



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 14 November, 2023

1. The House met at 11.36 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 Thursday, 9 November, 2023.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Oaths of Allegiance and Membership**

A Member-elect, Yahaya Abubakar Kusada (*Kankia/Ingawa/Kusada Federal Constituency*), took and subscribed the Oaths of Allegiance and Membership as prescribed by law.

5. **Announcement**

(i) **Visitors in the Gallery:**

Mr Speaker announced the presence of Members of Lagos State House of Assembly;

(ii) **Bereavement:**

Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Emmanuel Uguru (*Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*) announcing the demise of his mother, Idzuinya Lydia Uguru Nwanyi, on Friday, 9 November, 2023.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

6. **Admittance into the Chamber**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do admit into the Chamber, Members of the Business Committee of the Parliament of Ghana on a study visit, pursuant to Order Twenty-One, Rule 8 (1) of the Standing Orders of the House:

(1)	Hon. Lydia Seyram Alhassan	—	First Deputy Majority Whip
(2)	Ahmed Ibrahim	—	First Deputy Minority Whip
(3)	Habib Iddrisu	—	Second Deputy Majority Whip
(4)	Joseph Cudjoe	—	Member

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|-----|-------------------------------|---|---|
| (5) | Joycelyn Tetteh | — | Member |
| (6) | Patricia Oforiwaa Owusu-Ansah | — | Asst. Clerk |
| (7) | Sarah Nyamtu | — | Asst. Director (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader) |

Agreed to.

7. Petitions

- (i) The following petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Afam Victor Ogene (*Ogburu Federal Constituency*):
 - (a) Raymond Asada, on alleged stagnation of his appointment by the Management of Bank of Agriculture;
 - (b) Award Winning Consult Limited, on behalf of Stephen Odachi and two others are seeking for payment of rent for the use of their family land by Midwestern Oil and Gas Limited
 - (c) Alfa Onum on alleged non-compliance with House Resolution by the Nigerian Customs Service;
- (ii) A petition from John Adeniyi Kayode-Beckley, on alleged non-compliance to FCT High Court judgment of refund of his Ten Million Naira (₦10,000,000.00) by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), was presented and laid by Hon. Eze Nwachukwu Eze (*Ebonyi/Ohuakwu Federal Constituency*);
- (iii) A petition from Dodo Isaac Imooje, on alleged disengagement of his service by the Nigerian Immigration Service, was presented and laid by Hon. Julius Ihonvbere (*Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*);
- (iv) The following petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Jesse Okey-Joe Onuakalusi (*Oshodi Isolo II Federal Constituency*):
 - (a) Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (CEDEHUR), on behalf of Moses Adie, on alleged termination of his appointment by STATOIL (Nig.) Limited;
 - (b) Emeka Wogu & Co., on behalf of Amaechi Ugorji seeking for the release of his daughter, Gold Amaechi from the custody of National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Person (NAPTIP);
- (v) The following petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Ojuawo Rufus Adeniyi (*Ekiti Southwest/Ikere/Ise Orun Federal Constituency*):
 - (a) Law and Equity Partners on behalf of George Haliday (Esq) on alleged conversion of sum of his Fifty Million Naira (₦50,000,000.00) by the Deputy Chief Registrar, Christy Haruna of the Court of Appeal;
 - (b) Law and Equity Partners, on behalf of Ozi Victor and six others seeking for the recovery of the sum of Twenty-Nine Million Naira (₦29,000,000.00) loan from Miebi Bribena.

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

- (i) *Cancellation of Visas of 264 Passengers Aboard Air Peace from Nigeria on Arrival at Saudi Arabia:*
Hon. Kama Nkemkanma (*Ivo/Ohazara/Onicha Federal Constituency and Three 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.

Cancellation of Visas of 264 Passengers Aboard Air Peace From Nigeria on Arrival at Saudi Arabia:

The House:

Notes that the Saudi Arabian Authorities cancelled the visas of all the 264 passengers airlifted by Nigeria's major carrier, Air Peace on arrival at Jeddah in Saudi Arabia from Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport on Monday, 13 November, 2023;

Also notes that all the passengers went through the Advanced Passengers Prescreening System (APPS), which was also monitored live by the Saudi Arabia authorities before the flight left Nigeria;

Aware that upon the intervention of Nigerian Embassy in Saudi, the authorities were said to have reduced the number of-passengers that would be returned back to Nigeria from 264 to 170;

Also aware that Saudi Air has been operating directly from Nigeria to Saudi Arabia and that Air Peace has been receiving high patronage and as a Nigerian carrier since it started flight service to the Saudi at relatively lower fares, thereby helping Nigeria to conserve foreign exchange;

Disturbed that stakeholders in the sector have attributed the development to aero-politics, stating that it could be a way to force the Nigerian operator out of the route, and raised concerns that Nigerian carriers could actually be forced out of the route unless the government intervenes, probably using the principle of reciprocity;

Conscious of the fact that this action of Saudi authorities is an infringement on the letters and intendments of the Bilateral Air Service Agreement (BASA) between Nigeria and Saudi Arabia which is still in force;

Worried that according to sources at the Nigerian Embassy in Jeddah, even the Saudi immigration personnel could not locate who authorized the cancellation of the visas, even when the APPS which was live between both countries was concluded and the airline was already airborne to Jeddah;

Also worried that this unfortunate event and diplomatic slight on Nigeria happened even when the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, is on a state visit to Saudi Arabia;

Resolves to:

- (i) condemn the embarrassing act of the cancellation of visas of 264 Nigerian on arrival at Saudi Arabia by the countries authorities on Monday, 13 November, 2023;

- (ii) urge the Executive Arm of Government to as a matter of urgency take such diplomatic steps as may be necessary to protect the image of the nation, ensure the full implementation of the BASA, protect Nigerian national Carriers flying into Saudi Arabia and as well protect the Nigerian travelling public; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Justice, Interior and Pilgrims Affairs, to inquire into the immediate and remote circumstances surrounding the cancellation of already granted visas to 264 Nigerian on arrival at Jeddah aboard Air Peace and to report within two (2) weeks (*Hon. Kama Nkemkanma —Ivo/Ohaozara/Onicha Federal Constituency and Three Others*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Saudi Arabian Authorities cancelled the visas of all the 264 passengers airlifted by Nigeria's major carrier, Air Peace on arrival at Jeddah in Saudi Arabia from Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport on Monday, 13 November, 2023;

Also noted that all the passengers went through the Advanced Passengers Prescreening System (APPS), which was also monitored live by the Saudi Arabia authorities before the flight left Nigeria;

Aware that upon the intervention of Nigerian Embassy in Saudi, the authorities were said to have reduced the number of passengers that would be returned back to Nigeria from 264 to 170;

Also aware that Saudi Air has been operating directly from Nigeria to Saudi Arabia and that Air Peace has been receiving high patronage and as a Nigerian carrier since it started flight service to the Saudi at relatively lower fares, thereby helping Nigeria to conserve foreign exchange;

Disturbed that stakeholders in the sector have attributed the development to aero-politics, stating that it could be a way to force the Nigerian operator out of the route, and raised concerns that Nigerian carriers could actually be forced out of the route unless the government intervenes, probably using the principle of reciprocity;

Conscious of the fact that this action of Saudi authorities is an infringement on the letters and intendments of the Bilateral Air Service Agreement (BASA) between Nigeria and Saudi Arabia which is still in force;

Worried that according to sources at the Nigerian Embassy in Jeddah, even the Saudi immigration personnel could not locate who authorized the cancellation of the visas, even when the APPS which was live between both countries was concluded and the airline was already airborne to Jeddah;

Also worried that this unfortunate event and diplomatic slight on Nigeria happened even when the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, is on a state visit to Saudi Arabia;

Resolved to:

- (i) condemn the embarrassing act of the cancellation of visas of 264 Nigerian on arrival at Saudi Arabia by the countries authorities on Monday, 13 November, 2023;
 - (ii) urge the Executive Arm of Government to as a matter of urgency take such diplomatic steps as may be necessary to protect the image of the nation, ensure the full implementation of the BASA, protect Nigerian national Carriers flying into Saudi Arabia and as well protect the Nigerian travelling public; and
 - (iii) mandate the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Justice, Interior and Pilgrims Affairs, to inquire into the immediate and remote circumstances surrounding the cancellation of already granted visas to 264 Nigerian on arrival at Jeddah aboard Air Peace and to report within two (2) weeks (IIR. 354/11/2023).
- (ii) **Death of Nigerian Medical Student in the Philippines:**
Hon. Lukman Alani Mudashiru (*Ayedire/Iwo/Olaoluwa Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

Death of Nigerian Medical Student in the Philippines:

The House:

Notes that there has been serious concern and recurring discrimination, maltreatment and vulnerabilities being faced by Nigerians in the diaspora, as every citizen deserves a right to life, safety and protection in their respective host country;

Also notes that on 19 October, 2023, Mr Chibuikem Emmanuel, a 29 years old Nigerian citizen from Nnewi in Anambra State was tortured and killed by Chinese nationals in the Philippines, Mr Emmanuel was pursuing his Master's degree in Medicine and Surgery in a University in Philippines;

Further notes that it was alleged that Mr Chibuikem Emmanuel, met his untimely death in Mandaue city, the Philippines where he had gone to demand the payment of a commission due to his girlfriend, Ms Diane, from the company she worked with. The matter escalated into a heated argument among Mr M Emmanuel, his girlfriend (Ms Diane) and the head of the company, a Chinese woman named Ms Jennic Wah over the said commission;

Informed that following the altercation, two vehicles arrived the premises and the occupants of the vehicles claimed they were taking Mr Chibuikem Emmanuel, to the Police Station for constituting nuisance;

Cognizant that it was later discovered by Mr Emmanuel's girlfriend and his friend that Mr Chibuikem Emmanuel was never taken to the police station as claimed, it was alleged that a bus dropped Mr Emmanuel off in front of the police station with his hands tied and visible injuries on his face. Unfortunately, Mr Emmanuel was pronounced dead upon arrival at the hospital;

Also cognizant that the office of the Mandaue City Police has officially filed murder charges against six (6) Chinese suspects, four (4) of which have been identified and all their information and pictures have all been sent to the local airports:

