



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 16 November, 2023

1. The House met at 10.40 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 Wednesday, 15 November, 2023.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Oaths of Allegiance and Membership**
A Member-elect, Alexander Mascot Ifeanyi Ikwechegh (*Aba North/Aba South Federal Constituency*), took and subscribed the Oaths of Allegiance and Membership as prescribed by law.
5. **Admittance into the Chamber**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House, pursuant to Order Twenty-One, Rule 8 (2) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives, do admit into the Chamber, the Chief of Defence Staff, Chief of Army Staff, Chief of Naval Staff, Chief of Air Staff, Inspector General of Police and their entourage for the purpose of Sectoral Debate on Security" (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

6. **Petitions**
 - (i) A petition from Umar Abba, on his alleged unlawful arrest by National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), was presented and laid by Hon. Umar Shehu Ajilo (*Makarfi/Kudan Federal Constituency*);
 - (ii) A petition from Raymond Asada, on alleged stagnation of appointment by the Management of Bank of Agriculture, was presented and laid by Hon. Billy Osawaru (*Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode Federal Constituency*);

- (iii) A petition from Jacob S. Zarma, on alleged trespass and sale of his landed property by Abdul Rahman Tanko and 2 others of Works Department, Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna State, was presented and laid by Hon. Chris Nkwonta (*Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency*);
- (iv) A petition from Murtala Sani Licki and two others, on alleged wrongful appointment of Hawa'u Gimbiye Murtala Abdulkarim as substantive Provost of Federal College of Education (Technical), Gusau, Zamfara State by the Management, was presented and laid by Hon. Ibe Okwara Osonwa (*Arochukwu/Ohafia Federal Constituency*);
- (v) A petition from A. E. Adole & Co., on behalf of Ese Osabuohien Imasuen, on alleged unlawful freezing of his bank accounts by Zenith Bank, was presented and laid by Hon. Ojuawo Rufus Adeniyi (*Ekiti South West/Ikere/Ise Orun Federal Constituency*);
- (vi) The following petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Paul Sunday Nnamchi (*Enugu East/Isi-Uzo Federal Constituency*):
 - (a) Chukwuyem Okoh, on alleged stoppage of his salary by Sall Associates Limited/Chemonics International;
 - (b) Awopetu Adeyinka, on the termination of his appointment by Polaris Bank.

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

Establishment of an Inland Dry Port at Emene, Enugu State:

Hon. Paul Sunday Nnamchi (*Enugu East/Isi-Uzo Federal Constituency and 14 Others*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Establishment of an Inland Dry Port at Emene, Enugu State:

The House:

Notes that Inland Dry Port refers to a secure inland intermodal terminal or location for handling temporary storage, inspection and customs clearance of freight moving hinterland under international trade, by any mode of transport such as road, railways or airports;

Aware that Emene, Enugu, was the former regional capital of the Southeastern part of Nigeria, hosting industrial layouts like Anambra Motor Manufacturing Company, EMENITE Aluminium, Sunrise Flour Mills, Eastern Plastics, NIGERSTEEL, NNPC Depot, International passenger/Cargo Airport, including Railway lines;

Also aware that Emene has an existing infrastructure, such as Customs and Immigration offices, proximity to Nigerian Army (82 Division), Air Force base, Transportation hubs, Oil and Military establishments, which contribute significantly to the economic and strategic development of the area;

Acknowledges that Emene is very strategic in fostering economic growth, industrial development, and regional connectivity and enjoys proximity to the Southern and Northern Regions;

Cognizant that currently, the lack of a major inland port in Enugu, is hindering the region's potentials for efficient and cost-effective transportation of goods and speedy delivery of services;

Observes that the undue bureaucratic delays in clearing and forwarding processes in Nigerian major ports can be reduced with an Emene, Enugu Inland Dry Port due to its vast inter-state trade connectivity web, seamless transport logistics;

Also observes that the abundance and availability of solid minerals in Enugu and some parts of South Eastern Nigeria, like Coal, Limestone, Lead/Zinc and abundant agricultural produce among others, can increase revenue and create employment opportunities for the government through the inland dry port;

Recognizes that the need for urgent establishment of an inland dry port at Emene, Enugu, will enhance trade relations, agricultural investments, supply chains and diversified economic cooperation in the South East region;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to consider the urgent need for the establishment of an inland dry port at Emene, Enugu, as a means of increasing revenue and GDP of our country;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Ports and Harbours to liaise with the management of Nigeria Ports Authority to come up with a workable modality that will ensure speedy establishment of an inland port at Emene, Enugu, as soon as possible;
- (iii) also mandate the Committees on Ports and Harbours, and Legislative Compliance to monitor and expedite necessary actions for the successful implementation of this resolution and report within three (3) weeks (*Hon. Paul Nnamchi — Enugu East/Isi-Uzo Federal Constituency and Fourteen Others*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Inland Dry Port refers to a secure inland intermodal terminal or location for handling temporary storage, inspection and customs clearance of freight moving hinterland under international trade, by any mode of transport such as road, railways or airports;

