



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 14 June, 2023

1. The House met at 11.32 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 13 June, 2023.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Messages**

Mr Speaker ordered the transmission of the following messages:

- (a) (1) To the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:
 - (i) That a message be conveyed to the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria informing that Body, that the House had assembled on Tuesday, 13 June, 2023 with quorum formed, and that Hon. Tajudeen Abbas, representing Zaria, Federal Constituency of Kaduna State was elected the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
 - (ii) That a message be conveyed to the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria informing that Body, that the House had assembled on Tuesday, 13 June, 2023 with quorum formed, and that Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu representing Bende Federal Constituency of Abia State was elected the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (2) To the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

- (i) That the Clerk to the National Assembly do notify the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; that the House had assembled on Tuesday, 13 June, 2023 with quorum formed, and that Hon. Tajudeen Abbas, representing Zaria Federal Constituency of Kaduna State was elected the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (ii) That the Clerk to the National Assembly do notify the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria that the House had assembled on Tuesday, 13 June, 2023 with quorum formed and that Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu representing Bende Federal Constituency of Abia State was elected the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
- (iii) That the Clerk to the National Assembly do advise the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) to inform the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria that the House had assembled, Quorum formed and is ready to receive any message he may wish to transmit.

5. Petition

A petition from Cyril Nkaungwung and 4 others, on behalf of Idaa Obolo Assembly of Eastern Obolo, Ibeno and Mbo Local Government Areas of Akwa Ibom State, on the ongoing re-mapping agenda of Akwa Ibom State Government which will deny the communities of their full rights and benefits as Host Communities as contained in the Petroleum Industry Act, 2021, was presented and laid by Hon. Abiante Awaji Inombek Dagomie (*Andoni/Opobo Federal Constituency*).

Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

- (i) *Need to Commence Active Measures to Mitigate the Probable Devastation of a Severe Flood Season and prepare Palliative Intervention to Prevent the worst Socio-Economic Consequences for Nigerians in the Affected Areas:*

The House:

Notes that a large portion of the country from North to South, East to West is prone to annual destructive flooding incidents which recurring events have, in recent years, increased significantly in severity and the extent of the devastation of lives and property;

Also notes that in January 2023, the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) released the seasonal climate prediction with a forecast of early onset of rain across the country and heavy rains throughout the season, prediction of which has already come to pass, with the forecast of a heavy rainy season soon to come to fruition;

Concerned that the 2023 Annual Flood Outlook by the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency shows that One Hundred and Seventy-Eight (178) Local Government Areas in thirty-two (32) States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory fall within the highly probable flood risk areas;

Aware that Nigeria is yet to recover from the 2022 flood, which affected more than 4 million Nigerians, displaced over two million people, caused the death of six hundred and sixty-five (665) people, damaged about three hundred and fifty-five

thousand nine hundred and eighty-six (355,986) houses and homesteads and destroyed an estimated total of nine hundred and forty-four thousand, nine hundred and eighty-nine thousand (944,989) hectares of farmland;

Also aware that the experience of the 2022 flood caused the Federal Government of Nigeria to constitute a Presidential Committee to develop a comprehensive Plan of Action for Preventing Flood Disasters in Nigeria, proposing structural and non-structural measures, land and water management systems and better coordination amongst stakeholders across the Federal and State Governments to ensure effective flood management in Nigeria;

Convinced that with sufficient preparation and collaboration between the Federal and State Governments, we can mitigate the loss of life and the socio-economic hardships caused by these recurring flooding events;

Cognizant of the need for the Federal Government and the State Governments to commence active measures to mitigate the probable devastation of a Severe Flood Season and prepare palliative and intervention measures to prevent the worst Socio-economic consequences for Nigerians in the affected areas.

Resolves to:

- (i) invite the Director-General of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the Director-General, Nigerian Meteorological Agency and the Federal Ministry of Environment to brief the Leadership of the House on the measures in place to mitigate flood disasters and manage the socio-economic impact on the citizens resident in the flood-prone areas;
- (ii) liaise with the relevant Agencies of the Government to ensure the relocation of Nigerians from the most flood-prone areas;
- (iii) ensure the Executive Arm of Government stockpiles sufficient quantities of temporary shelter materials, food and nutrition items and medicine to support people in flood-prone areas;
- (iv) encourage communication between the Federal Government of Nigeria and the State Governments to ensure effective collaboration to prevent the worst outcomes in flood-prone areas (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — Surulere I Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert a new Prayer (v) as follows:*
"Urge the Secretary to the Government of the Federation to forward the 2022 Report on flood disaster in the country by the Presidential Committee for the Development of Comprehensive Plan of Action to Prevent Flood Disasters in Nigeria" (*Hon. Sada Soli — Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert a new Prayer (vi) as follows:*

Commends His Excellency, the Governor of Bauchi State, Sen. Abdulkadir Bala Mohammed for quick response and directive to the State Emergency Agency (SEMA) to provide relief materials to the victims of the disaster;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to assess the level of damage and urgently provide relief materials to the affected victims and assist in rehabilitating them;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Environment and other Government Agencies that are saddled with the responsibility of windstorm, flood and erosion control to provide permanent solution;
- (iii) also urge the North East Development Commission (NEDC) to provide relief materials to the victims, design and construct drainage where necessary (*Hon. Aliyu Bappa Misau — Misau/Daifari Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 02/06/2023).



Motion referred to the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, and North East Development Commission (NEDC) (when constituted), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

7. Resignation

Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila (*Surulere I Federal Constituency*):

Rep. Femi Gbajabiamila, CFR
Member Representing Surulere I Federal Constituency, Lagos State

Wednesday, 14th June, 2023

Rep. Tajudeen Abbas, PhD
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
National Assembly,
Abuja.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION

I write to tender my resignation as a member of the 10th House of Representatives

As you are aware, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, has asked that I join his administration as Chief of Staff in the Presidency. After my long service in the House of Representatives, I have agreed to serve in this new capacity.

Serving in the House of Representatives has been a great honour for which I remain eternally grateful to God, the good people of Surulere, Lagos and Nigeria, and all those who have supported my political journey in different ways over the last twenty years.

I thank all of those who, in various ways, have made my time in the House memorable and

productive. I especially thank my colleagues in the 9th House of Representatives for electing me as their Speaker and supporting me throughout my time in office. May God bless and keep you all.

I congratulate you on your election as the Speaker of the 10th House of Representatives. As you resume this new role at this critical moment in our nation's history, rest assured of my support and best wishes.

Please accept the assurance of my highest regard.

(Signed)

Rep. Femi Gbajabiamila, CFR
*Member of the House of Representatives,
Surulere I Federal Constituency*

8. NOTIFICATION OF VACANCY IN THE SEAT OF SURULERE I FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY, HELD BY HON. FEMI HAKEEM GBAJABIAMILA

This is to notify Honourable Members of the House of Representatives, pursuant to Section 68 (1) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, that the Seat of Surulere I Federal Constituency of Lagos State held by Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila has become vacant.

2. *This vacancy is as a result of his resignation on 14th June, 2023, which was announced in the House Plenary on 14th June, 2023. He was a Member of the All Progressives Congress (APC).*

3. *This notification is in fulfillment of Section 68 (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, and for the records.*

(Signed)

Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas

9. Need to Implement Palliative Measures to Mitigate the Effects of Fuel Subsidy Removal on Nigerians

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that on Monday, 29 May, 2023, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in his inaugural speech, announced the removal of Nigeria's fuel subsidy;

Also notes that as a result of the subsidy removal, the official pump price of petrol skyrocketed from the initial ₦195 per litre to a whopping ₦480-₦577 per litre as the prices varied between States;

Concerned that the implication of over 200 per cent price adjustment in fuel prices is that nearly all prices of goods and services have drastically increased;

Also concerned that the sudden fuel subsidy removal has left millions of Nigerians terrified, thus causing untold hardship as Nigerians grapple with the challenges of meeting up with, not only the high cost of petrol but also the consequent increase in the prices of goods and services;

Aware that in response to the resulting financial strain of the subsidy removal on public workers, some proactive State Governments introduced temporary measures to alleviate the situation by reducing work days from five to three days per week for the State-employed workers pending when other sustainable palliatives can be provided;

Also aware that the Nigeria Labour Congress and the Trade Union Congress recently suspended a planned strike over the removal of fuel subsidy in the hopes that the Federal Government would address its adverse effects on workers;

Further aware of a Presidential directive to put palliative measures in place to ameliorate the impact of subsidy removal on Nigerians;

Worried that the Federal Government is yet to provide palliative measures to mitigate the impact of the subsidy removal on Federal Government workers;

Also worried that since the removal of the subsidy, several protests have been recorded as citizens accuse the government of being insensitive to their needs;

Cognizant of the need to put in place measures to protect the rights of citizens and prioritize the provision of palliatives to mitigate the challenges that have arisen from the fuel subsidy removal and ensure a more sustainable and inclusive economic framework for the benefit of Nigerians;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to, as a matter of urgency, implement palliative measures to mitigate the effects of fuel subsidy removal on Nigerian citizens;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance and report within two (2) weeks (*Hon. Sani Aliyu Madaki — Dala Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on Monday, 29 May, 2023, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in his inaugural speech, announced the removal of Nigeria's fuel subsidy;

Also noted that as a result of the subsidy removal, the official pump price of petrol skyrocketed from the initial ₦195 per litre to a whopping ₦480-~~₦577~~ per litre as the prices varied between States;

Concerned that the implication of over 200 per cent price adjustment in fuel prices is that nearly all prices of goods and services have drastically increased;

Also concerned that the sudden fuel subsidy removal has left millions of Nigerians terrified, thus causing untold hardship as Nigerians grapple with the challenges of meeting up with, not only the high cost of petrol but also the consequent increase in the prices of goods and services;

Aware that in response to the resulting financial strain of the subsidy removal on public workers, some proactive State governments introduced temporary measures to alleviate the situation by reducing work days from five to three days per week for the State-employed workers pending when other sustainable palliatives can be provided;

Also aware that the Nigeria Labour Congress and the Trade Union Congress recently suspended a planned strike over the removal of fuel subsidy in the hopes that the Federal Government would address its adverse effects on workers;

Further aware of a Presidential directive to put palliative measures in place to ameliorate the impact of subsidy removal on Nigerians;

Worried that the Federal Government is yet to provide palliative measures to mitigate the impact of the subsidy removal on Federal Government workers;

Also worried that since the removal of the subsidy, several protests have been recorded as citizens accuse the government of being insensitive to their needs;

Cognizant of the need to put in place measures to protect the rights of citizens and prioritize the provision of palliatives to mitigate the challenges that have arisen from the fuel subsidy removal and ensure a more sustainable and inclusive economic framework for the benefit of Nigerians;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to, as a matter of urgency, implement palliative measures to mitigate the effects of fuel subsidy removal on Nigerian citizens;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance and report within two (2) weeks (HR. 03/06/2023).

10. **Need for the Control of Persistent Gully Erosion along Ugwuonyeama 9th Mile Federal road in Enugu North and Udi Local Government Areas**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House

Notes that the ravaging effect of gully erosion on the Ugwuonyeama 9th Mile Road in Enugu North and part of Udi Local Government Areas;

Also notes the strategic importance of the Ugwuonyeama 9th Mile Road to the economy of the South East States in particular and the country, in general, cannot be under-estimated as the road enables traders to transport goods to markets within and to neighbouring States and serves as a route to Enugu State, the commercial city in South East;

Further notes that the adverse effects of erosion on these roads have long been ignored and if not checked may cut off access to other States within the South East;

Worried that Ugwuonyeama 9th Mile Road has remained a death trap resulting in loss of lives, goods and services worth millions of Naira on a daily basis due to frequent accidents on the bad portions of the road yet to be completed;

Cognizant of the provisions of Section 2 (1) and (2) of the National Environmental (Soil Erosion and Flood Control) Regulations, 2011, on the objectives of the Regulations which protect human life and environment;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to complete the reconstruction of Ugwuonyeama 9th Mile Road to prevent its total collapse;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Environment and other relevant agencies to take a holistic approach in containing the gully erosion menace, particularly Ugwuonyeama 9th Mile, Enugu State;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Environment, Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) and Works (*when constituted*) to investigate the threat posed by gully erosion along Ugwuonyeama 9th Mile Road in Enugu State and recommend long term solution (*Hon.*

Chimaobi Sam Atu — Enugu North/Enugu South Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert a new Prayer (iv), as follows “urge the Ecological Fund Office to find lasting solution to the gully erosion at Ugwuanyeama 9th Mile Federal Road in Udi Local Government of Enugu State” (Hon. Chinedu Emeka Martins — Ahiazu Mbaise/Ezinihitte Federal Constituency).*

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Leave out Prayer (iii) (Hon. Abiante Awaji-Inombek Dagomie — Andoni/Opobo Federal Constituency).*

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) *In Prayer (ii), immediately after the words “Enugu State”, insert the words, “Isu Njaba gully erosion in Isu Local Government Area and the Nkwommiri gully erosion in Nwangele Local Government Area all in Imo State” (Hon. Ugoma Ozurigbo — Isu/Njaba/Nkwere/Nwangele Federal Constituency).*

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

- (iv) *Insert a Prayer (iv), immediately after the words “Geopolitical Zone”, insert the words “and any other area in Nigeria that gully erosion may currently be affected” (Hon. Jimbo Ernest Clement — Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency).*

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House

Noted that the ravaging effect of gully erosion on the Ugwuonyeama 9th Mile Road in Enugu North and part of Udi Local Government Areas;

Also noted the strategic importance of the Ugwuonyeama 9th Mile Road to the economy of the South East States in particular and the country, in general, cannot be under-estimated as the road enables traders to transport goods to markets within and to neighbouring States and serves as a route to Enugu State, the commercial city in South East;

Further noted that the adverse effects of erosion on these roads have long been ignored and if not checked may cut off access to other States within the South East;

Worried that Ugwuonyeama 9th Mile Road has remained a death trap resulting in loss of lives, goods and services worth millions of naira on a daily basis due to frequent accidents on the bad portions of the road yet to be completed;

- * Cognizant of the provisions of Section 2 (1) and (2) of the National Environmental (Soil Erosion and Flood Control) Regulations, 2011, on the objectives of the Regulations which protect human life and environment;*

Resolved to:

- (i) *urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency*

(FERMA) to complete the reconstruction of Ugwuonyeama 9th Mile Road to prevent its total collapse;

(ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Environment and other relevant agencies to take a holistic approach in containing the gully erosion menace, particularly Ugwuonyeama 9th Mile, Enugu State;

(iii) urge the Ecological Fund Office to find lasting solution to the gully erosion at Ugwuonyeama 9th Mile Federal Road in Udi Local Government of Enugu State (HR. 04/06/2023).

11. **Adjournment**

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 15 June, 2023 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — Doguwa/Tudun Wada Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.54 p.m.

Tajudeen Abbas
Speaker

CORRIGENDUM

In the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 13 June, 2023, item 2:

(i) page 2, ANAMBRA STATE, leave out No. 1 and insert as follows:

“1. Okafor Dominic Ifeanyi Aguata

APGA”

(ii) page 8, OGUN STATE, leave out No. 9 and insert as follows:

“9. Onanuga Adewunmi Oriyomi Ikenne/Shagamu/Remo North

APC”

Tajudeen Abbas
Speaker