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, and Diaspora to follow-up on the investigation of the death of Mr Chibuikem Emmanuel in questionable circumstances in the Philippines and to report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Lukman Alani Mudashiru – Ayedire/Iwo/Ola-Oluwa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that there has been serious concern and recurring discrimination, maltreatment and vulnerabilities being faced by Nigerians in the diaspora, as every citizen deserves a right to life, safety and protection in their respective host country;

Also noted that on 19 October, 2023, Mr Chibuikem Emmanuel, a 29 years old Nigerian citizen from Nnewi in Anambra State was tortured and killed by Chinese nationals in the Philippines, Mr Emmanuel was pursuing his Master's degree in Medicine and Surgery in a University in Philippines;

Further noted that it was alleged that Mr Chibuikem Emmanuel, met his untimely death in Mandaue city, the Philippines where he had gone to demand the payment of a commission due to his girlfriend, Ms Diane, from the company she worked with. The matter escalated into a heated argument among Mr M Emmanuel, his girlfriend (Ms Diane) and the head of the company, a Chinese woman named Ms Jennie Wah over the said commission;

Informed that following the altercation, two vehicles arrived the premises and the occupants of the vehicles claimed they were taking Mr Chibuikem Emmanuel, to the Police Station for constituting nuisance;

Cognizant that it was later discovered by Mr Emmanuel's girlfriend and his friend that Mr Chibuikem Emmanuel was never taken to the police station as claimed, it was alleged that a bus dropped Mr Emmanuel off in front of the police station with his hands tied and visible injuries on his face. Unfortunately, Mr Emmanuel was pronounced dead upon arrival at the hospital;

Also cognizant that the office of the Mandaue City Police has officially filed murder charges against six (6) Chinese suspects, four (4) of which have been identified and all their information and pictures have all been sent to the local airports;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, and Diaspora to follow-up on the investigation of the death of Mr Chibuikem Emmanuel in questionable circumstances in the Philippines and to report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 355/11/2023**).

9. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Industrial Training Fund Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HR.883).

- (2) Companies and Allied Matters Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.884).
- (3) Animal Diseases Control Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.885).
- (4) National Football Academy, Sunday - Sunday Field, Abakpa Nike, Enugu State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.886).
- (5) Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.887).
- (6) Critical Infrastructure Protection Bill, 2023 (HB.888).
- (7) Federal Colleges of Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.889).
- (8) Federal University of Agriculture, Ningi, Bauchi State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.890).
- (9) Health Education Practitioners Board (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.891).
- (10) Federal Cancer Research and Treatment Centre, Calabar, Cross River State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.892).
- (11) Federal Cancer Research and Treatment Centre, Abeokuta, Ogun State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.893).
- (12) Nigerian Para-military Academy, Akoko, Ondo State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.894).
- (13) Nigerian Civil Defence University, Akoko, Ondo State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.895).
- (14) Nigerian Institute of Chartered Foresters (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.896).
- (15) National Senior Citizens Centre Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.897).
- (16) Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.898).
- (17) Chartered Institute of Mortgage Bankers and Brokers of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.899).
- (18) National Road Traffic Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.900).
- (19) Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.901).
- (20) River - Basins Development Authorities Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2023 (HB.902).
- (21) Federal University of Technology, Asaba, Delta State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.903).
- (22) Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.904).
- (23) Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.905).
- (24) Federal College of Health Sciences and Technology, Gummi, Zamfara State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.906).
- (25) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 Act (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (HB.907).

10. **Presentation of Report**

Ad-hoc Committee on Failed Mass Transit Schemes:

motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee to investigate the failures in Nigeria's Mass Transit Schemes (HR. 116/04/2023)" (Hon. Afam Victor Ogene — Ogbaru Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Institute of Economists of Nigerian Empowered with Responsibility to Determine and Regulate the Standards of Knowledge, skills and Qualification of Persons seeking to become Professional Economists in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 224) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish Institute of Economists of Nigerian Empowered with Responsibility to Determine and Regulate the Standards of Knowledge, skills and Qualification of Persons seeking to become Professional Economists in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 224) 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 Federal University of Medical and Health Sciences, Item Bende to make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (HB. 25) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Medical and Health Sciences, Item Bende to make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (HB. 25) be read a Second Time" (Hon. Oluwole Oke — Obokun/Oriade Federal Constituency and Six Others).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committees on University Education.

13. **A Bill For an Act to Establish Public Accounts Tribunal which shall be Responsible for the Recovery of Public Funds or Properties Found by the Public Accounts Committees of the National Assembly to have been Misappropriated or Due to the Government of the Federation and for Related Matters (HB. 66) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

14. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Nigerian Marine Corps to Promote Maritime Security and for Related Matters (HB. 225) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

15. **Incessant Boat Mishaps in Agwara/Borgu Federal Constituency of Niger State**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that on 5 August, and 2 October, 2023 respectively, boat mishaps occurred in Rofia and Kasabo along the coast of River Niger in Agwara Local Government Area of Niger State resulting in the deaths of 38 people and leaving others missing;

Also notes that exactly a year after a similar tragedy in the Malale community where a commercial helmsman's boat capsized and left many dead in the water;

Informed that most Women and children drowned while travelling on the wooden boat in River Niger, Agwara Local Government Area of Niger State, where locally made vessels are used for transport;

Also informed that most incidents are attributed to overloading amid the absence of good and accessible roads in the affected areas, condition of the vessels and poor regulation of waterways largely contribute to the gravity of the menace;

Worried that there are no provisions for emergency exits in the vessels and that the boat owners do not know the rules and regulations guiding their operations;

Cognizant that if steps are taken to proffer lasting solutions to the incessant occurrence of boat accidents on these waterways, residents in Agwara/Borgu Federal Constituency of Niger State would continue to die prematurely;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) and the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) to ensure the use of safety jackets, constant checks on the condition of boats and other vessels, and the use of Marshals at the riverine areas to prevent overloading;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to assist families affected by the recent accidents; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Inland Waterways and Maritime Safety, Education and Administration to ensure compliance (*Hon. Jafaru Mohammed — Agwara/Borgu Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on 5 August, and 2 October, 2023 respectively, boat mishaps occurred in Rofia and Kasabo along the coast of River Niger in Agwara Local Government Area of Niger State resulting in the deaths of 38 people and leaving others missing;

Also noted that exactly a year after a similar tragedy in the Malale community where a commercial helmsman's boat capsized and left many dead in the water;

Informed that most Women and children drowned while travelling on the wooden boat in River Niger, Agwara Local Government Area of Niger State, where locally made vessels are used for transport;

Also informed that most incidents are attributed to overloading amid the absence of good and accessible roads in the affected areas, condition of the vessels and poor regulation of waterways largely contribute to the gravity of the menace;

Worried that there are no provisions for emergency exits in the vessels and that the boat owners do not know the rules and regulations guiding their operations;

Cognizant that if steps are taken to proffer lasting solutions to the incessant occurrence of boat accidents on these waterways, residents in Agwara/Borgu Federal Constituency of Niger State would continue to die prematurely;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) and the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) to ensure the use of safety jackets, constant checks on the condition of boats and other vessels, and the use of Marshals at the riverine areas to prevent overloading;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, and Poverty Alleviation and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to assist families affected by the recent accidents; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Inland Waterways, and Maritime Safety, Education and Administration to ensure compliance (HR. 356/11/2023).

16. Dredging of Water Channels to Connect Magaga, Sabon Gidan Amale Water and Fada Dam in Gwarzo/Kabo Constituency of Kano State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Magaga, Sabon Gidan Amale Water, and Fada Dam in Kabo/Gwarzo Federal Constituency, Kano State, provide water for over 7 million people, supporting their domestic needs for water supply for use, irrigation, and flood control in the areas;

Also notes that the dams are vital for supporting agricultural activities, food production, and irrigation projects, mitigating flood impacts, and promoting economic growth in the region, while also safeguarding local communities and their properties;

Concerned that failing to construct water channels connecting Magaga, Sabon Gidan Amale Water, and Fada Dams could negatively impact youth in the constituency, whose belief is that the project will create more job opportunities;

Recognizes the commitment of the Federal Government of Nigeria to empower youth through the ongoing agricultural reforms;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Ministry of Water Resources to promptly initiate the construction and dredging of water Channels to connect Magaga, Sabon Gida Dan Amale Water, and Fada Dam of Kabo/Gwarzo Federal Constituency of Kano State;
- (ii) also urge the Ministry of Water Resources to make provisions for the construction and dredging of water channel to connect Magaga, Sabon Gidan Amale Water, and Fada Dam Federal Constituency of Kano State in the 2024 Budget estimates;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Water Resources to ensure complaints (Hon. Abdullahi Mu'azu Gwarzo — Gwarzo/Kabo Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

(HR. 357/11/2023).

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

17. Dualization of Ijebu-Ode - Ibuefun - Itokin - Agbowo - Ikorodu Federal Road

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Ijebu-Ode-Ibuefun-Itokin-Agbowa-Ikorodu Federal Road, connecting Ogun and Lagos states, serves various communities and cities namely Ijede, Imota, Epe, Agbowo, Itokin, Idowa, Ibuefun; and is an alternative route for commuters from South East and South-South Geo-Political Zones, connected to the Sagamu - Ore - Benin Expressway;

Also notes that major industries and tourist attractions like the Imota rice mill, Julius Berger's burial site, and Ejirinrin market are located along the road;

Observes that the strategic road offers a viable alternative to the Lekki-Eti-Osa-Epe Expressway, likely to increase vehicular movement due to industrial activities in the Lekki Free Trade Zone. Furthermore, the proposed 4th Mainland Bridge in Lagos incorporates this road as a crucial feeder road, underscoring its significant role in the region's transportation infrastructure;

Concerned that the road built in 1975 has deteriorated due to a lack of maintenance by the Federal government, causing inconvenience and safety hazards for commuters and businesses;

Worried that the deplorable conditions of the road have caused fatalities, property waste, and millions of Naira in damages, disrupting economic and social activities;

Disturbed that Ogun and Lagos State governments have appealed to the Federal Government for road ownership, upgrading, and expansion, but after assurances by the former Minister of Works on approval of funds by the Federal Executive Council for rehabilitation in April 2021, work is yet to commence;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works to rehabilitate, upgrade, and dualize the Ijebu-Ode-Ibuefun-Itokin-Agbowa-Ikorodu Federal Road and include the financial cost of the project in the 2024 budget estimates;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to immediately commence the rehabilitation pending the upgrading and dualization of the road; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees of Works, Appropriations, and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Olufemi Adeleke Ogunbanwo — Ijebu Ode/Odogbolu/Ijebu North East Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 358/11/2023).

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, Appropriations, and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

18. Need for the Rehabilitation and Dualisation of Magazine Junction GRA

Onitsha-33-Otuocho-Omasi-Adani (Anambra State Border) - Adani (Enugu State)-Otukpa Benue State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Magazine Junction GRA Onitsha-33-Otuocho-Omasi-Adani (Anambra State Border)-Adani (Enugu State Border) Otukpa Benue State is about 100km and a major Federal road in Nigeria, crucial for social and economic development in Anambra State, Enugu/Benue, and Kogi State;

Also notes that the road is segmented into two sections, the first section is dualised from GRA Onitsha to Aguleri/Otuocho Junction while the second section is a single carriageway from Otuocho/Aguleri junction to Adani, Enugu and Benue State;

Further notes the road transverses a lot of Agrarian Communities constituting the food basket of Anambra State and its neighbouring States which requires the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to develop a master plan for the Omor - Adani Staple Crop Processing Zone and access to the Anambra State Oil and Gas Zone which has abundant crude oil resources;

Aware that former President Shehu Shagari awarded and executed a road contract in the early 1980s which led to the proliferation of various housing estates and educational institutions in Onitsha, Oyi, and Anambra East;

Also aware that the road is the nearest route to the Anambra State International Airport from the Onitsha end of Anambra State and its dualization will significantly transform the ever-busy Enugu - Onitsha expressway;

Concerned that the Magazine GRA Onitsha - 33 - Otuocho - Omasi - Adani - Otukpa UR being a Federal road has been left to dilapidate for years with heavy vehicular traffic, criminal activities thus constituting death traps to Nigerians plying the road, this calls for urgent rehabilitation and dualisation;

Cognizant that the rehabilitation and dualization of the road will serve as a catalyst for economic growth, reduce negative environmental impact and improve the overall standard of living of the host states and its environment;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to provide palliative works on the dilapidated parts of the road;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Works to make provisions for the reconstruction and dualisation of the Magazine GRA Onitsha - 33 - Otuocho - Omasi - Adani - Otukpa Road in the 2024 budget estimate; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on FERMA and Works to ensure compliance (*Hon. Emeka Idu G. Obiajulu — Onitsha North/Onitsha South Federal Constituency and two Others*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 359/11/2023).

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

19. Need to Resume the Abandoned Danbatta Power Substation in Kano State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Danbatta Power Substation was awarded in 2009 to enhance energy supply to the Danbatta industrial area and its environs and also to boost economic activities in the state.

Also notes that the substation project would address epileptic power supply and enhance distribution in the Kano metropolis;

Aware that Elektron Nigeria Limited, the contractor responsible for the project, has abandoned the work since 2015 due to a lack of federal government funding.

Observes that the lack of funding for this project by the Transmission Company of Nigeria has been a source of concern to the community and the contractor handling the project;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Power through the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), to ensure the provision of funds for the completion of Danbatta Power Substation in the 2024 budget estimates; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Power and Appropriations to ensure compliance (*Hon. Ibrahim Hanisu — Dambatta/Makoda Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(H.R. 360/11/2023).

Motion referred to the Committees on Power and Appropriations, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

20. Need to Address the challenges of the Rubber Research Institute of Nigeria and its Sub-Stations including the Rubber Research Institute Sub-Station, Akwete

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Rubber Research Institute of Nigeria (RRIN) Substation, Akwete was established in 1960 under the control of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, following the promulgation of Decree No. 25 of 1971, it extends the Institute's mandate to rubber farmers in Abia, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Enugu, Bayelsa, Cross River, Ebonyi, Rivers and Imo States respectively, the institute has significantly contributed to the development of rubber as a major cash crop and a source of foreign exchange for Nigeria;

Aware that the Rubber Research Institute is an investment with economic potential, including export production, job creation, research, high-yield rubber varieties, processing technologies, rubber-based agroforestry, capacity building, market research, and policy recommendations;

Also notes that the Rubber Research Institute and its substations have become a hub for illicit activities due to inadequate boundary protection, human resource shortages, insufficient technology, and insufficient electricity supply;

Also aware that according to the Report by the National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria's natural rubber production decreased from 155,000 metric tons in 2010 to 88,000 metric tons in 2020, with export

value dropping from \$217 million to \$67 million coupled with Competition from other countries and global price fluctuations impact competitiveness in the international market:

Concerned that this situation is not only detrimental to the Rubber Research Institute but also to millions of Nigerians relying on rubber for income and employment, it undermines diversification of the economy and the attainment of food security and self-reliance;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to formulate and implement a national policy on rubber development that will provide a conducive environment for research production processing and marketing of natural rubber in Nigeria;
- (ii) also urge the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to make provision in the 2024 budget estimates to address the problems of the Rubber Research Institute, support rubber smallholder farmers with improved planting materials, inputs, credit, extension services, infrastructure and market access;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security in collaboration with Customs to enforce compliance with Natural rubber quality standards before export,
- (iv) again urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to collaborate with other natural-producing countries in Africa and Asia to promote regional cooperation and trade in natural rubber
- (v) mandate the Committee on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Chris Nkwonta — Ukwu East/Ukwu West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Rubber Research Institute of Nigeria (RRIN) Substation, Akwete was established in 1960 under the control of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, following the promulgation of Decree No. 25 of 1971, it extends the Institute's mandate to rubber farmers in Abia, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Enugu, Bayelsa, Cross River, Ebonyi, Rivers and Imo States respectively, the institute has significantly contributed to the development of rubber as a major cash crop and a source of foreign exchange for Nigeria;

Aware that the Rubber Research Institute is an investment with economic potential, including export production, job creation, research, high-yield rubber varieties, processing technologies, rubber-based agroforestry, capacity building, market research, and policy recommendations;

Also noted that the Rubber Research Institute and its substations have become a hub for illicit activities due to inadequate boundary protection, human resource shortages, insufficient technology, and insufficient electricity supply;

Also aware that according to the Report by the National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria's natural rubber production decreased from 155,000 metric tons in 2010 to 88,000 metric tons in 2020, with export value dropping from \$217 million to \$67 million coupled with Competition from other countries and global price fluctuations impact competitiveness in the international market;

Concerned that this situation is not only detrimental to the Rubber Research Institute but also to millions of Nigerians relying on rubber for income and employment, it undermines diversification of the economy and the attainment of food security and self-reliance;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to formulate and implement a national policy on rubber development that will provide a conducive environment for research production processing and marketing of natural rubber in Nigeria;
- (ii) also urge the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to make provision in the 2024 budget estimates to address the problems of the Rubber Research Institute, support rubber smallholder farmers with improved planting materials, inputs, credit, extension services, infrastructure and market access;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security in collaboration with Customs to enforce compliance with Natural rubber quality standards before export;
- (iv) again urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to collaborate with other natural-producing countries in Africa and Asia to promote regional cooperation and trade in natural rubber
- (v) mandate the Committee on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (HR. 361/11/2023).

21. Need to Investigate the Career Stagnation caused by Discrimination between Higher National Diploma (HND) and Bachelor Degree holders in the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the persistent discrimination between Polytechnics and University certificate holders in civil service with regards to employment and promotion, with Higher National Diploma Holders (HND) limited to Salary Grade 14 and Degree Holders reaching Grade 17 before retirement from service, despite government policies to reverse the practice;

Also notes that in terms of academic discipline, the HND holders outperform BSc. holders in practical aspects, as 70% of learning in Polytechnics is practical, aiming to equip graduates with technical knowledge for self-reliance;

Observes that in developed nations, HND and Degree holders are employed at the same grade level, prioritizing competence, cognate experience, and graduate offerings, unlike Nigeria's emphasis on status and paper qualifications. Furthermore, the United Kingdom Polytechnics system has transitioned into Universities or Degree-awarding institutions, but the Nigerian education system still hinders the advancement and self-reliance of polytechnic education;

Aware that the National Assembly recently passed a bill to eliminate the discrimination and disparities between the two certificates, the legislation sought to resolve the dichotomy controversy and promote Nigeria's technological advancement by encouraging many qualified students to pursue polytechnics and technology-based studies;

Also aware that in 2006, President Obasanjo reversed a discriminatory policy limiting HND holders from rising above grade 14 in public service, directing the former Chief of Staff and Head of Service to prepare a position paper. Also under President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, the Federal Executive Council removed the salary ceiling for HND holders. President Muhammadu Buhari criticized the disparity, leading to a circular in 2018 stating that HND holders will enjoy salary grade level 08 in Civil Service;

Further observes that the Civil Defence Fire, Immigration and Prisons Board approved the abolition of the bachelor's degree and HND distinction in Ministry of Interior services, with Lt.-Gen. Abdulrahman Dambazau directing the implementation and rank harmonization;

Concerned that despite policy directives and approvals, discrimination against HND holders persists in private and public agencies, particularly in paramilitary agencies, where the dichotomy was abolished in 2016 due to no sanctions for non-compliance;

Worried that the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps has experienced career stagnation among 2012 HND intakes, with B.Sc. colleagues being promoted multiple times to Superintendent of Corps, a situation that goes against Civil Service regulations and creates bad blood among the rank and file of the Corps;

Alarmed that junior officers with School Certificates in 2012 who later earned a part-time BSc. degree were promoted to senior ranks and Assistant Superintendent of Corps, leading to a decrease in morale and motivation among their HND counterparts. Also from 2012 to 2022, NSCDC recruits with HND failed to be promoted four times, while their B.Sc. counterparts were promoted twice. This discrimination led to HND intakes resolving not to sit for future promotions, as it has become futile;

Disturbed that the Discrimination against polytechnic graduates hinders technology-driven development, leading to poor living standards, negative balance sheets, and low per capita income;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Head of Service to comply with all existing circulars abrogating the dichotomy between HND and BSc. in the Civil Service;
- (ii) also urge the Commandant-General of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) to promote all qualified personnel and pay the arrears of emoluments they might have lost as a result of the failure of the NSCDC to promote them as at when due; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Public Service Matters and Interior to investigate the failure to promote certain officers despite writing and passing their promotional examinations on four different occasions and invite the Commandant-General of the NSCDC to explain his failure to comply with the Board and Ministry's approval on the abolition of the HND and BSc. dichotomy like its counterpart under the Nigerian Civil Defence Corps, Fire, Immigration and Prisons Board (*Hon. Ime Bassey Okon — Itu/Ibiono Ibom Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:

"mandate the Committee on Public Service Matters to investigate the dichotomy between HND and BSc holders in the Federal Public Service and report within four (4) weeks" (Hon. Austin Asenjo Achado — Gwer East/Gwer West Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

Question on the Motion — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the persistent discrimination between Polytechnics and University certificate holders in civil service with regards to employment and promotion, with Higher National Diploma Holders (HND) limited to Salary Grade 14 and Degree Holders reaching Grade 17 before retirement from service, despite government policies to reverse the practice;

Also noted that in terms of academic discipline, the HND holders outperform BSc. holders in practical aspects, as 70% of learning in Polytechnics is practical, aiming to equip graduates with technical knowledge for self-reliance;

Observed that in developed nations, HND and Degree holders are employed at the same grade level, prioritizing competence, cognate experience, and graduate offerings, unlike Nigeria's emphasis on status and paper qualifications. Furthermore, the United Kingdom Polytechnics system has transitioned into Universities or Degree-awarding institutions, but the Nigerian education system still hinders the advancement and self-reliance of polytechnic education;

Aware that the National Assembly recently passed a bill to eliminate the discrimination and disparities between the two certificates, the legislation sought to resolve the dichotomy controversy and promote Nigeria's technological advancement by encouraging many qualified students to pursue polytechnics and technology-based studies;

Also aware that in 2006, President Obasanjo reversed a discriminatory policy limiting HND holders from rising above grade 14 in public service, directing the former Chief of Staff and Head of Service to prepare a position paper. Also under President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, the Federal Executive Council removed the salary ceiling for HND holders. President Muhammadu Buhari criticized the disparity, leading to a circular in 2018 stating that HND holders will enjoy salary grade level 08 in Civil Service;

Further observed that the Civil Defence Fire, Immigration and Prisons Board approved the abolition of the bachelor's degree and HND distinction in Ministry of Interior services, with Lt.-Gen. Abdulrahman Dambazau directing the implementation and rank harmonization;

Concerned that despite policy directives and approvals, discrimination against HND holders persists in private and public agencies, particularly in paramilitary agencies, where the dichotomy was abolished in 2016 due to no sanctions for non-compliance;

Worried that the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps has experienced career stagnation among 2012 HND intakes, with B.Sc. colleagues being promoted multiple times to Superintendent of Corps, a situation that goes against Civil Service regulations and creates bad blood among the rank and file of the Corps;

Alarmed that junior officers with School Certificates in 2012 who later earned a part-time B.Sc. degree were promoted to senior ranks and Assistant Superintendent of Corps, leading to a decrease in morale and motivation among their HND counterparts. Also from 2012 to 2022, NSCDC recruits with HND failed to be promoted four times, while their B.Sc. counterparts were promoted twice. This discrimination led to HND intakes resolving not to sit for future promotions, as it has become futile;

Disturbed that the Discrimination against polytechnic graduates hinders technology-driven development, leading to poor living standards, negative balance sheets, and low per capita income;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Head of Service to comply with all existing circulars abrogating the dichotomy between HND and BSc. in the Civil Service;
- (ii) also urge the Commandant-General of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) to promote all qualified personnel and pay the arrears of emoluments they might have lost as a result of the failure of the NSCDC to promote them as at when due; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Public Service Matters and Interior to investigate the failure to promote certain officers despite writing and passing their promotional examinations on four different occasions and invite the Commandant-General of the NSCDC to explain his failure to comply with the Board and Ministry's approval on the abolition of the HND and BSc. dichotomy like its counterpart under the Nigerian Civil Defence Corps, Fire, Immigration and Prisons Board (HR. 362/11/2023).

22. **Call on the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to Complete the Specialist Hospital, Ikom Local Government Area of Cross River**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Executive Council approved a ₦1.2 billion Naira project for the construction of a Specialist hospital in Cross River in 2012, but nine years later, the deteriorating building remains uncommissioned;

Also notes that the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in 2012/2013 awarded the contract for the construction of the Specialist hospital to Messers Emostrate Engineering Limited to the sum of ₦1,214,847,450.28 (one billion, two hundred and fourteen million eight hundred and forty-seven thousand, four hundred and fifty Naira, twenty-eight Kobo);

Aware that the hospital was designed to serve as a Specialist Hospital to cater for the health needs of the communities in Cross River State and the neighbouring States;

Also aware that a one-story building with a total floor area of 7052m² was to be constructed and completed approximately within 26 months in 2015, and the place is now in a terrible state, denying the people essential medical services;

Concerned that the contractor's failure to complete the project has caused hardship for members of the communities, leaving them vulnerable to private hospitals and clinic owners;

Worried that since the abandonment of work in 2015, the site has become farmland, with grass overtaking the proposed specialist hospital, thereby causing frustration among residents due to inaccessible quality healthcare services;

Also worried about the current high cost of construction materials in the market is another factor militating against the completion of the Specialist Hospital;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to carry out a holistic assessment of the project and ascertain the challenges militating against the completion of the projects;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Niger Delta Ministry, and Legislative Compliance* to ensure compliance (*Hon. Victor Abang — Ikom/Boki Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 363/11/2023).

Motion referred to the Committees on Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Niger Delta Ministry, and Legislative Compliance, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

23. **Rehabilitation of Ilorin - offa - Osogbo - Ibadan - Abeokuta - Lagos Railway line**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Ilorin-Offa-Osogbo-Ibadan-Abeokuta-Lagos Railway Lines is one of the oldest railway lines in Nigeria, established in 1912 by the British Colonial Government;

Also notes that the railway line serves as a link to several states which include: Kwara, Osun, Oyo, Ogun and Lagos States;

Aware that Railway networks are globally recognized as safe and reliable transportation methods, facilitating the easy conveyance of goods, cargo, and raw materials;

Also aware that efficient rail transport connects remote areas with urban centres, facilitates trade, generates economic growth, and creates jobs for the population;

Concerned that despite the huge population and the economic activities in Ilorin and its environs, the Ilorin-Offa-Osogbo-Ibadan-Abeokuta-Lagos rail line is currently not functional.

Also concerned over the inadequate management and monitoring of Nigerian Railway corporation's railway infrastructure, as well as the high number of road accidents of about 13,656 and 6,456 fatalities in 2022, as reported by the Federal Road Safety Corps;

Believes that rail is a cheaper and safer means of transportation and rehabilitating the Ilorin-Offa-Osogbo-Ibadan-Abeokuta-Lagos rail line will not only reduce the fatality but enhance the commercial activities in the areas;

Cognizant that rehabilitating the rail lines will alleviate the exorbitant cost of transportation of commuters in various states which will invariably reduce the effects of the fuel subsidy removal on travellers, traders, farmers and artisans;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Transportation to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Finance to make adequate budgetary provisions for the rehabilitation of the Ilorin-Offa-Osogbo-Ibadan-Abeokuta-Lagos Railway lines in the 2024 budget estimates;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Land Transport to invite the Nigerian Railway Corporation Management Board to address the deplorable state of railway infrastructure and inadequate management processes; and
- (iii) also mandate the Committees on Land Transport, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Muktar Tolani Shagaya — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 364/11/2023).

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

24. Need to Create Awareness Programmes for Persons with Disability

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the World Health Organization and World Bank report that Nigeria has an estimated 30 million persons with disabilities;

Also notes that countries that promote economic, political, social, and cultural aspirations without discrimination have fully implemented disability rights, including Nigeria, as contained in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability 2007, which Nigeria was a signatory;

Aware that the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018 was signed into law to ensure full participation and inclusion of people living with disabilities in all sectors of the economy;

Worried that the Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation, tasked with promoting and educating the public about the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities, is ineffective;

Also worried that Twenty-three States of the Federation are yet to domesticate the law in their States;

Further worried that discrimination stigmatization and non-inclusion continue both in the private and public sectors;

Aware that about 15% of the country's about 250 million population, persons living with disabilities constitute one of the marginalized groups within the Nigerian society contrary to section 36 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation and religious organizations to sensitize the public about the discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018;
- (ii) also urge States of the Federation of Nigeria to domesticate the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Law in their States; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee of Disabilities to ensure compliance (*Hon. Bashiru Dawodu — Oshodi Isolo I Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the World Health Organization and World Bank report that Nigeria has an estimated 30 million persons with disabilities;

Also noted that countries that promote economic, political, social, and cultural aspirations without discrimination have fully implemented disability rights, including Nigeria, as contained in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability 2007, which Nigeria was a signatory;

Aware that the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018 was signed into law to ensure full participation and inclusion of people living with disabilities in all sectors of the economy;

Worried that the Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation, tasked with promoting and educating the public about the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities, is ineffective;

Also worried that Twenty-three States of the Federation are yet to domesticate the law in their States;

Further worried that discrimination stigmatization and non-inclusion continue both in the private and public sectors;

Aware that about 15% of the country's about 250 million population, persons living with disabilities constitute one of the marginalized groups within the Nigerian society contrary to section 36 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation and religious organizations to sensitize the public about the discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018;
- (ii) also urge States of the Federation of Nigeria to domesticate the Discrimination against Persons-with Disabilities (Prohibition) Law in their States; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee of Disabilities to ensure compliance (HR. 365/11/2023).

25. Consideration of Reports

(i) *Ad-hoc Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management:*

Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management on the request for Approval of Additional Financing of the National Social Safety Net Programme (Scale- Up) by the National Assembly;

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

(ii) *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) (Committee of the Whole):*

Motion made and Question proposed. "That the House do consider the Report on 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)" (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTANTS OF NIGERIA ACT, CAP. A26, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB.712)

Clause 1: **Amendment of Cap. A26, LFN, 2004.**

The Association of National Accountants of Nigeria Act, Cap. A26, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (in this Bill referred to as "the Principal Act") is amended as set out in this Bill) (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 2: **Amendment of section 1.**

Section 1 (1) of the Principal Act is amended by —

- (a) inserting after paragraph (a), a new paragraph (aa) —

"(aa) advancing the science of accountancy, collaborating with any other entity capable of increasing the frontier of knowledge, particularly in accountancy and related disciplines";

(b) inserting after paragraph (f), a new paragraph "(g)" —

"(g) setting, monitoring and reviewing standard for its members by the Council" (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 3: Amendment of section 2.

Section 2 of the principal Act is amended by —

(a) substituting for the abbreviation "'NNA" (Nigerian National Accountant)", the abbreviation of "CNA" (Chartered National Accountant)"; and

(b) inserting a new subsection "(2)" —

"(2) There shall be two classes of members of the Association —

(a) Member — a person admitted into membership of the Association in accordance with the provision of this Bill shall be a member of the Association and shall be entitled to rights, privileges and exemptions accorded to this class of members and shall use the professional designation "Chartered National Accountant" (CNA) after his name; and

(b) Fellow — a member who spent ten meritorious years in membership of the Association may be admitted into Fellowship of the Association and shall be entitled to use the professional designation "Fellow Chartered National Accountant" (FCNA) after his name" (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 4: Amendment of section 3.

Section 3 of the Principal Act is amended —

(a) by substituting for subsection (2), a new subsection "(2)" —

"(2) The Council shall consist of —

(a) a President;

(b) 1st Vice-President;

(c) 2nd Vice-President;

(d) the immediate past President;

(e) Treasurer;

(f) Membership Secretary;

(g) six persons who shall be Fellows of the Association nominated by the Association representing the six geo-political zones, in rotation within the states in the zone;

- (h) three persons who shall be Fellows of the Association nominated by the Association, to represent the Federal, State and Local Government in rotation.
 - (i) two persons who shall be members of the Association, nominated by the Association, possessing a minimum of PhD Degree to represent institutions of higher learning in Nigeria offering courses leading to approved qualifications by the National Universities Commission and National Board for Technical Education as the case may be in rotation, provided that the two shall not come from the same institution;
 - (j) one person nominated by the Association, who shall be a Fellow of the Association who must have been in practice for a period of not less than five years, to represent practitioners of the Association; and
 - (k) co-opted members of a maximum of three, who shall be Fellows of the Association, nominated by the Association, having a tenure of two years as that of the President, without voting rights and cannot progress into the EXCO, and such co-opted members shall be rotated among the six geo-political zones of the country, provided that at no time shall the co-opted members come from the same zone";
- (b) by substituting for subsection (3), a new subsection "(3)" —
- "(3) The appointment into the Council shall be regulated by guidelines set by Council";
- (c) in subsection (4), by —
- (i) substituting for the words "Vice-President" in line 1, the words "Vice-Presidents", and
 - (ii) substituting for the words "Vice-President" in line 4, the expression "1st Vice-President";
- (d) in subsection (5), by substituting for the words "Vice-President" in line 1, the expression "1st Vice-President"; and
- (e) in subsection (6), by substituting for the words "Vice-President" in line 1, the expression "1st Vice-President" (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 5: Insertion of new section 3A.

Insert after section 3 of the Principal Act, a new section "3A" —

"Establishment of the Executive Committee of the Council of the Association.

- 3A.** (1) There is established the Executive Committee (in this Bill referred to as the "EXCO") of the Council that shall be made up of the following officers in the hierarchy, who shall be nominated by the Council and approved by members —

- (a) the President;
 - (b) the 1st Vice President;
 - (c) the 2nd Vice President;
 - (d) the Immediate Past President;
 - (e) the Treasurer; and
 - (f) the Membership Secretary.
- (2) The duties of the EXCO shall be prescribed by the Council.
- (3) The members of the EXCO shall each hold office for a term of two years from the conclusion of the annual general meeting at which their nominations were ratified, and the President shall be the Chairman of the meetings of the Association, and in the event of the death, incapacitation or inability, for any reason, of any officer, the next officer in hierarchy shall act in the vacant position progressively for the unexpired portion till the next annual general meeting" (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 6: Amendment of section 4.

Section 4 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting after subsection (3), a new subsection "(3A)" —

- "(3A) The Council shall set out clear expenditure limits to be followed by officers and committees for —
- (a) the Executive Committee;
 - (b) the President;
 - (c) the Chief Executive Officer;
 - (d) the Director General of the College; and
 - (e) any other committee or officer of any unit established by the Council with independent expenditure powers" (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 7: Amendment of section 6.

Section 6 of the Principal Act is amended —

- (a) by substituting for the word "Registrar", the words "Chief Executive Officer" in the heading and wherever it appears in the Act.
- (b) by inserting a new subsection "(1A)" —

"(1A) The Chief Executive Officer shall be a member of the Association in good standing, possessing the requisite qualifications as may be set by Council" (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 8: Amendment of section 8.

Section 8 of the Principal Act is amended —

- (a) by substituting for the heading, a new heading "Registration of members and firms";
- (b) by inserting after subsection (1), a new subsection "(1A)" —

"(1A) The Association may enter into Mutual Recognition Agreement for the purpose of membership reciprocity and a Memorandum of Understanding with any other professional accountancy organisation and set the guidelines for such relationship".
- (c) in subsection (1) (d), by inserting after the word "degree", the words "or Higher National Diploma";
- (d) by inserting after paragraph (d), a new paragraph "(e)" —

"(e) he has obtained an approved degree or Higher National Diploma in an allied discipline and had undergone the conversion course of the Nigerian College of Accountancy, established in this Bill, leading to the professional training and examination conducted by the College and had completed the accountant-in-training programme";
- (e) in subsection (3) (b), by substituting for the words, "twenty-five", the words "twenty-one"; and
- (f) by inserting after subsection (6), new subsections "(7)" and "(8)" —

"(7) A member shall be issued a practicing certificate after satisfying the conditions as may be set by the Council, to be entitled to practice.

(8) Firms of the Association shall be issued practicing licence of the Association after fulfilling requirements as may be set by the Council" (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

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

Clause 9: Amendment of section 11.

Section 11 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for subsections (2) and (4), new subsections "(2)" and "(4)" —

- "(2) The Tribunal shall be appointed by the Council of the Association and shall consist of seven members who shall not be members of the Council.
- (4) The Panel shall be appointed by the Council of the Association and shall consist of five members who shall not be members of the Council" (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

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

Clause 10: Amendment of section 14.

Section 14 (1) of the Principal Act is amended —

- (a) by substituting for the words "any other persons", the words "any other member possessing valid practicing certificate of the Association"; and
- (b) in paragraph (a) by substituting for the words "public national accountant", the words "Chartered National Accountant (CNA)" (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 11: Insertion of new sections 14A and 14B.

Insert after section 14 of the Principal Act, new sections 14A and 14B —

"Areas of practice of a Chartered National Accountant.

14A. A Chartered National Accountant shall render or perform accounting, auditing of financial statements, financial reporting services, corporate reporting services, management accounting services, financial services, financial consultancy services, risk analysis, investment services, cost accounting services and other related financial services."

"Establishment of specialty areas.

14B. (1) The Association shall establish specialty areas in various fields of accountancy and its operation shall be regulated by the Council.

(2) The specialty areas of the Association shall be determined by the Council with the approval of the Ministry of Finance and the National Assembly, where necessary" (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 12: Amendment of section 17.

Section 17 (4) of the Principal Act is amended —

- (a) by substituting for paragraphs (a) and (b), new paragraphs "(a)" and "(b)" —
 - "(a) on summary conviction, to a fine of an amount not exceeding ₦250,000.00 or as may be reviewed by the Council"; and
 - "(b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine of an amount not exceeding ₦500,000.00 or as may be reviewed by Council, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or to both" (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 13: Insertion of new section 19A.

Insert after section 19 of the Principal Act, a new section "19A" —

"Establishment of ANAN Accounting Technician Scheme (AATS).

19A. (1) There is established the ANAN Accounting Technician Scheme (in this Bill referred to as "the Scheme").

(2) The guidelines and regulations of the Scheme shall be set by Council" (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 14: Amendment of section 20.

Section 20 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting in alphabetical order the interpretations of —

"Association" means Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — House Leader*).

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

"accounting practice" means accounting, auditing of financial statements, financial reporting services, corporate reporting services, management accounting services, financial services, financial consultancy services, risk analysis, investment services, cost accounting services and other related financial services (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — House Leader*).

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

"advancing the science of accountancy" means acts capable of increasing the frontiers of knowledge, particularly in accountancy and related disciplines, and it includes accounting, auditing of financial statements, financial reporting services, corporate reporting services, management accounting services, financial services, financial consultancy services, risk analysis, investment services, cost accounting services and other related financial services (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the words "advancing the science of accountancy" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"CNA" means Chartered National Accountant (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — House Leader*).

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

"Chartered National Accountant" means a member of the Association enrolled as CNA (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Chartered National Accountant" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"FCNA" means Fellow, Chartered National Accountant (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — House Leader*).

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

"Fellow Chartered National Accountant" means a member of the Association enrolled as FCNA; and (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Fellow Chartered National Accountant" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Ministry of Finance" means the Federal Ministry of Finance (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

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

Clause 15: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Long Title:

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) (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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 Amend the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria Act, Cap. A26, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Related Matters (HB.712) and approved Clauses 1 - 15, 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 Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act to establish Federal Medical Centre, Ovwian, Delta State and for Related Matters (HB. 222) (Committee of the Whole): Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on 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)" (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).*

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRES ACT TO ESTABLISH FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE, Ovwian, Delta State; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Clause 1:

Amendment of the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2023.
The Federal Medical Centres Act, 2023 (hereinafter called "the Principal Act" is amended as set out in this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 2: Amendment of the Second Schedule.

The Second Schedule to the Principal Act is amended by inserting a new item "3"

" Federal Medical Centre, Ovwian, Delta State" (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 3: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — House Leader*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2023 to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Ovwian, Delta State (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

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) (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — House Leader*).

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 Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act to establish Federal Medical Centre, Ovwian, Delta State and for Related Matters (HB. 222) and approved Clauses 1 - 3, 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 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.139) (Committee of the Whole):**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on 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.139)" (Hon. Julius Ihonybere — House Leader)

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION OF NIGERIA CHARGES 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 OTHER RELATED MATTERS (HB.139)

PART I — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHARTERED
INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION OF NIGERIA

Clause 1: Establishment of the Chartered Institute.

- (1) There is established a Chartered Institute of Business Administration of Nigeria ("The institute").
- (2) The Institute —
 - (a) shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal;
 - (b) may acquire, hold and dispose of real and personal property; and
 - (c) may sue or be sued in its Corporate name (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 2: Functions of the Institute.

The functions of the institute are to —

- (a) determine what standards of knowledge and skill are to be attained by persons seeking to become members of the Institute and improve those standards from time to time;
- (b) secure in accordance with the provisions of this Bill, the establishment and maintenance of a register of persons, registered under this Bill as members of the institute and to publish from time to time lists of those members;
- (c) provide consultancy services in appropriate cases;
- (d) arranging conferences, seminars, symposia and meetings; and
- (e) carryout such functions that are intended to facilitate the achievement of the objects contained in this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 3: Establishment of the Governing Council and Management.

- (1) There is established for the Institute, a Governing Council ("the Council") which shall be charged with the responsibilities for the administration and general management of the Institute.
- (2) The Council shall consist of the following members who shall be fellows and

chartered members of the Institute —

- (a) the Chairman of the Governing Council of the Institute;
- (b) President of the Institute;
- (c) the two Vice President of the Institute;
- (d) a representative each of the Federal Ministries —
 - (i) Education, and
 - (ii) Finance;
- (e) immediate Past President of the Institute;
- (f) a Registrar of the institute, who shall also be the Secretary of the Council (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 4: Election of the President and Vice Presidents of the Institute.

There shall be for the Institute a President and two Vice presidents who shall be chartered members or fellow of the Institute to be elected by the Chartered members at an Annual General Meeting and holds office each for a term of two years from the date of election and shall not be eligible for re-election after two terms of two years each (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 5: Power of the Institute.

- (1) The Institute has power to do all things necessary and convenient to be done in connection with the performance of its functions and in particular may —
 - (a) enter into contracts;
 - (b) charge fees for its services;
 - (c) make regulations for the conferment of charters; and
 - (d) make penal regulations.
- (2) The Institute shall have the power to award honorary membership of the Institute to persons it deems worthy of such honour on terms and conditions prescribed by the Council and approved by the Institute in a general meeting (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**PART II — APPOINTMENT OF REGISTRAR
AND PREPARATION OF REGISTER**

Clause 6: Appointment of Registrar, and preparation of Register.

- (1) The Council shall appoint the Registrar who shall be the chief executive officer of the Institute.

- (2) A person appointed as the Registrar shall have served the Institute for a period of not less than (2) two years preceding the date of his appointment.
- (3) The Registrar shall prepare and maintain in accordance with the rules and regulations made by the Council, a register of —
 - (a) names;
 - (b) addresses;
 - (c) approved qualifications; and
 - (d) other particulars, of all person who are entitled to be enrolled as fellows, members, associates or registered student and who in the manner prescribed by such rules apply to be so registered (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 7: Functions of the Registrar.

- (1) The Registrar shall be the secretary to the Council and shall keep minutes of proceedings at all meetings of the Council.
- (2) The Registrar shall —
 - (a) in accordance with the directions of the Council correct any entry in the register which the Council directs him to correct as being in the opinion of the Council incorrectly made;
 - (b) from time to time, make any necessary alterations to the particulars of registered members.
 - (c) record the names of the registered members who are in default for more than six months in the payment of annual subscriptions; and
 - (d) remove the names of defaulters from the registers as the Council may direct or require (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 8: Other staff.

- (1) The Council may, on the recommendation of the Registrar appoint such other staff as it may consider necessary to assist the Registrar in the discharge of his duties.
- (2) The employment of the Registrar and other staff shall be pensionable, in accordance with the terms and conditions of service in the Federal Government of Nigeria (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 9: Contents of the Register.

The Register shall be in four parts namely —

- (a) fellows;

- (b) members;
- (c) associates; and
- (d) registered students (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 10: Regulation.

The Council may by regulations provide for the —

- (a) manner of making entries in the Register;
- (b) manner of application for enrolment or registration in the Register; and
- (c) fees, including annual subscriptions payable to the Institute (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 11: Publication of the Register and list of correction, etc.

The Registrar shall —

- (1) cause the register to be printed and published not later than two years from the coming into force of this Bill;
- (2) thereafter in each year after the register is first published under paragraph (1) alone —
 - (a) cause to be printed, published and put on sale a corrected edition of the register;
 - (b) cause a print of each of the register and of each list of corrections to be deposited at the principal office of the Institute and
 - (c) make the register and lists so deposited available at all reasonable times for inspection by members of the public (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 12: Evidence of Registration of Chartered Institute of Business Administration of Nigeria.

A print of an edition of the register published under this section by the Registrar shall without prejudice to any other mode of proof be admissible in any proceeding as evidence that any person specified in the register was so registered at the date of the edition, and that any person not so specified was not so registered (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

PART III — REGISTRATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Clause 13: Qualification for Membership.

- (1) A person shall be entitled to be registered as a member of the Institute if he —

- (a) passes the qualifying professional examination conducted by the Council and completes the practical training prescribed or
 - (b) holds a qualification accepted by the Council as sufficient practical experience in Business Administration.
 - (c) holds a qualification granted outside Nigeria which is recognized by the Council and he is by law entitled to practice the profession for all purpose in the country in which the qualification was granted.
- (2) An applicant for registration shall in addition to evidence ~~or~~ qualification satisfy the Council that he —
- (a) is good character;
 - (b) has attained the age of eighteen years; and
 - (c) has not been convicted in Nigeria or elsewhere of an offence involving dishonesty.
- (3) The Council may, provisionally accept a qualification produced in respect of an application for registration under this section, or direct that the application be renewed within such period as may be specified in the direction.
- (4) An entry made under subsection (3), shall show that the registration is provisional and such entry may only be converted to full registration with the consent of the Council, signified in writing (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 14: Publication in the Gazette.

The Council shall, periodically publish in the Gazette particulars of qualifications acceptable for registration (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 15: Designation of members.

- (1) A member admitted to the Institute shall be registered with the Institute in the categories of —
 - (i) fellow;
 - (ii) member;
 - (iii) associate; or
 - (iv) registered student.
- (2) A person accorded by the Council, the status of a member of the institute, shall be entitled to the use of that name and shall be enrolled as —
 - (a) a fellow, he is at least thirty-five years of age and —
 - (i) has ten years relevant work experience in a public organizations,

- (ii) has, for at least three years in the past ten years, held in relevant senior appointments in a public organization,
 - (iii) is a holder of the professional qualifying certificate of the Institute, and
 - (iv) is otherwise considered by the Council to be fit and proper persons to be so enrolled;
- (b) a members, if he is thirty years of age or above and —
- (i) has passed a professional qualifying examination of the Institute,
 - (ii) has at least eight years relevant work experience in a public organization;
- (c) an associates, if he is twenty-one years of age or above and —
- (i) has passed the professional qualifying examination of the Institute or any equivalent examination recognized by the Institute; or
 - (ii) has at least five years relevant work experience in a public organization.
- (d) a registered student, if he is eighteen years of age or above and have passed with Credits, West African School Certificate or General Certificate Examination O/Level or Senior Secondary Certificate Examination in five papers at no more than two sittings (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 16: Designatory letters.

A member of the institute shall be entitled to use after his name, a designation appropriate to his status as follows —

- (a) fellow of the Institute "FCIBAN"
- (b) a member of the Institute "MCIBAN".
- (c) an associate of the Institute ACIBAN; and
- (d) a registered student registered for training shall become professional members only after satisfying specified qualification requirements for membership and pass prescribed examinations as approved by the Council bye-laws of the Institute (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 17: Approval for qualification, etc.

The Council may approve any course of training at any approved Institute which is intended for persons seeking to become or are already engaged in Chartered Institute of Business Administration and which the Council considers as being designed to confer on persons completing it sufficient knowledge and skill for admission into the

Institute (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 18: Supervision of Instructions.

(1) The Council shall keep it self-informed of the nature of

(a) instructions given at approved institutions to persons attending approved courses of training; and

(b) examination, the result of which qualifications are granted, and for the purpose of performing that duty, the Council may appoint, either from among its own members or otherwise, persons to visit approved institutions to observe such instructions or examinations.

(2) The persons appointed under subsection (1) shall report to the Council on the sufficiency or otherwise of the instructions given to persons attending approved courses of training at institutions visited by them (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 19: Signatory to Certificates.

The President and Registrar shall be the joint signatory to certificates awarded by the Institute (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

PART IV — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Clause 20: Funds of the Institute.

There is established for the Institute a fund into which shall be paid and credited —

(a) all fees, subscriptions and other monies due to the Institute;

(b) gifts, loans, grant-in-aid, testamentary dispositions, endowments, contributions from philanthropic organizations etc.

(c) returns on investments made by the Institute and Funds of the Institute, and

(d) all other assets or monies that may from time to time accrue to the Institute (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 21: Investment of the funds of the Institute.

(1) The Council may invest the funds of the Institute in accordance with the Securities and Investments Act.

(2) The Institute may from time to time apply the proceeds of the funds of the Institute to —

(a) the general administration of the Institute;

(b) the payment of the emoluments, fees and other entitlements of members of the Council;

- (c) the payment of salaries, allowances or other remunerations and benefits payable to the officers and other employees of the Institute;
- (d) the development and maintenance of any property vested in or owned by the Institute; and
- (e) such other activities that will promote the growth of the Institute or are connected with its functions (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 22: Expenditure and audited account of the Institute.

The Council shall keep proper accounts for the institute in respect to each financial year and proper records in relation to such accounts, and shall cause the accounts to be audited by a firm of auditors approved by the Council and the result for the audit published within six months from the end of the financial year to which the accounts relate (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

PART V — PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE

Clause 23: Establishment of Disciplinary Tribunal and Investigating Panel.