Aware that Emene, Enugu, was the former regional capital of the Southeastern part of Nigeria, hosting industrial layouts like Anambra Motor Manufacturing Company, EMENITE Aluminium, Sunrise Flour Mills, Eastern Plastics, NIGERSTEEL, NNPC Depot, International passenger/Cargo Airport, including Railway lines;

Also aware that Emene has an existing infrastructure, such as Customs and Immigration offices, proximity to Nigerian Army (82 Division), Air Force base, Transportation hubs, Oil and Military establishments, which contribute significantly to the economic and strategic development of the area;

Acknowledged that Emene is very strategic in fostering economic growth, industrial development, and regional connectivity and enjoys proximity to the Southern and Northern Regions;

Cognizant that currently, the lack of a major inland port in Enugu, is hindering the region's potentials for efficient and cost-effective transportation of goods and speedy delivery of services;

Observed that the undue bureaucratic delays in clearing and forwarding processes in Nigerian major ports can be reduced with an Emene, Enugu Inland Dry Port due to its vast inter-state trade connectivity web, seamless transport logistics;

Also observed that the abundance and availability of solid minerals in Enugu and some parts of South Eastern Nigeria, like Coal, Limestone, Lead/Zinc and abundant agricultural produce among others, can increase revenue and create employment opportunities for the government through the inland dry port;

Recognized that the need for urgent establishment of an inland dry port at Emene, Enugu, will enhance trade relations, agricultural investments, supply chains and diversified economic cooperation in the South East region;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to consider the urgent need for the establishment of an inland dry port at Emene, Enugu, as a means of increasing revenue and GDP of our country;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Ports and Harbours to liaise with the management of Nigeria Ports Authority to come up with a workable modality that will ensure speedy establishment of an inland port at Emene, Enugu, as soon as possible;
- (iii) also mandate the Committees on Ports and Harbours, and Legislative Compliance to monitor and expedite necessary actions for the successful implementation of this resolution and report within three (3) weeks (HR. 369/11/2023).

8. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (HB.907).
- (2) Federal Cancer Research and Treatment Centre, Kaduna, Kaduna State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.908).
- (3) Federal Cancer Research and Treatment Centre, Owerri, Imo State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.909).
- (4) Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skill Acquisition, Surulere, Lagos State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.910).
- (5) Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skill Acquisition, Bauchi, Bauchi State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.911).
- (6) Federal Colleges of Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.912).
- (7) Restitution of Damaged Public Property (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.913).
- (8) University Teaching Hospitals (Reconstruction of Board, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.914).
- (9) Federal College for Adult and Non-formal Education, Maru, Zamfara State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.915).

- (10) Federal College of Nursing and Health Technology, Kotorkoshi, Zamfara State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.916).
- (11) Border Communities Development Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.917).
- (12) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (HB.918).
- (13) Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention etc) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 919).
- (14) Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.920).
- (15) Tribunal of Inquiry Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.921).
- (16) Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.922).
- (17) Electoral Offences Commission and Tribunal (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.923).
- (18) Companies and Allied Matters Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.924).
- (19) National Price Control Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.925).
- (20) Public Order Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.926).
- (21) Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skill Acquisition, Illela, Sokoto State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.927).
- (22) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (HB.928).
- (23) Child's Right Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.929).
- (24) Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.930).
- (25) Gifted and Talented Children Centres (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.931).
- (26) Nigeria Immigration Service Trust Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.932).
- (27) Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply Management of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.933).
- (28) Nigerian Defence Academy Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.934).
- (29) Institute of Health Service Administrator of Nigeria (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2023 (HB.935).
- (30) Federal University of Education, Numan, Adamawa State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.936).

9. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria Act, Cap. A26, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Related Matters (HB.712) — *Third Reading***
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria Act, Cap. A26, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Related Matters (HB.712) be now read the Third Time" (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Ovwian, Delta State and for Related Matters (HB. 222) — Third Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Ovwian, Delta State and for Related Matters (HB. 222) be now read the Third Time” (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Business Administration of Nigeria charged with the Responsibility for Advancing the Study, Training and Determining the Standards of Knowledge and Skills to be Attained by Persons Seeking to become Registered Members of the Institute and for Related Matters (HB.140) — Third Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Business Administration of Nigeria charged with the Responsibility for Advancing the Study, Training and Determining the Standards of Knowledge and Skills to be Attained by Persons Seeking to become Registered Members of the Institute and for Related Matters (HB.140) be now read the Third Time” (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Nigerian Council for Psychologists Charged with Advancing the Study, Training and Practice of Psychology Profession and for Related Matters (HB.610) — Third Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Nigerian Council for Psychologists Charged with Advancing the Study, Training and Practice of Psychology Profession and for Related Matters (HB.610) be now read the Third Time” (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

13. **Sectoral Debate on Security**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do commence Sectoral Debate on security, pursuant to Order Seventeen, Rules 1 (3) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives” (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Debate.

Debate adjourned till next legislative day.

14. **Adjournment**
That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 21 November, 2023 at 10.00 a.m. (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 11.38 a.m.

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker