (Sixteen billion Naira) only, is for the Budget of the Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) for the period ending 31 December, 2023" (Hon. Adeyemi Akeem Adeniyi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

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

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do suspend Order Seven, Rule 2 (2), to enable the Deputy Speaker preside in the Committee of Supply" (Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency) — Agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

ISSUANCE FROM THE STATUTORY REVENUE FUND OF THE NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, THE TOTAL SUM OF ₦559,080,711,000.00 (FIVE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-NINE BILLION, EIGHTY

MILLION, SEVEN HUNDRED AND ELEVEN THOUSAND NAIRA) ONLY, OF WHICH THE SUM OF ₦86,752,963,000.00 (EIGHTY-SIX BILLION, SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-TWO MILLION, NINE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-THREE THOUSAND NAIRA) ONLY, IS FOR RECURRENT EXPENDITURE, WHILE THE SUM OF ₦5,224,501,000.00 (FIVE BILLION, TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOUR MILLION, FIVE HUNDRED AND ONE THOUSAND NAIRA) ONLY, IS FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, THE SUM OF ₦35,089,649,000.00 (THIRTY-FIVE BILLION, EIGHTY-NINE MILLION, SIX HUNDRED AND FORTY-NINE THOUSAND NAIRA) ONLY, IS FOR SPECIAL PROJECT, WHILE THE SUM OF ₦16,000,000,000.00 (SIXTEEN BILLION) NAIRA ONLY, IS FOR TRANSFER TO THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVISION FUND (USPF), ₦416,013,598,000.00 (FOUR HUNDRED AND SIXTEEN BILLION, THIRTEEN MILLION, FIVE HUNDRED AND NINETY-EIGHT THOUSAND NAIRA) ONLY, WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA, AND THE SUM OF ₦16,000,000,000.00 (SIXTEEN BILLION NAIRA) ONLY, IS FOR THE BUDGET OF THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVISION FUND (USPF) FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER, 2023

**SUMMARY OF NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION BUDGET FOR 2023**

A. Revenue Profile	₦'000
Licensing Fees	8,064,840
Annual Operating Levy	100,000,000
Spectrum Fees	387,457,752
Numbering Plan	7,600,000
Admin Charges	6,175,900
Type Approval Fees	950,000
Sanction Fees	200,000
Sundry Income	200,000
Total Revenue	510,648,492
Cost of Collection (Spectrum)	48,432,219
Total Funds available	559,080,711

Question,

That the expenditure of Five Hundred and Fifty-Nine Million, Eighty Thousand, Seven Hundred and Eleven Naira (₦559,080,711) only, for the purposes set out under the Revenue Profile for Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) stand part of the Revenue Expenditure for 2023 (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/West/Atiba Federal Constituency*) — *Agreed to.*

B Expenditures:	
Recurrent Expenditure	
Establishment Costs	1,435,000
Staff Costs	33,953,124
Personnel Mgt. Costs	13,370,642
Travel Costs	5,465,231
Operational Costs	12,203,661
Administration Costs	5,223,689
Spectrum Expenses	15,101,616
Total Recurrent Expenditure	86,752,963

Question,

That the expenditure of Eighty-Six Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty-Two Thousand, Nine Hundred and Sixty-Three Naira (₦86,752,963) only, for the purposes set out under the Recurrent Expenditure Costs for Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) stand part of the Revenue Expenditure for 2023 (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/West/Atiba Federal Constituency*) — *Agreed to.*

C Capital Expenditure

Internal Projects	4,146,289
Consultancies	1,078,212
Total Capital Expenditure	5,224,501

Question,

That the expenditure of Five Million, Two Hundred and Twenty-Four Thousand, Five Hundred and One Naira (₦5,224,501) only, for the purposes set out under the Capital Expenditure Costs for Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) stand part of the Capital Revenue Expenditure for 2023 (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/West/Atiba Federal Constituency*) — *Agreed to.*

D Special Projects	
Emergency Communications Centres (ECC)	6,055,149
Digital Parks and Establishment of National Artificial Intelligence Centre	1,915,000
School Support Programme	9,873,103
Nigerian Data Protection Bureau	529,912
Subscribers Database Management	10,949,657
Digital Job Creation (Social Intervention Programme)	1,181,079
R&D in Emerging Trends in Telecoms	793,609
Broadband Infrastructure Dev. Project	2,537,541
GSM Networks QoS Compliance Monitoring	1,254,600
Total Special Projects	35,089,649

Question,

That the expenditure of Thirty-Five Million, Eighty-Nine Thousand, Six Hundred and Forty-Nine Naira (₦35,089,649) only, for the purposes set out under the Special Projects Expenditure Costs for Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) stand part of the Capital Recurrent Expenditure for 2023 (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/West/Atiba Federal Constituency*) — *Agreed to.*

Transfer to Federal Government	416,013,598
Transfer to USPF	16,000,000
Total Budgeted Expenditure	559,080,711

Main Question,

That the expenditure of Five Hundred and Fifty-Nine Million, Eighty Thousand, Seven Hundred and Eleven Naira (₦559,080,711) only, for the purposes set out under the Expenditure Costs for Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) stand part of the Recurrent and Capital Expenditure for 2023 (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/West/Atiba Federal Constituency*) — *Agreed to.*

**SUMMARY OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE
PROVISION FUND (USPF) 2023 BUDGET**

A Revenue Profile	₦'000
Income From AOL Contribution	16,000,000,000.00
Total Revenue	16,000,000,000.00

Question,

That the expenditure of Sixteen Billion Naira (₦16,000,000,000.00) only, for the purposes set out under the Revenue Profile for Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) stand part of the Capital Expenditure for 2023 (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/West/Atiba Federal Constituency*) — *Agreed to.*

B Expenditures	
Recurrent Expenditure	
Employee Costs	1,407,022,131.00
Operational Costs	899,877,205.00
Administrative Costs	83,489,788.00
Board Expenses	60,864,600.00
Bank Charges	3,000,000.00
Total Recurrent Expenditure	2,454,253,724.00

Question.

That the expenditure of Two Billion, Four Hundred and Fifty-Four Million, Two Hundred and Fifty-Three Thousand, Seven Hundred and Twenty-Four Naira (₦2,454,253,724.00) only, for the purposes set out under the Expenditure Costs for Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) stand part of the Capital Expenditure for 2024 (Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/West/Atiba Federal Constituency) — *Agreed to.*

C Capital Expenditure	
Computers	20,000,000.00
Office Equipment	34,800,000.00
Motor Vehicles	45,000,000.00
Furniture and Fittings	25,000,000.00
Total Capital Expenditure	124,800,000.00

Question.

That the expenditure of One Hundred and Twenty-Four Million, Eight Hundred Thousand Naira (₦124,800,000.00) only, for the purposes set out under the Expenditure Costs for Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) stand part of the Capital Expenditure for 2023 (Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/West/Atiba Federal Constituency) — *Agreed to.*

D Projects Expenditure	
Connectivity Programs	7,960,122,907.00
Access Programmes	5,092,902,869.00
Institutional Strengthening and Consultancy Programmes	347,920,500.00
Consultancy on Assets Swap Valuation	20,000,000.00
Total Projects Expenditure	13,420,946,276.00

Question.

That the expenditure of Thirteen Billion, Four Hundred and Twenty Million, Nine Hundred and Forty-Six Thousand, Two Hundred and Seventy-Six Naira (₦13,420,946,276.00) only, for the purposes set out under the Expenditure Costs for Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) stand part of the Projects Expenditure for 2023 (Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/West/Atiba Federal Constituency) — *Agreed to.*

Total Budgeted Expenditure **₦16,000,000,000.00**

The total Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) Budgeted Expenditure for the Year 2023 is Sixteen Billion Naira (₦16,000,000,000.00) only.

Main Question.

That the expenditure of Sixteen Billion Naira (₦16,000,000,000.00) only, for the purposes set out under the Expenditure Costs for Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) stand part of the Recurrent and Capital Expenditure for 2023 (Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Oyo East/West/Atiba Federal Constituency) — *Agreed to.*

Chairman to report proceeding.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of Supply considered the Report of the Committee on Telecommunications on the Issuance from the Statutory Revenue Fund of the Nigerian Communications Commission, the total Sum of ₦559,080,711,000.00 (five hundred and fifty-nine billion, eighty million, seven hundred and eleven thousand Naira) only, of which the sum of ₦86,752,963,000.00 (Eighty-six billion, seven hundred and fifty-two million, nine hundred and sixty-three thousand Naira) only, is for Recurrent Expenditure, while the sum of ₦5,224,501,000.00 (Five billion, two hundred and twenty-four million, five hundred and one thousand Naira) only, is for Capital Expenditure, the sum of ₦35,089,649,000.00 (Thirty-five billion, eighty-nine million, six hundred and forty-nine thousand Naira) only, is for Special Project, while the sum of ₦16,000,000,000.00 (Sixteen billion) Naira only, is for transfer to the Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF), ₦416,013,598,000.00 (Four hundred and sixteen billion, thirteen million, five hundred and ninety-eight thousand Naira) only, will be transferred to the Federal Government of Nigeria, and the sum of ₦16,000,000,000.00 (Sixteen billion Naira) only, is for the Budget of the Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) for the period ending 31 December, 2023 and adopted the Report.

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

- (ii) *A Bill for an Act to Establish Nigerian Peace Corps to facilitate Peace, Volunteerism, Community Services, Neighbourhood Watch and Nation Building; and for Related Matters (HB. 17) (Committee of the Whole):*

Motion made and Question proposed. "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish Nigerian Peace Corps to facilitate Peace, Volunteerism, Community Services, Neighbourhood Watch and Nation Building; and for Related Matters (HB. 17)" (Hon. Onyejeocha Nkeiruka — Isuikwato/Umunneochi 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 NIGERIAN PEACE CORPS TO FACILITATE PEACE, VOLUNTEERISM, COMMUNITY SERVICES, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH, AND NATION-BUILDING; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 17)

PART I — ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONS OF THE NIGERIAN PEACE CORPS

Clause 1: Establishment and Functions of the Nigerian Peace Corps.

- (1) There is established the Nigerian Peace Corps (in this Bill referred to as "the Corps")
- (2) The Corps:
 - (a) shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal; and
 - (b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name.

- (3) The Common seal of the Corps shall be kept in the custody of the National Corps Secretary.
- (4) The Headquarters of the Corps shall be located in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), and the Corps shall have offices in all the States, Local Governments and Area Councils (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 2: Functions of the Corps Governing Board of the Corps.

The functions of the Corps shall include:

- (a) enlist, mobilise, train and orientate the youths in order to develop them as supporting agents of social order by providing a second line of public safety;
- (b) serve as a think-tank and educate residents of every community on security and safety measures peculiar to their neighbourhood;
- (c) uphold a bottom-up surveillance through monitoring, observation, evaluation and to detect, collate and analyse intelligence data on matters that may likely cause breach of peace and security within the neighbourhood and transmit same to the appropriate Security Agency for pre-emptive measures and actions;
- (d) engage in Peace Advocacy, Mediation and Conflict Resolution in order to advance the course of Peace-Building, Reconciliation and Conflict Transformation in all communities in Nigeria;
- (e) secure Educational Institutions from intruders and to combat all forms of social decadence and vices, including cultism and examination malpractices with a view to creating peaceful and conducive atmosphere for learning;
- (f) serve as a Reservoir and Spring-board of skilled man-power as adhoc staff for providing Social and Community Services such as Crowd Control, Emergency Relief Services, Rehabilitation of Internally Displaced Persons, Voters' Registration, Election Duties, Census, Immunization and First Aid;
- (g) set-up a Centre saddled with the responsibility of training and building the capacity of the youths in the areas of Critical Thinking, Creativity, Innovation, Entrepreneurial and Skill Acquisition;
- (h) set-up well organized and structured farm settlement across the various Senatorial Districts in order to redirect the untapped and productive energy of the youths into large-scale and mechanized farming for increased food production, and planting of economic trees, to mitigate desertification and the effect of climate change in Nigeria; and
- (i) set-up desk at the various entry points into the country in order to register tourists and other visitors, after clearance by the Nigerian Immigration Service and other relevant Security Agencies, and to serve as Tour Guards and Guides to their respective destinations upon the payment of charges; and
- (j) any other functions as may be assigned by the Minister (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

PART II — GOVERNING BOARD, COMPOSITION AND POWERS

Clause 3: Establishment of the Governing Board.

There is established for the management of the Corps a Governing Board (in this Bill referred to as "the Board") (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 4: Composition of the Board.

The Board shall consist of:

- (a) Chairman to be appointed by the President;
- (b) two nominees each appointed by the President as members representing the six (6) Geopolitical Zones of the country; and
- (c) the Chairman and members of the Board shall be appointed subject to confirmation by the Senate (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 5: Qualifications of the Chairman and other members of the Corps.

No person shall be appointed as chairman or member of the Board, if —

- (a) he is not qualified or if he is disqualified for election as a member of the House of Representatives;
- (b) within the preceding 10 years, he has been removed as a member of the bodies established by section 153 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999(as altered), or as a holder of any other office on grounds of misconduct (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 6: Appointment of the Chairman and Members of the Board.

- (1) The President shall appoint the Chairman and Members of the Board on the recommendation of the Minister.
- (2) Without prejudice to the provisions of this Bill, the Minister shall perform the functions of the Board where the Board has:
 - (a) not been constituted; and
 - (b) been dissolved.
- (3) The provisions of the Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Board and other matters contained in the Schedule (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 7: Tenure of office.

The Chairman and other members of the Board, other than ex-officio members:

- (a) shall hold office for a term of 4 years on such terms and conditions as may be specified in their letters of appointments; and
- (b) may be re-appointed for another term of 4 years and no more (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 8: Removal from office.

- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7 of this Bill, a member may at any time be removed from office by the President if he:
 - (a) is unable to discharge the functions of his office whether arising from infirmity of the body or mind;
 - (b) is convicted by a court of law of a felony, fraud or any serious act of misconduct; and
 - (c) without permission of the Board, is absent for more than 3 consecutive meetings of the Board or without such permission is absent from the country for a period exceeding 1 year.
- (2) The Chairman or a member may resign by a notice addressed through the Minister to the President and such notice of resignation becomes effective from the date of acceptance of the resignation by the President (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 9: Allowances.

A member shall be paid such allowances as may be determined by the National Salaries, Income and Wages Commission (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 10: Powers of the Board.

The Board shall be responsible for:

- (a) providing the general policies and guidelines relating to major expansion programmes of the Corps;
- (b) the supervision of management and general administration of the Corps;
- (c) recruiting regular members of the Corps;
- (d) organising basic development and refresher courses for members of the Corps;
- (e) fixing, with the approval of the Minister, the terms and conditions of service of members and employees of the Corps, including their remuneration; and
- (f) doing such other things, which, in the opinion of the Board, are necessary

to ensure the efficient performance of the functions of the Corps (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

PART III — STAFF AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE CORPS

Clause 11: National Commandant of the Corps.

- (1) There shall be for the Corps a National Commandant who shall be appointed by the President and Commander-in-Chief subject to confirmation by the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
 - (a) notwithstanding any provision in this Bill, the position of the National Commandant shall be appointed from among the very Senior Officers cadre of the Corps; and
 - (b) the appointee must have occupied an office in the Corps not below the position of Assistant National Commandant and would have served in the Peace Corps meritoriously for a period not less than Ten (10) years and must possess a minimum qualification of First Degree or its equivalent.
- (2) The National Commandant shall hold office:
 - (a) in the first instance for a term of 4 years and may be eligible for reappointment for another term of 4 years and no more; and
 - (b) on such terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of appointment.
- (3) The National Commandant shall be the Chief Executive and Accounting Officer of the Corps.
- (4) The National Commandant shall, in the performance of his functions, be directly responsible to the President.
- (5) The National Commandant shall be responsible for the execution of the policies of the Corps and its day-to-day administration.
- (6) The National Commandant shall be the Secretary of the Board (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 12: Deputy National Commandants, Corps Secretary, Assistant National Commandants and other employees of the Corps.

- (1) The National Commandant shall recommend for appointment by the Board such number of Deputy National Commandants, Corps Secretary, Assistant National Commandants, Commandants and such officers from Level 8 and above as it may deem necessary for the purposes of the effective administration of the Corps.
- (2) The terms and conditions of service (including remuneration, allowances, benefits and pensions) of regular members and employees of the Corps shall be determined by the National Salaries, Incomes and Wages Commission.

- (3) The Volunteers of the Corps shall, for any period they are on duty for the Corps, be paid such allowances and other benefits as may be approved by the National Commandant.
- (4) The National Commandant, after due consultation with the Board, shall appoint for the Corps such number of officers, other ranks and employees below Level 8 as it may deem necessary for the purposes of effective administration of the Corps (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 13: Membership of the Corps.

- (1) The Personnel of the Corps shall consist of:
 - (a) regular members and volunteers; and
 - (b) officers and other ranks.
- (2) Members of the Corps shall be Nigerians within the age of 18-35 years at the time of enlistment.
- (3) Regular members and other staff shall be recruited by the Board periodically to meet the personnel requirements of the Corps, while the recruitment of the volunteers shall be handled by the National Commandant as the need arises (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 14: Pensions.

- (1) The service in the Corps shall be approved service for the purposes of the Pension Reform Act and, regular members and employees of the Corps are entitled to pensions, gratuities and other retirement benefits as prescribed under the Pension Reform Act.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, nothing in this Bill prevents the appointment of a person to any office on such terms which preclude the grant of pension, gratuity or other retirement benefits in respect of that office.
- (3) For the purposes of the application of the provisions of the Pension Reform Act, any power exercisable by the Minister or other authority of the Federal Government, other than the power to make regulations under section 40 of the Bill is vested in, and shall be exercisable by the Corps and not by any other person or authority (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

PART IV — APPOINTMENT, PROMOTION,
OFFENCES AND DISCIPLINE OF STAFF

Clause 15: Appointment of staff of the Corps.

- (1) The Senior Staff of the rank of Commandant and above shall be appointed by the President upon nomination by the Board and on the recommendation of the National Commandant.

- (2) The appointment of State Commandants shall be by the Board on the recommendation of the National Commandant.
- (3) The post of the Deputy National Commandant shall be a terminal post on which the holder shall retire from the Corps as may be determined by the President.
- (4) The National Commandant shall, in consultation with the Board, establish such number of offices or units in the Headquarters and recruit officers to discharge responsibilities.
- (5) If for any reason, the National Commandant is unable to perform his functions and there exists a vacancy in the office of the National Commandant, the officer who is next in rank to the National Commandant is to act for the period of his inability or vacancy, until a National Commandant is appointed in accordance with the provisions of this Bill, and the officer shall, while so acting, have all the powers to perform the functions of the National Commandant (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 16: Condition of Service of other staff of the Corps.

- (1) The Board may, subject to the provisions of this Bill, make staff regulations relating generally to the conditions of service of the staff of the Corps.
- (2) The staff of Corps shall be Public Officers as defined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of the Nigeria (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 17: Discipline of staff of the Corps.

- (1) The power of appointment, promotion and discipline of the junior staff of the Corps is vested in the National Commandant.
- (2) The National Commandant may delegate his powers in respect of discipline of junior staff to Deputy or Assistant National Commandant in the Headquarters and State Command who shall discipline such staff in their Departments and Commands respectively in accordance with existing Corps regulations.
- (3) Appeal against all decisions concerning the discipline of such staff shall be to the National Commandant.
- (4) There is established the Senior Staff Disciplinary Committee vested with the power to discipline the senior staff of the Corps.
- (5) The Senior Staff Disciplinary Committee shall consist of:
 - (a) a Deputy National Commandant and Assistant National Commandant with the Deputy National Commandant serving as Chairman, while in the absence of a Deputy National Commandant, the most Senior Assistant National Commandant shall serve as Chairman;
 - (b) the Provost Marshal;

- (c) the Head of Legal Matters; and
 - (d) Corps Secretary.
- (6) There is established the Junior Staff Disciplinary Committee vested with the power to discipline the junior staff of the Corps.
- (7) In addition to functions specified in subsection (3) of this section, the Senior Staff Disciplinary Committee shall consider and determine appeals emanating from decisions of the Junior Staff Disciplinary Committee of the Corps and decisions on such appeals shall be final.
- (8) Appeal against the decisions of the Senior Staff Disciplinary Committee shall lie with the Board.
- (9) The National Commandant shall, in relation to the staff of the Corps, ensure:
- (a) probity and accountability;
 - (b) maintain a system of screening and vetting at the recruitment stages which shall be a continuous exercise throughout the career of personnel in the Corps; and
 - (c) maintain a policy of continuous staff assessment.
- (10) The National Commandant shall promulgate and distribute a code of conduct to staff of the Corps, the breach of which shall attract the appropriate penalty stipulated in the code.
- (11) For the purpose of proper legal guidance and accountability, the heads of the legal and audit unit shall report directly to the National Commandant (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

PART V — ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES AND
ZONAL COMMANDS OF THE CORPS

Clause 18: Administrative structures of the Corps.

- (1) There shall be established in the National Headquarters of the Corps the Departments of:
- (a) Administration;
 - (b) Finance and Accounts;
 - (c) Intelligence and General Duties;
 - (d) Policy and Plans;
 - (e) Training and Operations;
 - (f) Logistics and Supply; and
 - (g) Corps Secretariat.

- (2) The Departments shall be headed by an officer not below the rank of a Deputy National Commandant.
- (3) Each of these Departments shall be established at the various Command structures of the Corps as provided in subsection (2) and shall be headed by an officer not below the rank of Assistant Commandant (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 19: Zones and Zonal Commands of the Corps.

- (1) The Board shall:
- (a) create such number of Zones as it deems fit for the effective operations of the Corps; and
- (b) establish, in each zone, a Zonal Command, which shall be headed by an officer not below the rank of Assistant National Commandant.
- (2) The Zonal Command shall, subject to the direction and overall command of the Corps, be responsible for coordinating the activities of the Corps in the zone (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 20: State Command.

- (1) The Corps shall have a State Command in each State of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.
- (2) The State Command shall, subject to the directive and overall command of the Corps Headquarters and Zonal Command, be responsible for carrying out the functions of the Corps in the State and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 21: Local Government Command.

- (1) The Corps shall have a Command in each Local Government Area of the Federation and Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.
- (2) The Local Government and Area Council Commands shall, subject to the directive and overall command of the Corps and State Command, be responsible for carrying out the functions of the Corps in each of the Local Government Areas or Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 22: Squadron Command.

- (1) The Corps shall establish a Squadron Command in each educational institution in the Federation, which shall be headed by a Squadron Commander.

- (2) The Squadron Command shall, subject to the direction and overall Command of the Corps, State Command, be responsible for carrying out the functions of the Corps in the educational institutions (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

PART VI — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Clause 23: Funds of the Corps.

The Corps shall establish and maintain a fund into which shall be paid:

- (a) statutory and budgetary allocations from the National Assembly;
- (b) all sums accruing to the Corps from donations made by local or international donor agencies;
- (c) gifts from the three tiers of government, ministries or agencies and private corporations;
- (d) loans, grants and aid; and
- (e) bequests (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 24: Expenditure of the Corps.

The Corps may apply the proceeds of the Fund established under section 23 of this Bill:

- (a) to the cost of administration of the Corps; and
- (b) to the payment of salaries, fees or other remuneration or allowances, gratuities payable to the officers and other employees of the Corps.
- (c) for the maintenance of any property vested in the Corps; and
- (d) for and in connection with all or any of its functions under this Bill (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 25: Annual estimates, accounts and audit.

- (1) The Corps shall, not later than 30th September in each year, submit to the Minister an estimate of its expenditure and income (including payments to the Corps Fund) during the next succeeding year, after approval by the Board.
- (2) The Corps shall keep proper records in relation to those accounts and shall cause its accounts to be audited within 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. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 26: Annual report.

The Corps shall prepare and submit to the Federal Executive Council, through the Minister after approval by the Governing Board, not later than six months after the end of each year, a report in such form as the Minister may direct on the activities of the Corps during the immediate preceding year, and shall include in such report a copy of the audited accounts of the Corps for that year and the auditor's report on the accounts (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 27: Power to accept donations.

- (1) The Corps may accept gifts of land, money or other property on such terms and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the person or organization making the donations.
- (2) The Corps shall not accept any gift if the conditions attached by the person or organization offering the gift are inconsistent with the functions of the Corps (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 28: Power to borrow.

- (1) The Corps may borrow, by overdraft or otherwise, such sums as it may require for the performance of its functions under this Bill
- (2) The Corps shall not, without the approval of the Board, borrow money which exceeds, at any time, the amount set by the Board (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 29: Investment.

The Corps may, subject to the provisions of this Bill and the conditions of any trust created in respect of any property, invest all or any of its funds in any security prescribed by the Trustee Investments Bill, in such other securities as may be approved by the Minister (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 29 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 30: Provision of library facilities.

The Board shall provide and maintain a library at the Headquarters and State Commands of the Corps comprising such books and publications as may be provided for the advancement of the knowledge and skills of members of the Corps, for research purposes, and for other purposes connected with the objects and functions of the Corps (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 30 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 31: Exemption from tax.

- (1) The Corps is exempted from payment of any income tax on any income accruing from investments made by the Board for the Corps.

- (2) The provisions of any enactment relating to the taxation of company or trust funds does not apply to the Corps or the Board (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 31 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART VII — LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Clause 32: Limitation of suits against the Corps.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the provisions of the Public Officers Protection Act shall apply in relation to any suit instituted against any officer or employee of the Corps.
- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other enactment, no suit against any member of the Board or the National Commandant or any other officer or employee of the Corps, for any act done in pursuance or execution or in respect of any alleged enactment or law, or of any public duty or authority or in respect of any alleged neglect or default in the execution of this Bill or any other enactment or law, duty or authority, shall lie or be instituted in any court unless it is commenced:
- (a) within three months after the Bill, neglect or default complained of or;
- (b) in the case of a continuation of damage or injury, within six months after the ceasing of the damage or injury.
- (3) No suit shall be commenced against a member of the Board or the National Commandant or any other officer or employee of the Corps before the expiration of one month after a written notice of intention to commence the suit shall have been served on Corps by the intending plaintiff or his agent.
- (4) The notice referred to in subsection (3) shall clearly state:
- (a) the cause of action;
- (b) the particulars of claim;
- (c) the name and place of abode of the intending plaintiff; and
- (d) the relief, which the plaintiff claims (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 32 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 33: Service of documents.

A notice, summons or other document required or authorized to be served on the Corps under the provisions of this Bill or any other enactment or law may be served by delivering it to the National Commandant or by sending it by registered post and addressed to the National Commandant at the Headquarters of the Corps (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 33 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 34: Restriction on execution against property of the Corps.

In any action or suit against the Corps, no attachment or process shall be issued against the Corps except as provided under the Sheriffs and Civil Process Act (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 34 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 35: Indemnity of officers.

A member of the Board or the National Commandant or any officer or employee of the Corps shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Corps against any liability incurred by him in defending any proceeding, whether civil or criminal, if the proceeding is brought against him in his capacity as a member, National Commandant, officer or other employee of the Corps (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 35 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 36: Secrecy.

(1) A member of the Board, the National Commandant or any other officer or the employee of the Corps shall:

- (a) not, for his personal gain, make use of any information, which has come to his knowledge in the exercise of his powers or is obtained by him in the ordinary course of his duty as a member of the Board, the National Commandant or officer or employee of the Corps;
- (b) treat as confidential any information which has come to his knowledge in the exercise of his powers or is obtained by him in the discharge of his duties under this Bill; and
- (c) not disclose any information referred to under paragraph (b) of this subsection except when required to do so by any court or in such other circumstances as may be prescribed by the Board.

(2) A person who contravenes the provisions of section 36 (1) (a) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of at least ₦100,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 36 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 37: Power to obtain information.

(1) For the purpose of performing the functions conferred on the Corps under this Bill, the National Commandant or any other officer or employee of the Corps authorized in that behalf:

- (a) shall have a right of access to all the records of any person or authority affected by this Bill for the specific purpose of discharging his duties under this Bill; and
- (b) may, by notice in writing served on any person or premises require that person or authority to furnish information on such matters as may be specified by the notice.

(2) The person or authority served with the notice under section 33 shall furnish information as required under section 37 (1) (a) and comply with the notice within a reasonable time (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 37 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART VIII — DISSOLUTION OF THE EXISTING
PEACE CORPS OF NIGERIA AND SAVINGS

Clause 38: Dissolution of the existing Peace Corps of Nigeria.

- (1) The Peace Corps of Nigeria (in this section referred to as the "Corps") existing before the commencement of this Bill is dissolved.
- (2) There shall be vested in the Corps, immediately at the commencement of this Bill, all assets, funds, resources and other movable or immovable property which immediately before the commencement of this Bill, were vested in the dissolved Corps.
- (3) As from the commencement of this Bill:
 - (a) all rights, interest, obligations and liabilities of the dissolved Corps existing immediately before the commencement of this Bill under any contract or instrument, at law or in equity, shall by virtue of this Bill, be assigned to and vested in the Corps;
 - (b) any contract or instrument as mentioned in paragraph (c) of this subsection shall have the same force and effect against or in favour of the Corps and shall be enforceable as fully and effectively as if, the Corps had been a party to the contract; and
 - (c) the Corps shall be subject to all obligations and liabilities to which the dissolved Corps was subject to immediately before the commencement of this Bill, and all other persons shall, as from the commencement of this Bill, have the same rights, powers and remedies against the Corps as they had against the dissolved Corps immediately before the commencement of this Bill.
- (4) Any action pending or existing immediately before the commencement of this Bill by or against the dissolved Corps respect of any right, interest, obligation or liability of the dissolved Peace Corps of Nigeria, an action may be commenced, continued or enforced by or against the Corps.
- (5) Notwithstanding the provision of this Bill, but subject to such directions as may be issued by the Corps, a person who, immediately before the commencement of this Bill, was either a regular member or a volunteer of or held office in the dissolved Corps shall be deemed to have been transferred to the Corps on such terms and conditions not less favourable than those obtained immediately before commencement of this Bill.
- (6) The service in the dissolved Corps shall be deemed to be service in the Corps for purpose of pension.
- (7) Notwithstanding the provision of this Bill or any other existing law in force, apart from all officers, regular and volunteer members of the dissolved Corps, any individual, Group, Association or body that may be absorbed as a member of the Corps either by transfer, enlistment or by whatsoever legal means shall not, as at the time of commencement of this Bill be less than 18 years of age and not above the age of 45 years.
- (8) Individuals, Groups, Associations or bodies that have shown or

demonstrated interest to be absorbed as members of the Corps shall be absorbed subject to the mandatory basic training and orientation programme of the Corps as prescribed from time to time upon the commencement of this Bill.

- (9) Notwithstanding the provision of subsection (8) the mandatory Basic Training and Orientation Programme of the Corps may be subject to periodic review after the commencement of this Bill as the Board may deem fit.
- (10) Notwithstanding any provision in this Bill, an individual who has served in any capacity in the public service at any level (Federal, State, Local Government or Area Councils) and is entitled to gratuity and pension benefit is not eligible for consideration as a staff of the Corps (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 38 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART IX — MISCELLANEOUS

Clause 39: Directives by the Minister.

- (1) The Minister may give to the Corps, the Board or National Commandant such directives:
- (a) of a general nature or relating generally to matters of policy with regards to the exercise of its functions; and
 - (b) with respect to the maintenance and securing of public safety and order, as he may consider necessary and the Corps, the Board or the National Commandant shall comply with the directives or cause them to be complied with.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, a Governor of a State may give to a State Commandant such directives with respect to the maintenance and securing of public safety and order in the State as he may consider necessary and the State Commandant shall comply with the directives or cause them to be complied with (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 39 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 40: Regulations.

The Corps or the Board may, with the approval of the Minister, make such regulations as in its opinion are necessary or expedient for giving full effects to the provisions of this Bill and the regulations shall be laid before the National Assembly and published in the Federal Government Gazette (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 40 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 41: Interpretation.

In this Bill:

"Board" means the Governing Board of the Nigerian Peace Corps established under section 3 of this Bill (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

"Corps" means the Nigerian Peace Corps, established under section 1 of this Bill (Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency).

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

"Minister" means the Minister charged with responsibility for matters relating to Ministry of Special Duties and Intergovernmental Affairs (Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency).

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

"Peace Corps Volunteers" means accredited youth within the age range of 18-35 years not on full remuneration but are on monthly stipend to be determined by the Board and are to serve as reservoirs for the Corps and other security agencies (Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency).

Question that the meaning of the words "Peace Corps" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"President" means the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency).

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

"Regular Staff officers" means main core staff of the Corps on full remuneration (Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency).

Question that the meaning of the words "Regular Staff officers" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Senate" means the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency).

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

Question that Clause 41 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 42: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Nigerian Peace Corps (Establishment) Bill, 2022 (Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency).

Question that Clause 42 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

SCHEDULE

Section 6 (3)

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE BOARD

Proceedings

1. (1) The Board shall, for the purpose of this Bill meet at least four times in each year.
- (2) The Board shall meet whenever it is summoned by the Chairman, and if the Chairman is required to do so by a notice given to him by at least five 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.
- (3) Where the Board desires to obtain the advice of any person on a particular matter, the Board may co-opt the person to the Board for such period as it deems fit but a person who is a member by virtue of this subparagraph is not entitled to vote at any meeting of the Board and is not counted towards a quorum.

Committees

2. (1) The Board may set up one or more Committees to carry out, on behalf of the Board, its functions under this Bill as the Board may deem fit.
- (2) A Committee set up under this paragraph shall consist of such number of persons (not necessarily members of the Board as may be determined by the Board) and a person other than a member of the Board shall hold office in the Committee in accordance with the terms of his appointment.
- (3) A decision of the Committee of the Board shall be of no effect until it is confirmed by the Board.

Seal

3. (1) The fixing of the Seal of the Peace Corps shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman or any other person authorized generally or specifically to act for that purpose by the Board and the National Commandant.
- (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 Board by the National Commandant or any person generally or specially authorized to act for that purpose by the Board.
- (3) Any document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal of the Board shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be presumed to be executed (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to establish the Nigerian Peace Corps (NPC), a body charged with the responsibility to develop empower and provide gainful employment for the youth, facilitate peace, volunteerism, community services, neighbourhood watch and nation-building (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Peace Corps to Facilitate Peace, Volunteerism, Community Services, Neighbourhood Watch, and Nation-building; and for Related Matters (HB. 17) (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi 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 on a Bill for an Act to Establish Nigerian Peace Corps to facilitate Peace, Volunteerism, Community Services, Neighbourhood Watch and Nation Building; and for Related Matters (HB. 17) and approved Clauses 1- 42, the Schedule, 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.

- (iii) *A Bill for an Act to Establish Nigerian Institute of Leather and Science Technology to provide global Competitive and Environmentally friendly Technologies for Leather, Leather Products Allied Industries; and for Related Matters (HB. 444) (Committee of the Whole): Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish Nigerian Institute of Leather and Science Technology to provide global Competitive and Environmentally friendly Technologies for Leather, Leather Products Allied Industries; and for Related Matters (HB. 444)" (Hon. Onyejeocha Nkeiruka — Isuikuato/Umunneochi 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 NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF LEATHER AND SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE GLOBAL COMPETITIVE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY TECHNOLOGIES FOR LEATHER, LEATHER PRODUCTS AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 444)

PART I — ESTABLISHMENT AND LOCATION OF THE INSTITUTE

Clause 1: Establishment of the Institute.

There is established the Nigerian Institute of Leather and Science Technology (in this Bill referred to as "the Institute") which shall be a corporate body with perpetual succession and common seal, and may sue or be sued in its corporate name (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 2: Location of the Institute.

The Institute shall have its headquarter located at Zaria, Kaduna State; with Extension Centres in Sokoto, Maiduguri, Kano, Jos, Afuze, Okwudor, Iwaro-Oka and Abuja, and may establish other Extension Centres anywhere in Nigeria as may be determined (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 3: Objectives of the Institute.

The objectives of the Institute are to —

- (a) provide courses of instruction, training, and conduct research and development on leather, leather products and related technologies;
- (b) provide global competitive and environmentally friendly technologies for leather and leather products and allied industries;
- (c) acquire and maintain world-class technical capacity and reputation;
- (d) offer science based consultancy services in leather and leather products, production, marketing and quality control;
- (e) produce high, middle and low level manpower for leather and allied industries;
- (f) engage in research and training of manpower for self-empowerment and wealth creation;
- (g) make the Institute a renowned centre of excellence in the field of tannery, effluent monitoring and control, leather and leather products technologies;
- (h) provide and sustain the development of leather industrial clusters employment, export, national productivity and technology transfer; and
- (i) become an Institute of international standard in the provision of innovative research, training and development in the processing and conversion of raw hides and skins into leather and leather products (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

PART II — ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION OF GOVERNING BOARD**Clause 4: Establishment and composition of the Governing Board.**

There is established for the Institute, a Governing Board (in this Bill referred to as "the Board") which shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister and shall consist of —

- (a) a Chairman;
- (b) a representative of the Tanners Council of Nigeria;
- (c) a representative of the Federal Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation;
- (d) a representative of the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE);
- (e) a representative of National University Commission (NUC);
- (f) a representative of Society of Leather Technologists and Chemists of Nigeria (SLTCN);
- (g) the Director-General; and

- (h) the Registrar of the Institute as Secretary (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 5: Functions of the Board.

- (1) The Board of the Institute shall be responsible for setting out the Institute's economic, financial, operational and administrative programmes and targets in accordance with the overall objectives of the Institute.
- (2) The Board shall be responsible for measuring performance against targets, introducing broad policy measures, curtailing any adverse deviations, and supervising management to ensure that the targets are achieved (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 6: Removal from office of members of the Board and the Director-General.

- (1) Where it appears to the Board that a member of the Board (other than an *ex-officio* member), due to misconduct or other factors, is unable to perform the functions of his office, the Board shall make a recommendation to that effect to the President.
- (2) The President may remove any member of the Board if he is satisfied that in the public interest or in the interest of the Institute such member should not continue as a member of the Board (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 7: Powers of the President to give directives.

The President may give the Board directives of a general character or relating generally to particular matters with regard to the exercise by the Board of its functions and it shall be the duty of the Board to comply with the directives (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 8: Proceedings of the Board.

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 in it (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

PART III — FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE INSTITUTE

Clause 9: Functions of the Institute.

The Institute shall —

- (a) be a degree awarding institution of its own or in affiliation with other higher institutions;
- (b) conduct research into all aspects of the production of leather and leather products;

- (c) conduct research in all aspects of leatherettes and their utilisation in goods manufacturing;
- (d) organise regular and short term trainings, conferences, seminars, studies and other academic activities relating to leather and leather products technologies, management and other related fields of learning;
- (e) consider and advise on special research grants for specific breakthrough or objectives;
- (f) conduct examinations, and award diplomas and other academic distinctions to persons who have pursued any course of study approved by the Institute and have satisfied such other requirements as the Institute may prescribe and any other persons who distinguish themselves in any field of human endeavour as may be considered and approved by the Board; and
- (g) consider and advise on any other issue capable of advancing the objectives of the Institute (*Hon. Nkeiruka Oryejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 10: Powers of the Institute.

The Institute shall —

- (a) be the sole regulatory body for leather and leather products in Nigeria;
- (b) acquire, hold, grant, charge, exchange, dispose of or otherwise deal in any movable or immovable property;
- (c) accept subventions, gifts, legacies, donations and any form of technical assistance acceptable to the Institute and to make use of same in furtherance of the objectives of the Institute;
- (d) enter into contracts alone or jointly with other persons and where necessary, to act through agents;
- (e) be entitled to 2% of all companies gross profit from the importation and exportation of leather and leather products of all companies dealing with leather in Nigeria;
- (f) erect, provide, equip and maintain lecture halls, workshops, laboratories, libraries, administrative buildings, halls of residence, refectories, staff quarters, sport grounds and other buildings, structures and things necessary, suitable or convenient for any of the functions of the Institute;
- (g) prescribe conditions under which persons may be admitted as students or trainees of the Institute in conjunction with relevant agencies;
- (h) recognize qualifications of other institutions of learning;
- (i) award scholarships, studentship, fellowships and provide for other aids to learning and research;
- (j) provide consultancy and advisory services, and to impose such charges and fees as the Institute may deem fit;

- (k) commercialize its research and development products;
- (l) print, reproduce, publish, compile and sell any research and other works as may from time to time be conducted by members of the staff, students or trainees of the Institute;
- (m) charge and collect from students or trainees, fees in respect of instructions, as the Institute may from time to time determine;
- (n) perform its functions either alone or in co-operation or in collaboration, or affiliation with any other institution;
- (o) employ such contractors, agents, servants and other persons as the Institute may require for performing the functions of the Institute; and
- (p) undertake such other acts and things as may seem to the management or Board, incidental or conducive to the performance of the functions of the Institute (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 11: Visitation.

- (1) The President shall be the Visitor to the Institute.
- (2) The Visitor shall, not less than once in every five years, conduct a visitation of the Institute or appoint a visitation panel, consisting of not less than five experts for —
 - (a) the purpose of evaluating the research, academic and administrative performance of the Institute; and
 - (b) such other purpose or in respect of any other affairs of the Institute as the Visitor may deem fit (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

PART IV — PROVISIONS RELATING TO STAFF

Clause 12: Appointment of Director-General.

- (1) There shall be a Director-General for the Institute who shall be appointed by the President and shall have the requisite qualification as it may be advertised.
- (2) The Director-General shall hold office for a term of four years beginning with the effective date of appointment and on such terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of appointment.
- (3) The Director-General may be reappointed for another term of four years and no more.
- (4) Where a vacancy occurs in the post of Director-General, the Board shall —
 - (a) advertise the vacancy in a widely read newspaper in Nigeria, specifying the —

- (i) qualities of the persons who may apply for the post; and
 - (ii) terms and conditions of service applicable to the post and thereafter draw up a list of suitable candidates for consideration; and
- (b) recommend to the President, three candidates for his consideration.
- (5) The President shall appoint, as Director-General one of the candidates recommended to him under subsection (4) (b).
- (6) Subject to this Bill and the general control of the Board, the Director-General shall be the chief executive officer of the Institute and shall be charged with the general responsibility for matters relating to the day-to-day management and operations of the Institute (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 13: Appointment of Management Board and members.

There is established a Management Board for the Institute consisting of the following members —

- (a) Directors of all the Directorates;
- (b) Director of Legal Services; and
- (c) any other officer the Director-General appoints (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 14: Function of Management Board.

- (1) The Director-General shall preside over the Management Board in respect of —
- (a) the day to day running of the Institute; and
 - (b) any other function as may be directed by the Governing Board.
- (2) The Management Board shall be answerable to the Governing Board (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 15: Appointment of principal officers of the Institute.

- (1) There shall be appointed for the Institute by the Board the following principal officers on the recommendation of the Director-General on such terms and conditions as the Board may determine —
- (a) Director of Administration and Services (Registrar);
 - (b) Director of Finance and Accounts (Bursar);
 - (c) Institute's Librarian;

- (d) Director of Works and Infrastructural Development;
 - (e) Director of Research and Development;
 - (f) any other Director that the Institute may appoint.
- (2) The Registrar to the Institute shall be responsible to the Director-General for the day- to-day administration of the Institute and shall perform such other duties as the Director-General may from time to time require him to do.
- (3) The Registrar shall be the Secretary to the Research Board, the Academic Board and any other Statutory Committees of the Institute.
- (4) The Registrar —
- (a) shall hold office for a term of four years beginning from the effective date of his appointment and on such terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of appointment; and
 - (b) may be re-appointment for another term of four years and no more.
- (5) Where on the commencement of this section a Registrar had held office —
- (a) for four years or less, he shall be deemed to be serving his first term of office and may be reappointed for a further term of four years; and
 - (b) for more than four years, but less than eight years, he shall complete the maximum term of eight years and thereafter, relinquish his post and may be assigned other duties in the Institute.
- (6) The Bursar shall be the chief financial officer responsible to the Director-General for the day-to-day administration and control of the financial affairs of the Institute and shall perform such other duties as the Director-General may from time to time require him to do.
- (7) The Bursar shall —
- (a) hold office for a term of four years beginning from the effective date of his appointment and on such terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of appointment; and
 - (b) may be pre-appointment for another term of four years and no more.
- (8) Where on the commencement of this section, a Bursar had held office —
- (a) for four years or less, he shall be deemed to be serving his first term of office and may be reappointed for a further term of four years; and
 - (b) for more than four years, but less than eight years, he shall complete the maximum term of eight years and thereafter, relinquish his post and may be assigned other duties in the Institute.
- (9) The Institute Librarian shall be responsible to the Director-General for the administration of the Institute's library and the co-ordination of the library services in the teaching and research directorates of the Institute.

- (10) The Institute Librarian —
- (a) shall hold office for a term of four years beginning from the effective date of his appointment and on such terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of appointment; and
 - (b) may be re-appointed for another term of four years and no more.
- (11) Where on the commencement of this section, the Institute's Librarian has held office —
- (a) for four years or less, he shall be deemed to be serving his first term of office and may be re-appointed for a further term of four years; and
 - (b) for more than four years, but less than eight years, he shall complete the maximum term of eight years and thereafter, relinquish his post and may be assigned other duties in the Institute.
- (12) The Director of Works and Infrastructural Development shall be the chief technical officer of the Institute and be responsible to the Director-General for the day to day administration and control of all technical or engineering duties and physical planning of the Institute.
- (13) The Director of Works and Infrastructural Development —
- (a) shall hold office for a term of four years beginning from the effective date of his appointment and on such terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of appointment; and
 - (b) may be re-appointed for another term of four years and no more.
- (14) Where on the commencement of this section, the Institute Director of Works and Infrastructural Development has held office —
- (a) for four years or less, he shall be deemed to be serving his first term of office and may be re-appointed for a further term of four years; and
 - (b) for more than four years, but less than eight years, he shall complete the maximum term of eight years and thereafter, relinquish his post and may be assigned other duties in the Institute.
- (15) A principal officer may resign his appointment —
- (a) in the case of the Director-General, by written notice to the President, through the Board and the Minister; and
 - (b) in any other case, by written notice to the Board (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 16: Conditions of service.

- (1) The Board may appoint such other persons to be employees of the Institute as the Board may determine, to assist the Director-General and the principal officers of the Institute in the performance of their functions under this Bill.

- (2) The power to appoint all other employees of the Institute shall be exercised
 - (a) in the case of senior employees, by the Board on the recommendation of the Appointments, Promotions and Disciplinary Committee set up under the provisions of paragraph 4 (1) of the Schedule to this Bill; and
 - (b) in the case of junior employees by the Director-General on the recommendation of the Junior Staff Appointments, Promotions and Disciplinary Committee.
- (3) The Appointment, Promotion and Disciplinary Committee shall be responsible for making recommendations to the Board in respect to the appointment and promotion of members of the senior staff specified in subsection (2) (a).
- (4) The members of staff to whom this section applies, shall perform such functions as may be specified in their instruments of appointment and as the Director-General may from time to time in addition, assign to them (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 17: Appointment of other employees.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the remuneration, tenure of office and conditions of service of the employees of the Institute shall be determined by the Board in consultation with the Federal Civil Service Commission, National Income, Salaries and Wages Commission, National Pension Commission, Head of Service and other relevant bodies.
- (2) All staff of the Institute shall be entitled to a special hazard allowance or package due to the hazards associated with activities in the Institute.
- (3) Retirement age for all staff of the Institute shall be 65 years and 70 years for Professors (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 18: Pension.

- (1) The service of the Institute shall be approved service under the Pensions Reform Act and accordingly, the staff of the Institute shall be entitled to pensions, gratuities and other retirement benefits as are enjoyed by persons holding equivalent positions in the Public Service of the Federation as prescribed under the Pensions Reform Act.
- (2) Nothing in the foregoing provisions of this section shall prevent the appointment of any person to any office on terms which preclude the grant of a pension or gratuity in respect of service in that office (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 19: Establishment of Research Board.

(1) There shall be established for the Institute, the Research Board which shall consist of the following members —

- (a) the Director-General, as Chairman;
- (b) the Director of Research and Development;
- (c) the Director of Academic Planning;
- (d) a representative of the Directorate of Leather and Leather Products Technology;
- (e) a representative of the Directorate of Science and Technology;
- (f) a representative of the Directorate of Polymer and Environmental Technology;
- (g) the Dean, Students Affairs;
- (h) the Director of Extension Centres; and
- (i) a representative of each Academic Directorate with a PhD.

(2) The Research Board shall be responsible for —

- (a) proposing viable research projects;
- (b) providing monitoring systems of control and accountability on research;
- (c) reviewing research activities and considering viable research results for patent rights;
- (d) approving areas of research and development, collaborations with the private and public organizations and agencies as the Research Board may think fit or the Board may from time to time direct; and
- (e) the performance of any function which the Board may delegate to it (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 20: Establishment of Academic Board.

(1) There shall be established for the Institute, the Academic Board which shall consist of —

- (a) the Director-General of the Institute, as Chairman;
- (b) all Directors of Academic Directorates;
- (c) the Registrar;

- (d) the Director of Academic Planning;
 - (e) the Director of Research and Development;
 - (f) all Academic Heads of Departments;
 - (g) all officers from the rank of Chief Lecturers, Readers and Professors;
 - (h) Dean of Student Affairs; and
 - (i) the Institute Librarian.
- (2) The Academic Board shall be responsible for the —
- (a) direction and management of academic matters of the Institute including the regulation of admission of students, the award of certificates and diplomas, scholarships, prizes and other academic distinctions;
 - (b) making to the Management Board of periodic reports on academic matters, as the Academic Board may think fit or the Management Board may from time to time direct; and
 - (c) discharge of any other functions which the Board may delegate to it (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 21: Appointment of Directors of the Extension Centres of the Institute.
 The Extension Centres of the Institute shall be headed by a Director appointed by the Director-General and such other category of staff that may be transferred or appointed as considered necessary for the smooth running of each Extension Centre (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 22: Duties of Directors of Extension Centres.
 The Directors of Extension Centres shall be responsible for —

- (a) the day to day running of the Centre;
- (b) submission of periodical financial reports and budget spending to the Director-General; and
- (c) any other functions as may be directed by the Director-General (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 23: Discipline of senior staff.
 (1) Where it appears to the Board, that there are reasons for believing that a Director of a Centre or any person employed as a senior staff of the Institute, other than the Director-General, should be removed from office on the grounds of misconduct or inability to perform the functions of his office, the Board shall —

- (a) give notice of those reasons to the person in question; and
 - (b) afford him an opportunity of making representations in person on the matter to the Board.
- (2) Where the Chairman or any three members of the Board so request within the period of one month, beginning with the date of the notice, the Board shall make arrangements for -
 - (a) the Senior Staff Appointment, Promotion and Disciplinary Committee to investigate the matter and report on it to the Board through the Director-General;
 - (b) a Committee of the Board to investigate the matter, where it relates to any other member of the staff of the Institute and report on it to the Board; and
 - (c) the person in question to be afforded an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by the Investigating Committee with respect to the matter.
- (3) Where the Board, after considering the report of the Investigating Committee, is satisfied that the person in question should be removed, the Board may remove him by an instrument in writing signed on the directive of the Board.
- (4) The Director-General may in a case of misconduct by a member of staff, which in the opinion of the Director-General, is prejudicial to the interests of the Institute, suspend such member and any such suspension shall forthwith, be reported to the Board.
- (5) A member of staff may be suspended from office or his appointment may be terminated for good cause by the Board, and for the purpose of this subsection "good cause" means -
 - (a) any physical or mental incapacity which the Board, after obtaining medical advice, considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit for the discharge of the functions of his office;
 - (b) 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
 - (c) conduct which the Board considers to be such as to constitute failure or inability of the person concerned to perform the functions of his office or to comply with the terms and conditions of his service.
- (6) Any person suspended under subsection (5) (b) or (c) shall be placed 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 whether to -
 - (a) continue such person's suspension, and if so, on what terms (including the proportion of his emoluments to be paid to him);

- (b) reinstate such person in which case the Board shall restore his full emoluments to him with effect from the date of suspension;
 - (c) terminate the appointment of the person in question in which case such a person will not be entitled to the proportion of his emoluments withheld during the period of suspension; or
 - (d) take such disciplinary measures against such person (including the restoration of such proportion of his emoluments that might have been withheld) as the Board determines and in any case whether the Board under this section, decides to continue a person's suspension or decides to take further disciplinary action against a person, come to a final determination in respect of the case concerning any such person.
- (7) The person by whom an instrument of removal is signed in pursuance of subsection (1) shall use his best endeavour to cause a copy of the instrument to be served as soon as reasonably practicable on the person to whom it relates (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 24: Discipline of junior staff.

- (1) Where any junior staff is accused of misconduct or inefficiency, the Director-General may suspend the junior staff forthwith, and shall direct the Junior Staff Appointments Promotions and Disciplinary Committee to —
 - (a) consider the case; and
 - (b) make recommendations as to the appropriate action to be taken by the Director-General.
- (2) In all cases under this section the officer shall be informed of the charge made against him and shall be given reasonable opportunity to defend himself.
- (3) The Director-General may after considering the recommendations made under subsection 1(b) dismiss, terminate, retire or down-grade the officer concerned.
- (4) Any person aggrieved by the Director-General's decision under subsection (3) may within a period of 21 days from the date of the letter communicating the decision to him, address a petition through the Director-General to the Board to reconsider his case and the Board's decision on it, shall be final.
- (5) In any case of gross misconduct on the part of a junior staff, the Director-General shall forthwith, suspend him and thereafter, refer the matter to the Junior Staff Appointment, Promotion and Disciplinary Committee to be dealt with according to the provision of the Public Service Rules (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

PART VI — ADMISSION AND MOBILISATION OF STUDENTS

Clause 25: Admission, accreditation and mobilization of students.

- (1) The Institute shall have powers to admit students to various programmes as obtained in related tertiary institutions and provide courses of instruction, training and research in those fields as may be accredited by the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) and National University Commission (NUC).
- (2) That NBTE or NUC shall accredit the courses of instruction or training by the Institute upon satisfying the minimal criteria needed for accreditation by the Institute.
- (3) Degree and Higher National Diploma graduates of the Institute from the various programmes shall be mobilised for the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) programme (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 26: Discipline of students.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, where it appears to the Director-General that any student or trainee of the Institute has been guilty of misconduct, the Director-General may without prejudice to other disciplinary powers conferred on him by this Bill or regulations made, direct that the —
 - (a) student or trainee shall not, during such period as may be specified in the direction, participate in activities of the Institute, or make use of such facilities of the Institute as he may specify;
 - (b) activities of the student shall, during such period as may be specified in the directions be restricted in such manner as may be specified;
 - (c) student be suspended for such period as may be specified in the directive; or
 - (d) student be expelled from the Institute.
- (2) Where a directive is given under subsection (1) (c) or (d) in respect of any student, the student may, within 21 days from the date of the letter communicating this decision to him, appeal from the directive, and the Board after causing such inquiry to be made in the matter as the Board considers just, either confirm or set aside the direction or modify it in such manner as the Board may deem fit.
- (3) The fact that an appeal from a direction is brought under subsection (2) shall not affect the operation of the direction while the appeal is pending.
- (4) The Director-General may delegate his power under this section to a disciplinary committee consisting of such members of the Institute as he may nominate.
- (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing the restriction or termination of a student's activities in the Institute otherwise than on the ground of misconduct.

- (6) In all cases under this section, the decision of the Board shall be final (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

PART VII — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Clause 27: Accounts of the Institute.

- (1) The Board shall keep proper accounts and proper records in relation to it, and shall cause to be prepared not later than 31st December in each financial year, an estimate of the revenue and expenditure of the Institute for the ensuing financial year and when prepared, the estimate shall be submitted to the office of the Accountant-General of the Federation.
- (2) At the end of each financial year, but not later than 31st May, the Board shall cause to be prepared a statement of the income and expenditure of the Institute during the previous financial year (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 28: Audit of account.

- (1) The statement of accounts referred to in section 27 (2) of this Bill shall when certified by the Director-General, audited by a firm of auditors appointed by the Director-General with the approval of the Board, shall be published in the annual report of the Institute.
- (2) The audit report, when approved by the Board shall be submitted to the Auditor-General for the Federation under section 85 (3) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 29: Funds of the Institute.

The funds of the Institute shall include —

- (a) funds appropriated for the Institute by the National Assembly;
- (b) fees charged by and payable to the Institute in respect of students or trainees;
- (c) any other amounts due to or recoverable by the Institute;
- (d) revenue from time to time accruing to the Institute from the Federal Government by way of subvention, grant-in-aid, endowment or otherwise;
- (e) donations and legacies accruing to the Institute from any source for the special purposes of the Institute;
- (f) funds from commercialisation of the Institute's patented products; and
- (g) all returns on investment (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 29 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 30: Donation for particular purposes.

- (1) Donations of money to be applied to any particular purpose, shall be placed to the credit of a special reserve account approved by the Board, until such time as they may be expended in fulfillment of such purpose.
- (2) The Institute shall not be obliged to accept a donation for a particular purpose, until the Board approves the terms and conditions attached to such donation (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 30 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 31: Payment into bank.

All sums of money received on account of the Institute shall be paid into such bank as may be approved by the Board (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 31 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 32: Annual report and other reports.

The Board shall on or before 31st December in each year, prepare and submit to the Federal Executive Council through the Minister, a report of its activities during the preceding financial year and shall include management accounts of the Institute in respect of that financial year for the auditor's comments on the account (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 32 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART VIII — MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS**Clause 33: Power to make bye-laws.**

- (1) The Board may make bye-laws relating to any matter within its competence under this Bill other than matters for which provision is to be made by standing orders under paragraph 7 of the Schedule to this Bill.
- (2) All such bye-laws shall be in written form and shall take effect from the date when sealed with the seal of the Institute unless some other date for their commencement is prescribed in it.
- (3) Nothing in subsection (2) shall make it obligatory for the Board to publish any of the said bye-laws in the Federal Government Gazette, but the Board shall bring such bye-laws to the notice of all affected by it (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 33 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 34: Exclusion of discrimination on account of race, religion, etc.

No person shall be required to satisfy requirements as to any of the following matters, that is to say, race (including ethnic grouping), sex, place of birth or of family origin or religious or political persuasion or as a condition of becoming or continuing to be a student or trainee at the Institute or as a worker at the Institute, or a member of anybody established by virtue of this Bill, and no person shall be subjected to any disadvantage or accorded any advantage in relation to the Institute by reference to any of those matters:

Provided that nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing the Institute

from imposing any disability or restriction on any of the person, where such person willfully refuses or fails on grounds of religious belief, to undertake any duty generally and uniformly imposed on all such persons or any group of them which duty, having regard to its nature and the special circumstances pertaining to it, is in the opinion of the Institute, reasonably justifiable in the national interest (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 34 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 35: Quorum and procedure of bodies established under this Bill.

Subject to the provision of paragraph 6 (2) of the Schedule to this Bill and any standing orders or bye-laws made under this Bill, the quorum and procedure of anybody or persons established by this Bill, shall be such as determined by that body (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 35 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 36: Transfer of rights, etc.

All properties (movable and immovable) held by or on behalf of the Institute shall, as from the commencement of this Bill, vest in the Nigerian Institute of Leather and Science Technology (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 36 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 37: Obligations and liabilities.

- (1) Upon the commencement of this Bill the rights, interests, obligations and liabilities of the Institute existing immediately before the commencement of this Bill under any contract or instrument, or at law or in equity, shall by virtue of this Bill, be assigned to and vested in the Institute.
- (2) Any contract or instrument made under subsection (1) shall be of the same effect against or in favour of the Institute and shall be enforced effectively as if the Institute had been named in it or had been a party to it.
- (3) The Institute shall be subject to all the obligations and liabilities to which the Institute was subject immediately before the commencement of this Bill and all other persons shall, as from the commencement of this Bill, have the same rights, power and remedies against the Institute as they had against the Institute immediately before the commencement (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 37 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 38: Holders of office to continue in the Institute.

Where immediately before the commencement of this Bill, a person was a member or an employee of the Institute, that person shall by virtue of this Bill become a member or an employee of the Institute (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 38 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 39: Pending or existing proceedings or cause of action.

Any proceeding or cause of action pending or existing before the commencement of this Bill by or against the Institute may be commenced, continued or enforced by or against the Institute as it might have been against the Institute if this Bill had not been

passed (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 39 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 40: Vesting of assets.

All assets, funds, resources and other moveable or immoveable property which immediately before the commencement of this Bill were vested in the Institute existing before the commencement of this Bill shall, by virtue of this Bill, be vested in the Institute established by this Bill (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 40 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 41: Legal proceedings.

All causes of action by-or against the Institute shall be handled or prosecuted by the legal officers of the Institute or counsel from the Ministry or the Attorney-General of the Federation's office or an external legal practitioner to be recommended by the Legal Adviser of the Institute (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 41 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 42: Pre-action notice.

A pre-action notice of thirty days shall be served on the Institute before suing the Institute in any court of law (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 42 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 43: Recourse to court.

No staff of the Institute shall sue the Institute without first presenting his grievance before the Board of the Institute (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 43 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 44: Interpretation.

In this Bill —

"Research Board" means the Board established under section 19;

"Academic Board" means the Board established under section 20;

"Senior Staff Appointment, Promotion and Disciplinary Committee" means a body by that name established under paragraph 4 of the Schedule to this Bill;

"Junior Staff Appointment, Promotions and Disciplinary Committee" means a body that is set up under paragraph 5 of the Schedule to this Bill;

"Chairman" means Chairman of the Board appointed under section 4 of this Bill;

"Institute" means the Nigerian Institute of Leather and Science Technology, established under section 1 of this Bill;

"Board" means the Governing Board of the Institute established under section 4 of

this Bill (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

"member" means member of the Board appointed under section 4 of this Bill (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

"Minister" means the Federal Minister charged with responsibility for matters relating to science and technology; and (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

"Director-General" means chief executive officer of the Institute appointed under sections 12 of this Bill (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Director-General" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

Question that Clause 44 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 45: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Nigerian Institute of Leather and Science Technology Bill, 2022 (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 45 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

SCHEDULE

Sections 8, 16 (2) (a), 33 (1) and 35

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE BOARD

Tenure of Office of Members

1. (1) A member of the Board shall hold office for a term of two years beginning with the date on which he was appointed and shall be eligible for re-appointment for a further term of two years and he shall no longer be eligible for re-appointment.
- (2) Members of the Board holding office as specified in paragraph 1 (1) shall be paid remuneration or allowance in accordance with rates specified from time to time by the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission.
- (3) A member of the Board holding office as specified in subparagraph (1) may by notice in writing to the Minister, resign his office.
2. (1) Where a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Board, that vacancy 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.

- (2) The Board may act notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership or the absence of any member or that a person not entitled to do so, took part in its proceedings.

Committees

3. The Board may appoint one or more committees to which it may delegate any of its functions.
4. Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph 3, the Board shall appoint the Senior Staff Appointments, Promotions and Disciplinary Committee, which shall without prejudice to section 4 of this Bill —
 - (a) consist of a Chairman to be appointed by the Governing Board from members of the Board or Management Board and four other members which shall include representatives of the Unions and Director or Head of Legal Services; and
 - (b) be charged with the responsibility for making recommendations to the Board on the appointment of senior staff of the Institute, have a quorum of three members, and if the Chairman of the Committee is absent from any meeting of the Committee, the members present shall elect one of their members to act as Chairman for that particular meeting.
5. The Director-General shall appoint the Junior Staff Appointments, Promotions and Disciplinary Committee which shall consist of a Chairman and five other members including a representative of the relevant Union and shall have the powers set out in section 24 of this Bill.
6. The Director-General shall appoint staff to constitute the Student Disciplinary Committee which shall consist of the Dean of Student Affairs as the Chairman with six other members and the findings of this Committee shall be submitted to the Director-General for final decision.

Proceedings of the Council

7.
 - (1) The Board shall meet for the conduct of business at such times as the Chairman of the Board may appoint but shall meet at least every quarter of the year.
 - (2) The Chairman of the Board may at any time and shall at the request in writing of not less than four members of the Board, summon a meeting of the Board.
 - (3) Particulars of the business to be transacted shall be circulated to members with the notice of the meeting at least two weeks before the date of the meeting.
8. Where the Board desires to obtain the advice of any person on any particular matter, it may co-opt such a person as a member for a meeting whether or not expressly convened for the purpose of considering the particular matter; but no co-opted member shall be entitled to vote or shall count towards a quorum.
9.
 - (1) Every question put before the Board at a meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of the members present and voting.

- (2) The Chairman shall, at any meeting of the Board have a vote and in the case of an equality of votes, may exercise a casting vote.
 - (3) The Board may make standing orders with respect to the holding of meetings, the nature of notices to be given, the proceedings thereat, the keeping of minutes of such proceedings and the custody and production for inspection of such minutes.
 - (4) Any contract or instrument which if entered into by a person not being a body corporate, would not be required to be under seal, may in like manner be entered into or executed on behalf of the Board by the person generally, or specifically authorised by it for the purpose.
10. (1) The common seal of the Board shall not be used or fixed to any document except under a resolution duly passed at a properly constituted meeting of the Board and recorded in the minutes of such meeting.
- (2) The fixing of the seal of the Board shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman of the Board and some other members authorised generally or specifically by the Board to act for that purpose.
- (3) Any document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal of the Board shall be received in evidence and shall unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be executed.
11. Any member of the Board or of a Committee, who has a personal interest in any contract or arrangement entered into or proposed to be considered by the Board or a Committee, shall forthwith, disclose his interest to the Board and shall not vote on any question relating to such contract or arrangement (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to establish the Nigerian Institute of Leather and Science Technology in Zaria to provide full-time and part-time training and research in leather and leather products technology, polymer and environmental technology, science laboratory technology and other fields of study, and to make ancillary provisions with respect to the composition and membership of the Governing Board, appointment of the Director-General and other staff, students' discipline and supplemental matters (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Institute of Leather and Science Technology to Provide Global Competitive and Environmentally Friendly Technologies for Leather, Leather Products and Allied Industries; and for Related Matters (HB. 444) (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi 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 on a Bill for an Act to Establish Nigerian Institute of Leather and Science Technology to

provide global Competitive and Environmentally friendly Technologies for Leather, Leather Products Allied Industries; and for Related Matters (HB. 444) and approved Clauses 1- 45, the Schedule, 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.

- (iv) *A Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Commission for Refugees Act, Cap. N21, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons Act for the Management, Rehabilitation Return, Reintegration and Resettlement of Refugees, Migrants and Victims of Displacement; and for Related Matters (HB. 171) (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 National Commission for Refugees Act, Cap. N21, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons Act for the Management, Rehabilitation Return, Reintegration and Resettlement of Refugees, Migrants and Victims of Displacement; and for Related Matters (HB. 171)” (Hon. Onyejeocha Nkeiruka — Isuikwato/Umunneochi 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 REPEAL THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES ACT, CAP. N21, LAWS OF FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004, AND TO ENACT THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES, MIGRANTS AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS ACT, FOR THE MANAGEMENT, REHABILITATION, RETURN, REINTEGRATION AND RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES, MIGRANTS AND VICTIMS OF DISPLACEMENT; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 171)

PART I — OBJECTIVES AND APPLICATION

Clause 1: Objectives.

The objectives of this Bill shall be to —

- (a) safeguard the interest of Persons of Concern in Nigeria by ensuring that the sanctity of human persons is protected;
- (b) implement the —
 - (i) United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951,
 - (ii) Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, 1967,
 - (iii) Organisation of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa, 1969,
 - (iv) 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, and
 - (v) other treaties and conventions in relation to refugees, migrants,

asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons, which are ratified and domesticated by Nigeria (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 2: Application.

This Bill applies to matters relating to refugees, migrants, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

PART II — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES, MIGRANTS AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS, THE GOVERNING BOARD, FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE BOARD

Clause 3: Establishment of the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons.

- (1) There is established the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons ("the Commission").
- (2) The Commission —
 - (a) shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal;
 - (b) may sue or be sued in its corporate name; and
 - (c) may acquire, hold or dispose of any property, movable or immovable for the purpose of performing any of its functions under this Bill (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 4: The Governing Board of the Commission.

- (1) There is established for the Commission a Governing Board ("the Board").
- (2) The Board shall consist of the following members —
 - (a) a chairman;
 - (b) one representative each, not below the rank of a Director, from the —
 - (i) Federal Ministry responsible for matters relating to humanitarian affairs,
 - (ii) Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
 - (iii) Federal Ministry of Justice,
 - (iv) Office of the National Security Adviser,
 - (v) Nigeria Immigration Service,

- (vi) National Population Commission, and
 - (vii) National Human Rights Commission;
 - (c) two representatives of the association of Civil Society Organisations dealing with humanitarian matters; and
 - (d) the Federal Commissioner, who shall be the Secretary to the Board.
- (3) The Chairman and members of the Board shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister.
 - (4) The Chairman and members of the Board other than the Federal Commissioner shall hold office on part-time basis.
 - (5) Members of the Board shall be paid such allowances and benefits as may be approved by the appropriate Federal Government Agency.
 - (6) The supplementary provisions set out in the Schedule to this Bill shall apply with regard to the proceedings of the Board and other related matters (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 5: Tenure and removal of members of the Board from office.

- (1) Subject to section 3(4) of this Bill, members of the Board other than the Federal Commissioner shall hold office —
 - (a) for four years and no more; and
 - (b) on such terms and conditions as may be specified in their letters of appointment.
- (2) The Chairman may resign his appointment by notice in writing addressed to the President through the Minister.
- (3) A member of the Board shall cease to be a member, where such member —
 - (a) becomes of unsound mind;
 - (b) becomes bankrupt;
 - (c) is convicted of a felony or any offence involving fraud or dishonesty; or
 - (d) is guilty of serious misconduct in relation to the office.
- (4) A member of the Board may resign his membership by giving one month notice in writing or such other period as may be specified in his letter of appointment to the Chairman, who shall forward same to the Minister for onward transmission to the President.
- (5) An *ex-officio* member of the Board shall cease to be member of the Board, where the member ceases to hold office on the basis by which the member was appointed.

- (6) Where a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Board, the vacancy shall be filled by appointing a successor to represent the same interest and to hold office for the remainder of term of office of the predecessor (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 6: Functions and powers of the Board.

- (1) The Board shall —
- (a) formulate policy and guidelines for the Commission;
 - (b) monitor and ensure the implementation of policies and programmes of the Commission; and
 - (c) perform such other functions as may be necessary for the attainment of the objectives and efficient performance of the functions of the Commission under this Bill.
- (2) The Board shall have powers to —
- (a) approve rules and regulations relating to the appointment, promotion and discipline of staff of the Commission;
 - (b) regulate the proceedings of its meetings and make standing orders with respect to keeping of minutes of its proceedings, and such other matters as the Board may determine;
 - (c) liaise with the Commission to develop the requisite technical capacity, human and material resources to respond to internal displacement situations in Nigeria; and
 - (d) advise the Commission on any other issue relating to effective assistance and protection of Persons of Concern in Nigeria (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 7: Functions of the Commission.

- (1) The Commission shall —
- (a) advise the Federal Government through the Ministry on policy matters relating to Persons of Concern;
 - (b) protect and assist Persons of Concern and seek the collaboration of other appropriate MDAs for such protection and assistance;
 - (c) safeguard the welfare and humanitarian issues of migrants, protect and assist migrants and their families, including other nationals' resident in Nigeria, pursuant to the provisions of international conventions, protocols and treaties guiding the protection of rights and promotion of the welfare of migrants;
 - (d) provide a platform for the uniform administration of migration in Nigeria as a lead agency of stakeholders in the field of migration

- through the Consultative Committee established under section 28 of this Bill and in collaboration with the Ministry;
- (e) act as the lead agency for the formulation, review and implementation of national policy on migration in collaboration with the Ministry;
 - (f) work towards eliminating irregular migration and encourage orderly, safe and regular migration of Nigerians;
 - (g) ensure compliance with the provisions of relevant international treaties and Conventions in collaboration with appropriate agencies of government;
 - (h) register and make personal documentation of Persons of Concern;
 - (i) support State Governments in the creation and maintenance of an up-dated register of Persons of Concerns within their jurisdiction;
 - (j) liaise with donor agencies to promote their commitment for the development and funding of humanitarian interventions on a sustainable basis, targeting Persons of Concern;
 - (k) interface and sustain relationship with relevant government MDAs and where required, give necessary advice and capacity support towards meeting the needs of Persons of Concern;
 - (l) ensure that approaches for the protection and provision of assistance to Persons of Concern and their host communities are mainstreamed and integrated into government policies and programmes;
 - (m) undertake comprehensive multi-agency appraisal by using participatory assessment methodologies to identify threats to the rights of Persons of Concern and their host communities;
 - (n) carryout protection risks assessment, assistance gaps analysis and identify the resources and opportunities available and offered locally, nationally and internationally in relation to the protection and assistance of Persons of Concern;
 - (r) monitor and regularly review the implementation of protection mechanisms and assistance programmes targeted at Persons of Concern;
 - (s) identify and promote best practices in the management of camps of refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons by harmonising protection and assistance standards in camps, taking into consideration the host communities;
 - (t) facilitate the restoration of persons and communities displaced due to ecologically induced occurrences;
 - (u) develop and ensure compliance by Government, civil society organisations and humanitarian agencies workers, to guidelines, standard operating procedures and codes of conduct for working with various group of Persons of Concern, including women,

children, elderly, persons with disabilities and such other groups with special needs;

- (v) create humanitarian coordination sections to prescribe the composition and responsibility of each technical section in addition to or in modification of the sections recommended in the relevant national framework and policies on Persons of Concern;
- (w) develop standard procedures, in conjunction with relevant MDAs and Inter-Governmental or humanitarian agencies to return, re-admit and re-integrate, migrants in line with extant legal instruments;
- (x) ensure that internally displaced persons are protected during and after displacement, return or resettlement and reintegration subject to exit programmes of the Commission;
- (y) develop a policy framework to encourage and promote voluntary return of internally displaced persons to their respective homes or places of habitual residence or to resettle voluntarily in another part of the country with dignity; and
- (z) facilitate negotiation on and carryout voluntary repatriation of Nigerian refugees and irregular migrants to ensure their physical safety in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nigerian Immigration Service, National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, security agencies and other stakeholders.

(2) The Commission shall in addition to the provisions of subsection (1) of this section —

- (a) encourage and provide capacity building and skill acquisition through training programmes for refugees and migrants, who are being repatriated in order to be self-dependent and gainfully engaged upon their return;
- (b) collaborate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant agencies to negotiate and facilitate the implementation of bilateral agreements with nations repatriating Nigerian citizens, so as to provide adequate time for the deportees to secure, convey and wind-up their activities in the deporting countries, including the opportunity to arrange for banking and conclude financial transactions;
- (c) collaborate with other relevant agencies to negotiate the safe return of Nigerian migrants, where the host country has legitimate cause to return them or decided to voluntarily return;
- (d) in consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant agencies, put in place policies, standards and procedures for the return, readmission and reintegration of migrants in line with relevant international legal instruments.
- (e) ensure protection of the human rights of the returnees, especially in cases of mandatory return and honour international and regional co-operation in the area of return and readmission agreements;

- (f) in collaboration with other relevant agencies, be responsible for the repatriation of Nigerian refugees and ensure that repatriation, where required, is carried out in such a way as to ensure physical safety of the returnee;
 - (g) work with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure that return is done in a manner that respects the human rights, safety, dignity and honour of migrants in the process and actual phase of return;
 - (h) consider such other matters that the Minister may refer to it for recommendations; and
 - (i) do such other things as may be necessary for the performance of its functions under this Bill.
- (3) Where there is a large-scale influx of persons claiming to fall within the meaning of refugees under this Bill or massive internal displacement or in situations of mass return of deportees, the Commission shall, in consultation with other relevant stakeholders, provide emergency remedial measures and advise the Federal Government on the appropriate measures to be taken (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 8: Powers of the Commission.

The Commission shall have powers to —

- (a) set up appropriate advisory committees composed of administrative, technical and other experts in humanitarian, refugee, migration, internal displacement and development issues as may be necessary for the effective performance of its functions under this Bill;
- (b) delegate its powers to any specific person or committee and grant such person or Committee general or specific powers of sub-delegation; and
- (c) perform such other duties which in the opinion of the Commission are required for the effective performance of its functions under this Bill (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 9: Structure of the Commission.

The Commission may with the approval of the Board, establish such number of departments, offices and units as it may be necessary to facilitate the realisation of the objectives of the Commission (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

**PART III — APPOINTMENT OF THE FEDERAL
COMMISSIONER AND OTHER STAFF OF THE COMMISSION**

Clause 10: Appointment of the Federal Commissioner.

- (1) The President shall, on the recommendation of the Minister, appoint a Federal Commissioner for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons ("the Federal Commissioner"), who shall --

- (a) be the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission;
 - (b) be a person with at least 15 years working experience; and
 - (c) hold office for four years in the first instance and may be re-appointed for another four years and no more.
- (2) The Federal Commissioner shall —
- (a) grant refugee status to applicants on the recommendations of the Eligibility Committee established under section 14 of this Bill;
 - (b) represent the Commission and enter contract agreements on its behalf;
 - (c) ensure that the Commission provides adequate facilities and services for the reception and well-being of Persons of Concern;
 - (d) exercise and discharge such other powers and duties relating to refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons, as may be assigned to the Commission by the Board; and
 - (e) take such steps as may be necessary to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Bill in consultation with the Board (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 11: Appointment of other staff of the Commission.

- (1) The Commission shall, with the approval of the Board, appoint directly, on transfer or on secondment from the public service in the Federation, such other staff or employees as the Commission may consider necessary for the performance of its functions under this Bill.
- (2) The terms and conditions of service, including remuneration, allowances and benefits of the employees of the Commission shall be determined by the Board in consultation with the National Salaries, Incomes and Wages Commission (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 12: Staff Regulations.

- (1) The Board may, subject to the provisions of this Bill, make staff regulations relating generally to the conditions of service of the employees of the Commission and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, such regulations may provide for —
 - (a) the appointment, promotion and disciplinary control, of staff or employees of the Commission; and
 - (b) appeal by any staff or employee against any disciplinary measures.
- (2) Any instrument relating to the conditions of service of any officer in the Public Service of the Federation shall be applicable until the regulations referred to under subsection (1) of this section are made,

- (3) Staff regulations made under subsection (1) of this section shall not have effect until it is approved by the Minister (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 13: Service in the Commission.