- (1) There is established a Chartered Institute of Business Administration Disciplinary Tribunal ("the Tribunal") charged with the duty of considering and determine any case of misconduct involving a member that may be referred to it by the Investigating Panel established under subsection (3) of this section.
- (2) The Tribunal shall consist of a Chairman and six other members who shall be appointed by the Council from among members of the Institute who are not members of the Council.
- (3) There shall be a body to be known as the Chartered Institute of Business Administration Investigating Panel ("the Panel") charged with the duties of—
 - (a) conducting a preliminary investigation into any case where it is alleged that a member has committed an act of professional misconduct, or should for any other reason be the subject of proceedings before the Tribunal; and
 - (b) deciding whether the case shall be referred to the Tribunal after affording such a member an opportunity of being heard either personally or by a legal practitioner of his own choice in Nigeria.
- (4) The Council shall appoint members of the Panel from members of the Institute who are not members of the Council or the Tribunal.
- (5) A person shall not be appointed as a member of the Tribunal or of the Panel unless such a person is a chartered member or fellow of the Institute.
- (6) The provision of third Schedule to this Bill shall so far as they are applicable to the Tribunal and Panel, respectively have effect with respect to these bodies.

- (7) The Council may, from time to time, make rules consistent with this Bill as to acts, conducts or omissions which constitute professional misconduct (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 24: Penalties for professional misconduct.

- (1) Where —
- (a) a person enrolled or registered under this Bill is adjudged by the Tribunal to be guilty of misconduct conduct in any professional respect;
 - (b) a person enrolled or registered under this Bill is convicted by any court or tribunal in Nigeria or elsewhere having power to impose a term of imprisonment for an offence (whether or not punishable with imprisonment) which is in the opinion of the Tribunal is incompatible with the status of a Business Administrations professional; or
- (2) The Tribunal may, if it deem fit —
- (a) give a directive reprimanding that person or ordering the Registrar to strike his name off the relevant part of the register; or
 - (b) defer or further defer its decision as to the giving of such directive under this section until a subsequent meeting of the Tribunal, provided that —
 - (i) no decision shall be deferred under this section for period exceeding one year in the aggregate and
 - (ii) no person shall be a member of the Tribunal for the purposes of reaching a decision which has been differed or further differed unless he was present as a member of the Tribunal when that decision was deferred.
- (3) For the purpose of subsection (1) (b) of this section, a person shall not be treated as convicted unless the conviction stands at a time when no appeal is pending or no application for extension of time to appeal is brought in connection with the conviction.
- (4) When the Tribunal gives a directive under subsection (2) of this section, the Tribunal shall cause notice of the directive to be served on the person to whom it relates.
- (5) A person to whom a directive under subsection (2) of this section relates may, at any time within 21 days from the date of service on him of notice of the directives, appeal against the directives to the High court and the Tribunal may appear as respondent to the appeal and for the purpose of enabling directives to be given as to the costs of the appeal proceedings before the Federal High Court, the Tribunal shall be deemed to be a party thereto whether or not it appeals on the hearing of the appeal.
- (6) A directive on the Tribunal Under this section shall take effect where —

- (a) no appeal under this section is brought against the directive within the time limited for appeal;
 - (b) such an appeal is brought and is withdrawn or struck out for want of prosecution on the withdrawal or striking out of appeal.
 - (c) such appeal is brought and is not withdrawn or struck out, if and when the appeal is dismissed, and shall not take effect except in accordance with foregoing provisions of this subsection.
- (7) A directive under this section for the striking off of a person's name from the register may prohibit an application under this subsection by that person until the expiration of such period from the date of the directive (and where he has recently made such an application from the date of his last application) as may be specified in the directive (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

PART VI — MISCELLANEOUS

Clause 25: Offences.

- (1) If a person for the purpose of procuring the registration of any name, qualification or other matters —
 - (a) makes a statement which he believes to be false in a material particular; or
 - (b) recklessly makes a statement which is false in a material particular is guilty of an offence.
- (2) If, on or after the commencement date of this Bill, a person who is not a member of the Institute practices or holds himself out as a member in expectation of a reward or takes or uses any name, title, addition or description implying that he is a member, commits an offence.
- (3) If the Registrar or any other person employed by or on behalf of the Institute willfully make any falsification in any matter relating to the register, commits an offence.
- (4) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable —
 - (a) on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding ₦50,000
 - (b) on conviction or indictment to a fine not exceeding ₦20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to both such fines and imprisonment (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 26: Interpretation.
In this Bill:

"Business" means the activity of providing of goods and services involving financial, commercial and industrial aspects (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Administration" a method of tending to or managing the affairs of some group of people (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

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

"Chairman" means the overall head of the Council of the Institute (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

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

"Council" means the Council established as expanding governing body of the Institute under section 3 (1) of this Bill (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

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

"Fees" includes annual subscription (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

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

"Institute" means the Chartered Institute of Business Administration of Nigeria established under section 1 (1) of this Bill (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

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

"Investigation Panel" means the Chartered Institute of Business Administration of Nigeria Investigation Panel established under section 4 of this Bill (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

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

"Member" means a Chartered member of the Institute registered in all the classes of membership (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

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

"Minister" means Minister in charge of Education (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

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

"President" means the head of the Institute administration (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

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

"Tribunal" means the Chartered Institute of Business Administration of Nigeria Tribunal established under section 4 of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

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

Clause 27: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Chartered Institute of Business Administration of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

SCHEDULE

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE COUNCIL

Qualification and tenure of office of members

1. (1) Subject to the provisions of this paragraph, a member of the Council shall hold office for a period of two years beginning from the date of his appointment or election.
- (2) A member of the Institute who ceases to be a member thereof shall if he is also a member of the Council, cease to hold office on the Council.
- (3) An elected member of the Council may by notice in writing under his hand address to the President of the Institute resign his office.
- (4) If for any reason there is a vacation of office by a member and —
 - (a) such member was appointed by the Council, the Council shall appoint another fit and proper person to replace such member; or
 - (b) if such member was elected, the Council may, if the time between the unexpired portion of the term of office and the annual general meeting of the Institute appears to warrant the filling of the vacancy, co-opt some fit and proper persons.

Power of the Council, etc.

2. The Council shall have power to do anything, which in its opinion is calculated to facilitate the carrying on of the activities of the Institute.

Orders of the Institution

3. (1) Subject to the provision of this Bill, the Council may in the name of the Institute make standing orders regulating the proceedings of the Institute, the Council or any of their committees.
- (2) Standing orders shall provide for decisions to be taken by a majority of the members and in the event of equality of votes, the President of the Institute or the Vice President as the case may be has a second or casting vote.
- (3) Standing orders made for committees shall provide for committees to report back to the Council on any matter referred to it by the Council.

- (4) The quorum of the Council shall be 8 and the quorum of a committee of the Council shall be determined by the Council.

Meetings of the Institute

4. (1) The Council shall convene an annual general meeting of the Institute on the 30th day of September every year or such other day as the Council may, from time to time, appoint so that if the meeting is not held within one year after the previous meeting not more than 15 months shall elapse between the respective dates of the two meetings. The President of the Institute shall oversee a special meeting of the Institute.
- (2) A special meeting of the Institute may be convened by the Council at any time, if less than 20 members of the Institute are informed by notice in writing addressed to the Registrar of the Institute setting out the objects of the proposed meetings, the chairman of the Council shall oversee a special meeting of the Institute.

Meetings of the Council

5. (1) Subject to the provisions of any standing order, the Council shall meet whenever it is summoned by the President, and if the President is required to do so by notice in writing given to him by not less than seven other members, he shall summon a meeting of the Council to be held within seven days from the day on which the notice is given.
- (2) At any meeting of the Council, the President or in his absence, the Vice-President in their order (first or second) shall preside, but if both are absent, the members present at the meeting shall appoint one of themselves to preside at the meeting.
- (3) Where the Council desires to obtain the advice of any person on particular matter, the Council may co-opt him as a member for such period as the Council deems fit, but a person who is a member by virtue of this subparagraph, shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Council and shall not count towards a quorum.
- (4) Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this paragraph, the first meeting of the Council shall be summoned by the Chairman who may give such directions as he thinks fit as to the procedure which shall be followed at the meeting.

Meetings of the Committees

6. (1) The Council may appoint one or more committees to carry out on behalf of the Institute or the Council, such function as the Council may determine.
- (2) A committee appointed under this paragraph shall consist of the number of persons determined by the Council of whom not more than one-third may be persons who are not members of the Council and a person other than a member of the Council shall hold office on the committee in accordance with the terms of the instrument by which he is appointed.
- (3) A decision of a committee of the Council shall be of no effect until it is confirmed by the Council.

Miscellaneous

7. (1) The fixing of the common seal of the Institute shall be authenticated by the signature of the President or any other member of the Council authorized generally or specially by the Institute to act for that purpose.

- (2) Any contract or instrument which, if made or executed by person not being a body corporate, would not be required to be under seal, may be executed on behalf of the Institute or the Council, as the case may require, by any person generally or specially authorized to act for that purpose by the Council.
 - (3) Any document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal of the Institute shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be executed.
8. The validity of any proceeding of the Institute or the Council or of a committee of the Council shall not be adversely affected by any vacancy in membership, or by any defect in the appointment of a member of the Institute or of the Council or of a person to serve on the committee or by reason that the person is not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings.
 9. Any member of the Institute or Council and any person holding office on a Committee of the Council, who has a personal interest in any contract or arrangement entered into or proposed to be considered by the Council or a committee thereof, shall forthwith disclose his interest to the President or Council, as the case may be, and shall not vote on any question relating to the contract or arrangement (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Explanatory memorandum:

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 determine the standard of knowledge and skills to be attained by persons seeking to become registered members of the Institute and for other related matters (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Business Administration of Nigeria Charges 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 Other Related Matters (HB.139) (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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 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.139) and approved Clause 1 - 27, the Schedules, 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.

- (v) **A Bill for an Act to Establish Nigerian Council for Psychologists charged with the responsibility of Advancing the Study, Training and Practice of Psychology Profession and for Related Matters (HB.610) (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 Council for Psychologists charged with the responsibility of

Advancing the Study, Training and Practice of Psychology Profession and for Related Matters (HB.610)" (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NIGERIAN COUNCIL FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DETERMINING THE STANDARDS OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL TO BE ATTAINED BY PERSONS SEEKING TO BECOME REGISTERED MEMBERS OF THE PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSION IN NIGERIA; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB.610)

PART I — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NIGERIAN COUNCIL FOR PSYCHOLOGIST, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, ETC.