- (1) Service in the Commission shall be approved service for the purposes of the Pension Reform Act, and accordingly, staff of the Commission shall be entitled to pensions and other retirement benefits as provided for in the Pension Reform Act.
- (2) Without prejudice to the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, nothing in this Bill shall prevent the appointment of a person to any office on conditions which preclude the grant of a pension, gratuity or other retirement benefits in respect of that office.
- (3) For the application of the provisions of the Pension Reform Act, any power exercisable by a Minister or other authority of the Government other than the power to make regulations under the Pension Reform Act is vested in and shall be exercisable by the Board and not by any other person or authority (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

PART IV — MANAGEMENT OF REFUGEES

Clause 14: Establishment of Eligibility Committee for Refugees.

- (1) There is established for the Commission the Eligibility Committee for Refugees ("the Eligibility Committee") which shall be under the supervision of the Federal Commissioner.
- (2) The Eligibility Committee shall consist of —
- (a) the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or his representative, not below the rank of a director, as the Chairman;
- (b) a representative of the following organisations, not below the rank of a Director —
- (i) Federal Ministry responsible for humanitarian affairs,
- (ii) Federal Ministry of Justice,
- (iii) Office of the National Security Adviser,
- (iv) Nigeria Immigration Service, and
- (v) National Human Rights Commission;
- (c) a representative of non-governmental organisations with relevant expertise in humanitarian affairs; and
- (d) a representative of the office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Nigeria, who shall be an observer.

- (3) The Eligibility Committee shall —
- (a) consider and process applications for refugee status and make appropriate recommendations on the application to the Federal Commissioner;
 - (b) consider cases for cancellation and revocation of refugee status that may be referred to it by the Federal Commissioner; and
 - (c) perform any other function as may be assigned to it by the Federal Commissioner or the Minister.
- (4) The Commission shall be the Secretariat for the Eligibility Committee (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha. — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 15: Refugees Appeal Board.

- (1) There is established for the Commission the Refugee Appeal Board ("the Appeal Board").
- (2) The Appeal Board shall —
 - (a) be constituted by the Minister in consultation with the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice; and
 - (b) consist of —
 - (i) a legal officer not below the rank of a director, as chairperson,
 - (ii) two other legal officers, who shall not be below the rank of an assistant director one of whom shall have requisite knowledge in international law, international human rights law or international comparative law, and
 - (iii) one person of repute and knowledgeable in refugee matters.
- (3) The representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Nigeria may be invited to participate in the proceedings of the Appeal Board and may be given an opportunity to make either oral or written representation on behalf of any person concerned in any appeal that is being heard by the Appeal Board.
- (4) The Appeal Board shall meet at least twice in a year at the instance of the Federal Commissioner or the Minister.
- (5) Subject to the provisions of section 21 of this Bill, the Appeal Board shall hear any appeal against the decisions of the Eligibility Committee on any case referred to it by the Minister or by the Federal Commissioner.
- (6) The Appeal Board shall give due consideration to any representation made by or on behalf of an appellant before giving its final decision on the appeal.
- (7) The Appeal Board shall invite an appellant for an oral interview and may allow such appellant to be represented by a legal practitioner of his choice, where so desired.

- (8) The Commission shall be the secretariat for the Appeal Board (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 16: Application for refugee status in Nigeria.

- (1) Application for the grant of refugee status shall be made —
- (a) directly to the Federal Commissioner; or
 - (b) through a competent officer or the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Nigeria to the Federal Commissioner.
- (2) The competent officer to whom a person seeking asylum or refugee status first appeared shall, where the person is not an immigration officer, promptly notify the Commission that a person seeking asylum or refugee status has entered into or is present in Nigeria.
- (3) The Eligibility Committee may invite an applicant to appear before it.
- (4) The recommendation of the Eligibility Committee shall be communicated in writing to the applicant by the Federal Commissioner.
- (5) Where the Eligibility Committee recommends that the applicant shall not be granted refugee status, it shall give reasons for its decision.
- (6) In the case of a refusal to grant refugee status, the applicant may appeal against the decision of the Eligibility Committee to the Appeal Board, within 30 days of being notified of the refusal.
- (7) Pursuant to this section and section 16 of this Bill, an applicant shall be allowed to remain in Nigeria while waiting for the final decision of the Appeal Board.
- (8) Where an applicant is refused refugee status by the Appeal Board, the applicant shall be given 30 days to seek admission as a refugee into another country (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 17: Prohibition of expulsion of refugees from Nigeria.

- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, a person who is a refugee within the meaning of this Bill shall not be refused entry into Nigeria, expelled, extradited or returned in any manner to the frontiers of any territory where —
- (a) the life or freedom is threatened on account of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular group or political opinion; and
 - (b) physical integrity and liberty may be threatened on account of external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disrupting public order in any part or the whole of that territory.

- (2) The provisions of subsection (1) shall not apply to a refugee who —
- (a) constitutes a threat to the security of Nigeria; or
 - (b) is convicted by a court or tribunal for committing any serious crime prohibited by any of the Conventions.
- (3) A person claiming to be a refugee within the meaning of this Bill, who has illegally entered into or is illegally present in Nigeria, shall not be expelled, extradited or returned merely by reason of illegal entry or presence in Nigeria or any part of Nigeria pending the determination of his application for a refugee status.
- (4) A person who has lawfully entered into or is lawfully present in Nigeria and wishes to remain in Nigeria on the grounds of being a refugee within the meaning of this Bill, shall not be compelled to leave Nigeria, unless such person has found another country of asylum (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 18: Residence in Nigeria pending recognition as refugee.

- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, any person who has applied under section 15 of this Bill for grant of refugee status and members of his family shall have the right to remain within Nigeria, until such person has —
- (a) been granted refugee status under this Bill; or
 - (b) had an opportunity to exhaust his right of appeal under section 15 of this Bill, where his application is not successful.
- (2) Where the person referred to in subsection (1) of this section has appealed under section 16 of this Bill and the appeal was not successful, the person shall, within 30 days from the date of determination of the appeal leave Nigeria for another country of his choice (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 19: Stay of proceedings in respect of illegal entry.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the Immigration Act, no proceedings shall be instituted or continued against a person or any member of his family in respect of unlawful entry into or unlawful presence within Nigeria, where the person —

- (a) applies under section 15 of this Bill for the grant of a refugee status, unless —
- (i) a decision has been made on the application, and
 - (ii) the applicant had an opportunity of exhausting his right of appeal under that section; or
- (b) has been granted refugee status (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 20: Residence in Nigeria of persons granted refugee status.

- (1) Subject to this Bill, a person who has been granted refugee status under this Bill and members of his family shall be —
 - (a) issued with an identity card in the form prescribed by the Minister charged with responsibility for matters relating to internal affairs;
 - (b) issued with residence permit;
 - (c) subject to the laws of Nigeria.
- (2) A refugee and members of his family lawfully staying in Nigeria shall be issued with the Travel Document, in accordance with Article 28 of the United Nations Refugees Convention and other relevant conventions to which Nigeria is a member (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 21: Withdrawal of refugee status.

- (1) The Federal Commissioner shall refer the matter to the Eligibility Committee, where there are reasonable grounds for believing that a person who has been granted a refugee status under this Bill —
 - (a) should not have been so granted; or
 - (b) has ceased to be a refugee.
- (2) Where a matter has been referred to the Eligibility Committee, it shall cause a written notice to be served on the person whose status as a refugee is under reconsideration —
 - (a) informing the person of the fact that his status as a refugee is to be reconsidered; and
 - (b) inviting the person to make written representations to it within 14 days from the date of service of the notice, in respect of his status as a refugee.
- (3) The Eligibility Committee shall consider every matter referred to it under subsection (1) of this section and enquire into or investigate the matter as it deems necessary.
- (4) After due consideration of advice or recommendation given or made by the Eligibility Committee in relation to any case referred to it under subsection (1) of this section, the Federal Commissioner —
 - (a) may withdraw the grant of refugee status; and
 - (b) shall cause the person concerned to be notified in writing of his decision on the matter (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 22: Right of appeal to the Minister.

- (1) A person who is aggrieved by the decision of the Federal Commissioner to revoke the grant of refugee status may, within seven days of being notified of the revocation, appeal in writing to the Minister.
- (2) In any appeal under subsection (1) of this section, the Minister may either confirm or set aside the decision of the Federal Commissioner and shall communicate his decision on the matter to the complainant.
- (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2) of this section, the Minister may, before reaching a decision on any appeal —
 - (a) invite the representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Nigeria to make oral or written representation on the matter;
 - (b) refer the matter back to the Eligibility Committee or the Appeal Board for further inquiry and investigation; or
 - (c) make such further inquiry or investigation into the matter as may be necessary.
- (4) Where the Federal Commissioner withdraws the grant of a refugee status under section 21 of this Bill, the refugee and any other person who became a refugee by virtue of being a member of his family, shall cease to be a refugee with effect from —
 - (a) seven days after being served the refugee status revocation notice by the Federal Commissioner; or
 - (b) the date on which the Minister confirms the decision of the Federal Commissioner.
- (5) The person or refugee referred to in subsection (4) of this section shall, within 30 days, leave Nigeria for another country of his choice.
- (6) A family member may apply for the grant of refugee status on the revocation of the principal grant (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 23: Benefits to family members of persons granted refugee status.

- (1) The Federal Commissioner and competent officers shall ensure that members of the family of a refugee —
 - (a) benefit from the same treatment as provided for refugees in this Bill; and
 - (b) are permitted to enter and remain in Nigeria as long as the refugee concerned is permitted to remain in Nigeria under this Bill.
- (2) Subject to section 20 of this Bill, a change in family status or ties resulting from marriage of the dependant family member, divorce or legal separation, death of the principal applicant or attainment of age of majority by a minor dependant shall not affect the refugee status of such family member (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 24: Rights and duties of a person granted refugee status.

A person granted refugee status in Nigeria is entitled to the rights and subject to the duties contained in the existing domesticated Conventions and Protocol relating to the status of refugee and such other conventions and protocols that Nigeria is a state party (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 25: Detention or expulsion of a refugee.

- (1) A refugee may be detained or expelled for reasons of national security or public order.
- (2) A refugee shall not be expelled pursuant to this section to a country where the refugee has a reasonable fear of persecution.
- (3) A refugee who has been notified of his expulsion may appeal to the Appeal Board or the Minister for reconsideration of the decision in accordance with sections 15 and 22 of this Bill (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 26: Assistance to refugee.

- (1) Subject to this Bill or any other law in Nigeria, the Federal Commissioner shall assist any refugee who has satisfied the criteria to achieve citizenship by naturalization, voluntary repatriation, integration or resettlement.
- (2) The Commission shall —
 - (a) develop procedures to be followed by any competent officer for the purposes of facilitating entry and residence in Nigeria of any refugee and members of his family;
 - (b) assist in the training of family members of refugees, particularly for unaccompanied children;
 - (c) seek cooperation with non-governmental organisations on matters relating to any refugee and his family members;
 - (d) give relief assistance to refugees while they are awaiting a final decision of the Appeal Panel or the Minister; and
 - (e) assist in seeking employment or education for any refugee and any member of his family (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

PART V — COORDINATION OF MIGRATION

Clause 27: National Consultative Committee on Migration.

- (1) There is established for the Commission, as the lead agency, the National Consultative Committee on Migration ("the Consultative Committee").

- (2) The Consultative Committee shall consist of the Solicitor-General of the Federation and Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Justice, as Chairman and a representative of each of the —
- (a) Federal Ministries responsible for —
 - (i) Humanitarian Affairs,
 - (ii) Foreign Affairs,
 - (iii) Interior,
 - (iv) Labour and Employment,
 - (v) Women Affairs and Social Development, and
 - (vi) Finance, Budget and National Planning;
 - (b) Office of the National Security Adviser;
 - (c) National Population Commission;
 - (d) National Bureau of Statistics;
 - (e) Nigeria Immigration Service;
 - (f) National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons;
 - (g) Small and Medium Scale Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria; and
 - (h) International Organisation for Migration in Nigeria, as an observer.
- (3) The Consultative Committee shall —
- (a) review and make necessary recommendations on the National Policy on Migration, from time to time;
 - (b) monitor and facilitate the implementation of bilateral agreements regarding migration;
 - (c) make recommendations to appropriate MDAs on situations where new bilateral agreements are required to ensure that repatriated Nigerians from abroad are treated humanely, fairly and ensure that their basic human rights are respected;
 - (d) suggest policies and guidelines to the appropriate MDAs on strategies for a well-managed labour migration issues that may be of benefits to Nigeria and reduce the adverse impact arising from the loss of skilled citizens;
 - (e) support the Commission to liaise with technical partners in implementing technical cooperation in identified areas of needs; and
 - (f) advise the Commission on general migration issues, ratification, domestication and implementation of relevant migration treaties, protocols and conventions.

- (4) The Commission shall provide a Secretariat for the Consultative Committee (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

PART VI — PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE
OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

Clause 28: Protection of internally displaced persons.

- (1) The Commission shall —
- (a) be responsible for the provision of durable solutions to internally displaced persons; and
 - (b) collaborate with other relevant MDAs, where desirable, for the provision of durable solutions.
- (2) The Commission shall have power to make Regulations and Guidelines for the implementation of durable solutions in Nigeria.
- (3) The Commission may in the discharge of its obligations, collaborate with relevant international organisations or agencies and civil society organisations in matters relating to internally displaced persons.
- (4) The Commission shall provide transitional protection programmes, such as —
- (a) advocacy to ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of Persons of Concern in camps and host communities;
 - (b) conduct peacebuilding initiatives in communities of return, relocation, and local integration;
 - (c) family reunification and family tracing;
 - (d) activation of social protection measures and safety;
 - (e) sensitisation of Persons of Concern including the host communities on their rights and reporting pathways and demand for accountability on human rights violations;
 - (f) issuance or re-issuance of documentation and facilitate provisions of remedies for internally displaced persons;
 - (g) conduct advocacy interventions for housing, land, and properties of internally displaced persons;
 - (h) training of protection monitors (PMs);
 - (i) interface and collaborate with Ministries, Departments, and Agencies with human rights mandate in Nigeria;
 - (j) collaborate with law enforcement agencies and conduct sensitization workshops, training, and seminars to mainstream human rights in counter-insurgency operations (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 29: Assistance to internally displaced persons.

(1) The Commission shall —

- (a) provide comprehensive packages including start-up grants for internally displaced persons who are returning, relocating or integrating locally based on the needs assessment;
- (b) ensure that internally displaced persons are provided with accurate detailed and up-to-date information in a language that they understand regarding the situation in the place of return, relocation or re-integration; and
- (c) designate official areas for the resettlement of internally displaced persons.

(2) The Commission shall —

- (a) monitor and ensure timely intervention and humanitarian support to communities towards finding lasting solutions to internal displacement issues in Nigeria and providing enabling environment for the participation of internally displaced persons in the decision-making processes affecting their lives;
- (b) engender effective cooperation and collaboration between the Commission and relevant humanitarian organisations providing interventions on internal displacement; and
- (c) receive and resolve complaints, petitions and grievances of internally displaced persons or their host communities as they relate to their safety, security and well-being.

(3) The Commission shall provide transitional solutions to internally displaced persons as a temporal measure to improve the living conditions of internally displaced persons pending the attainment of sustainable durable solutions in the area of health, education, non-food items, shelter, and psycho-social support, conduct peace building initiatives, sensitization, and any other livelihood support.

(4) The Commission shall employ both government and society based approach while conducting durable solutions, using the following principles:

- (a) rights-and needs-based;
- (b) government led;
- (c) participatory and community-based;
- (d) area based;
- (e) recognition of outstanding humanitarian needs;
- (f) collective and comprehensive interventions;
- (g) sensitivity to social inequalities caused by sex, age, disabilities and marginalization; and

- (h) sustainability.
- (5) The Commission shall —
- (a) promote and provide durable and sustainable solution for internally displaced persons as to their safety and dignity; and
- (b) respect an informed and voluntary decision of internally displaced persons and their right to return, locally integrate or resettle elsewhere in the country.
- (6) The Commission shall give consideration to the following indicators for applicable durable solutions —
- (a) long-term safety and security;
- (b) restoration and enjoyment of freedom of movement;
- (c) enjoyment of adequate standard of living without discrimination;
- (d) access to employment and livelihoods;
- (e) access to effective mechanisms to restore housing, land and property;
- (f) access to documentation;
- (g) family reunification and location of whereabouts of missing relative;
- (h) equal participation in public affairs; and
- (i) access to justice without discrimination.
- (7) The Commission may, where necessary, provide as part of the durable solutions, the following —
- (a) skill acquisition centers in IDP resettlement cities;
- (b) warehouses and other storage facilities for safe storage of food and non-food items;
- (c) post-traumatic stress disorder center;
- (d) primary health care centers and clinics to strengthen the host communities' facilities in the internally displaced person camps and resettlement cities;
- (e) reception centers for returnees and migrants;
- (f) emergency learning centers for internally displaced persons;
- (g) local integration packages; and

any other assistance that may be necessary to facilitate durable solutions for internally displaced persons (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 29 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART VII — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Clause 30: Fund of the Commission.

The Commission shall establish and maintain a Fund into which shall be paid —

- (a) such sums as may be appropriated to it by the Federal Government of Nigeria;
- (b) such intervention funds as may be provided by the Federal Government;
- (c) five percent of the Ecological Fund of Nigeria to be used for the rehabilitation of persons displaced by ecologically induced calamities;
- (d) donations, gifts or endowment from individuals, corporate entities, international donor agencies and other developmental partners; and
- (e) such other funds that may accrue to the Fund in connection with its functions under this Bill (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 30 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 31: Application of the Fund.

The Commission shall apply the proceeds of the Fund established pursuant to section 30 of this Bill to —

- (a) the cost of administration of the Commission;
- (b) the payment of salaries, remuneration, allowances, and other benefits payable to the members of the Board and the staff or employees of the Commission, as the case may be;
- (c) the payment for all consultancies, fees, contracts, including mobilization, fluctuations, variations and cost on contract administration; and
- (d) such other activities under this Bill (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 31 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 32: Annual estimates, accounts and audit.

- (1) The Commission shall not later than 30th September of each year, submit its estimates of income and expenditure for the next financial year to the Minister through the Board for approval.
- (2) The Commission shall —
 - (a) keep proper records of all accounts of its income and expenditure; and
 - (b) prepare the statement of account in respect of each financial year.
- (3) The Commission shall, not later than 30th June of each financial year, submit its accounts to auditors appointed from the list of qualified auditors

in accordance with guidelines laid down by the Auditor-General for the Federation (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 32 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 33: Annual report.

- (1) The Commission shall, not later than 30th June of each financial year, submit to the Minister, in respect of the preceding financial year, an annual report on the activities of the Commission in such form as the Board may direct.
- (2) The report referred to in subsection (1) of this section shall include —
 - (a) information on the activities of the Commission for the year;
 - (b) a copy of the audited accounts of the Commission for that year, together with the Auditor-General's report on the accounts of the Commission; and
 - (c) such other information as the Board may request (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 33 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 34: Power to accept gifts.

- (1) The Commission may accept any gift 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 Commission shall not accept any gift where the conditions attached by the person or organisation making the gift are inconsistent with the functions and objectives of the Commission.
- (3) Any gift or donation to the Commission for its project shall be made directly to the Commission and utilised only for the purpose for which it was made (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 34 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 35: Power to borrow.

The Commission may, with the approval of the Minister, borrow by way of overdraft or such sums, as it may require on such terms and conditions for the performance of its functions under this Bill (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 35 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART VIII — MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Clause 36: Power to make regulations.

The Commission may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations necessary for giving effect to the provisions of this Bill (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 36 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 37: Power to give directives to the Commission.

The Minister may give directives of a general character to the Commission relating to its policies and functions (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 37 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 38: Repeal of Cap. N21, LFN, 2004.

The National Commission for Refugees Act, Cap. N21, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 is repealed (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 38 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 39: Transitional and savings provisions.

- (1) Anything made or done or having effect before the commencement of this Bill by the National Commission for Refugees, which has any resulting or continuing effect, shall be treated as from the commencement of this Bill, as if it were made or done by the Commission.
- (2) From the commencement of this Bill, any staff or officer who immediately before the commencement of this Bill, holds office in the National Commission for Refugees, existing before the commencement of this Bill, is deemed to have been transferred to the Commission, established under this Bill on such terms and conditions no less favourable than those obtained immediately before the commencement of this Bill.
- (3) Service or employment in the Commission is deemed to be service or employment in the Commission established under this section (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 39 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 40: Interpretation.

In this Bill —

"Chairman" means Chairman of the Governing Board established under section 4 of this Bill (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

"Competent officer" means immigration officer, customs officer, police officer, liaison officer of the Commission, or any other relevant security officer (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Competent officer" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Country of nationality" in relation to a person who has more than one nationality, means each of the countries of which that person is a national (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Country of nationality" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Durable solutions" means a situation where internally displaced persons no longer have specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and such persons can enjoy their human rights without discrimination resulting from their displacement (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Durable solutions" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Ecologically induced calamities" means catastrophic events, environmental disasters, biological hazards, natural hazards, or disasters (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Ecologically induced calamities" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Emigrant and immigrant" refer respectively to migrants from the perspective of the country of origin or departure and the country of destination or settlement (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Emigrant and immigrant" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Frontier" means land-frontier, sea-frontier, port, or airport of entry (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

"Internal displacement" means the involuntary or forced movement, evacuation, or relocation of persons or group of persons within recognised State borders (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Internal displacement" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Internally displaced persons" are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed any of Nigeria's internationally recognised borders (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Internally displaced persons" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"IDPs" means internally displaced persons (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the abbreviation "IDPs" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"MDAs" means Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the abbreviation "MDAs" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Members of the Board" include the Chairman (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

"Members of the family" in relation to a refugee means spouse or spouses, unmarried children under the age of maturity, and any other relative of the refugee, migrant, or an internally displaced person who is dependent on him (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Members of the family" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Migrant" means a person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a state away from his habitual residence regardless of the person's legal status or whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

"Minister" means Minister responsible for matters relating to humanitarian affairs (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

"Ministry" means Ministry responsible for matters relating to humanitarian affairs (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

"Persons of Concern" means refugees, asylum seekers, returnees, stateless persons, migrants, Nigerian migrants abroad, internally displaced persons, or such other persons affected by voluntary or involuntary displacement or migration (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Persons of Concern" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"President" means the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

"Refugee" means a person who falls within the definition provided by —

- (a) Article 1 of the 1951 United Nations Convention;
- (b) Article 1 of the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugee; and
- (c) Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee-Problems in Africa (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

"State" means any State in Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory as enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended); and (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

"State Governments" means institutions, agencies, and machinery of government within the constitutionally recognized States of the Federation, including the Federal Capital Territory of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "State Governments" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

Question that Clause 40 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 41: Short Title.

This Bill may be cited as the National Commission for Refugees, Migrant and Internally Displaced Persons Bill, 2022 (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 41 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

SCHEDULE

[Section 4 (6)]

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE BOARD OF THE COMMISSION, ETC.

Proceedings of the Board

1. (1) Subject to this Bill and section 27 of the interpretation Act, the National Council may make standing orders regulating its proceedings or those of any of its committees.
- (2) The quorum of the Board shall be the Chairperson or person presiding at the meeting, the Federal Commissioner, and one-third of the other members of the Board.
- (3) The quorum of any Committee of the Commission shall be as determined by the Board.
- (4) The Board shall meet not more than four times each year or whenever it is summoned by the Chairman or where the Chairman is required to do so by notice

given by not less than four other members to summon a meeting of the Board to be held within twenty-eight days from the date the notice is given.

- (5) The particulars of the business to be transacted at any meeting shall be circulated to the members with the notice of the meeting.
- (6) 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 them to preside at the meeting.
- (7) The Board may, at any time, co-opt any person to act as an adviser at any of its meetings, but such co-opted person is not entitled to vote at any meeting or count towards a quorum.
- (8) All matters arising at a meeting of the Board shall be decided by a simple majority of the votes cast by members present and voted at the meeting, each member shall have one vote.
- (9) In the event of an equality of votes, the person presiding at the meeting shall have a casting vote.

Committees

2. (1) The Board may set up one or more Committees to perform, on behalf of the Board, such functions as the Board may determine.
- (2) A Committee set up 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 is of no effect until it is confirmed by the Board.

Miscellaneous

3. (1) The validity of any proceeding of the Board or of a committee shall not be 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) the reason that a person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings of the Board or committee.
- (2) Any member of the Board or any person holding an office on a committee of the Board, who has a personal interest in any contract or arrangement made or proposed to be made shall disclose such interest to the Board and shall not-
 - (a) take part in any deliberation or vote after such disclosure, in any matter relating to the contract or arrangement; or
 - (b) be counted to constitute a quorum under this paragraph and the minutes of the disclosure made under this paragraph shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the Board or such committee.
- (3) The fixing of the seal of the Commission shall be authenticated by the signature of

the Chairman and Secretary or any person generally or specifically authorised by the Board to act for that purpose.

- (4) Any document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal of the Commission shall be received in evidence and shall, unless and until the contrary is proved, be presumed to be so executed (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill repeals the National Commission for Refugees Act, Cap. N21, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, and enacts the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons Act, to provide a framework for the management, rehabilitation, return, reintegration and resettlement of victims of displacement, migrants, refugees and other Persons of Concern (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Commission for Refugees Act, Cap. N21, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, and to Enact the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons Act, for the Management, Rehabilitation, Return, Reintegration and Resettlement of Refugees, Migrants and Victims of Displacement and for Related Matters (HB. 171) (*Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunneochi 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 on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Commission for Refugees Act, Cap. N21, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons Act for the Management, Rehabilitation Return, Reintegration and Resettlement of Refugees, Migrants and Victims of Displacement; and for Related Matters (HB. 171) and approved Clauses 1- 41, the Schedule, 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.

24. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 7 December, 2022 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Onyejeocha Nkeiruka — Isuikuato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.32 p.m.

Ahmed Idris
Deputy Speaker