Clause 1: Establishment of the Council.

- (1) There is established the Nigerian Council for Psychologists (in this Bill referred to as "the Council").
- (2) The Council:
 - (a) is a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal;
 - (b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name; and
 - (c) may acquire, hold and dispose of any property, movable and immovable (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 2: Functions of the Council.

The Council is responsible for:

- (a) determining the standards of knowledge and skill to be attained by persons seeking to become registered members of the psychology profession (in this Bill referred to as the "the profession") and reviewing those standards as circumstances may require;
- (b) securing, in accordance with the provisions of this Bill, the establishment and maintenance of registers of persons entitled to practise as members of the profession, and the publication of lists of these persons;
- (c) preparing and reviewing a statement as to the Code of Conduct which the Council considers desirable for the practice of psychology profession;
- (d) regulating and controlling the practice of the profession in all its aspects and ramifications; and
- (e) performing such other functions as may be required of the Council under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 3: Membership of the Council.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, persons admitted to membership of the Council shall be registered as members in the category of:
 - (a) Fellow;
 - (b) Associate Fellow;
 - (c) Chartered Member;
 - (d) Member; or
 - (e) Graduate Member.
- (2) Subject to the fulfillment of all other conditions set out by the Council, persons registered under the Act as members are entitled to be enrolled as:
 - (a) Fellow, if for the period of at least five years immediately preceding the date of admission as an Associate Fellow, he still practises as a Psychologist;
 - (b) Associate Fellow, if for the period of at least five years immediately preceding the date of admission as a Chartered Member, he is still actively involved in practice as a Psychologist;
 - (c) Chartered Member, if for the period of at least five years immediately preceding the date of admission as a Member, he is still actively involved in the practice as a Psychologist;
 - (d) Member, if for the period of not less than two years immediately preceding the date of admission as a Graduate Member, he is still actively involved in practice; or
 - (e) Graduate Member, for those who have successfully completed the programme for Master of Science in Psychology in any recognised institution and are fit to be enrolled shall apply to the Council through their Department and be admitted on the next induction ceremony (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — House Leader*).

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

**PART II — ESTABLISHMENT AND
COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD**

Clause 4: Establishment of the Governing Board.

- (1) There is established for the Council a Governing Board (in this Bill referred to as "the Board") consisting of:
 - (a) the Chairman and a Vice-Chairman who shall be qualified Fellows of the Council of not less than 17 years post-registration or qualification experience and shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Council;
 - (b) the representative of the Federal Ministry of Health who shall be a fully registered Psychologist;

- (c) 12 members of the Nigerian Psychological Association representing the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria, with two persons representing each zone respectively on rotational basis, and the two of them shall not come from a particular State at the same time;
- (d) three registered members representing the Nigerian Universities offering any field of psychology as an option in their Master's programme, on a rotational basis;
- (e) two representatives of the private practitioners in psychology who shall be registered with the Association;
- (f) three representatives of the Association (President, Vice-President and Secretary);
- (g) three representatives of the Armed Forces Medical Services who shall be registered Psychologists;
- (h) a registered Psychologist, each to represent the:
 - (i) Nigerian Prisons Service;
 - (ii) Nigeria Police;
 - (iii) State Security Service;
 - (iv) Nigerian Immigration Service; and
 - (v) Nigerian Customs Service;
- (i) five representatives of the Hospitals which include Teaching Hospitals, Psychiatric Hospitals, and other Specialist Hospitals where Psychology Department, Unit or Section exists and take part in the training of Psychologists and such representation shall have a national spread; and
- (j) 10 members representing different Divisions of the Nigerian Psychological Association, who shall be registered as Psychologists, and not less than Chartered Member under section 3 (2) (c) of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 5: Tenure of office of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

- (1) The Chairman and Vice Chairman shall each hold office for three years from the date of appointment and may be eligible for re-appointment for another three years and no more.
- (2) The Chairman shall preside over all meetings of the Council, but in the event of death, incapacity or inability, or for other reason, a new Chairman shall be appointed for the unexpired portion of the term of office of the erstwhile Chairman.

First Schedule.

- (3) The provisions of the First Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the qualifications and tenure of office of members of the Council and

other matters mentioned in the Schedule (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

PART III — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Clause 6: Funds of the Council.

- (1) The Council shall establish and maintain a fund (in this Bill referred to as "the Fund") for the purpose of this Bill.
- (2) There shall be paid into the Fund:
 - (a) all fees and other money payable to the Council under this Bill; and
 - (b) such money as may be payable to the Council, whether in the course of the performance of its functions or otherwise.
- (3) There shall be paid out of the Fund:
 - (a) the remuneration and allowances of the Registrar and other employees of the Council;
 - (b) such reasonable travelling and subsistence allowance of members of the Council in respect of the time spent on the business of the Council as the Council may approve.
 - (c) any other expenses incurred by the Council in the performance of its functions under this Bill.
- (4) The Council may invest money in the Fund in any security created or issued by or on behalf of the Federal Government or in any other security in Nigeria approved by the Council.
- (5) The Council may borrow money for the purposes the Council, and any interest payable on money so borrowed shall be paid out of the Fund (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 7: Accounts, Records and Audit.

The Council shall keep proper accounts and records in respect of each year and shall cause its accounts to be audited, as soon as may be after the end of the year to which the accounts relate, by a firm of auditors appointed from the list and in accordance with guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General for the Federation (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

PART IV — APPOINTMENT OF THE REGISTRAR, DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS AND THE PREPARATION OF THE REGISTER

Clause 8: Appointment of the Registrar, His Duties and Functions.

- (1) The Council shall appoint a fit and proper person to be the Registrar for the purposes of this Bill, and such other persons as the Council may deem necessary to assist the Registrar in the performance of his functions under this Bill on terms and conditions of service determined by the Council.

- (2) The Registrar shall:
 - (a) be a citizen of Nigeria;
 - (b) possess a minimum qualification of second degree in psychology or in any relevant field from a recognised institution of higher learning; and
 - (c) have at least 10 years cognate experience and possess any professional qualification as the Council may deem fit.
- (3) If the Registrar retires or resigns from office, a qualified member of the Council shall be appointed by the Board as the Registrar of the Council.
- (4) There shall be the offices of the Deputy Registrars who shall be administrative heads in each of the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria for the purposes of smooth administration of the Council at the zones and for such other important duties that may be assigned to him by either the Council or Registrar.
- (5) The Deputy Registrars shall fulfill the conditions stipulated under subsection (2) to qualify for appointments.
- (6) The Registrar shall be the Secretary to the Council and to the Disciplinary Tribunal.
- (7) The Registrar shall prepare and maintain, in accordance with rules made by the Council:
 - (a) a register of the names, addresses, approved qualifications, and of such other qualifications and particulars as may be specified in the rules of all persons who are entitled, in accordance with the provisions of this Bill to be enrolled as Fellow, Associate Fellow, Chartered Member, Member, Graduate Member, and who, in the manner prescribed by such rules, applies to be so registered; and
 - (b) a register of the institutions or organisations where members of the profession engage in their practice.
- (8) The register shall consist of six parts:
 - (a) first part in respect of Fellow;
 - (b) second part in respect of Associate Fellow;
 - (c) third part in respect of Chartered Member;
 - (d) fourth part in respect of Member;
 - (e) fifth part in respect of Graduate Member; and
 - (f) sixth part in respect of the premises of members.
- (9) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Council shall make rules with respect to the form, keeping of the register and the making of entries therein, and in particular:

- (a) regulate the making of applications for enrolment of registration, as the case may be, and providing for the evidence to be produced in support of such applications;
 - (b) provide for the notification to the Registrar, by the person to whom the registered particulars relate, of any change in those particulars;
 - (c) authorise a registered person to have any qualification which is in relation to the profession, whether an approved qualification or an accepted qualification for the purposes of this Bill, registered in relation to name in addition to, or as he may elect, in substitution for any other qualification so registered;
 - (d) specify the fees, including any annual subscription, to be paid to the Council in respect of the entry of names on the register, and authorising the Registrar to refuse to enter a name on the register until the fee specified for the entry has been paid;
 - (e) specify anything not specified under this section, but rules made for the purposes of paragraph (d) shall not come into force until they are confirmed at the Annual General Meeting of the Psychological Association.
- (10) The Registrar shall:
- (a) correct, in accordance with the Council's directions, any entry in the register which the Council directs him to correct as being, in the Council's opinion, an entry which was incorrectly made;
 - (b) make any necessary alteration to the registered particulars of registered persons and institution or organisation;
 - (c) remove from the register the name of any registered person who has died or the person whose temporary registration has ceased; and
 - (d) record the names of registered persons who are in default for more than six months in the payment of annual dues, and take such action in relation the default (including removal of the names of defaulters from the register) as the Council may direct or require.
- (11) The Registrar may remove the particulars relating to the person in question from the relevant part of the register if the Registrar:
- (a) sends by post to any registered person a registered letter addressed to him at his address on the register enquiring whether the registered particulars relating to him are correct and receives no reply to the letter within six months from the date of posting it; and
 - *(b) upon the expiration of that period, sends, in the like manner to the person in question, a second similar letter and receives no reply to that letter within three months from the date of posting it.
- (12) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (11) (a) and (b), the Council may direct the Registrar to restore to the appropriate part of the register any particulars removed

- (13) When a person's name is entered on the register of Psychologists under this section, that person shall thereupon be taken to become a member of the Nigerian Council for Psychologists (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 9: Publication of the register.

- (1) The Registrar shall:
- (a) cause the register to be printed, published and put on sale to members of the public, not later than two years from the commencement of this Bill;
 - (b) thereafter in each year, cause to be printed, published and put on sale, either a corrected edition of the register or a list of connections made to the register, since it was last printed;
 - (c) cause a print of each edition of the register and of each list of corrections to be deposited at the principal offices of the Council; and
 - (d) keep the register and lists so deposited open to members of the public at all reasonable times for inspection.
- (2) A document purporting to be a print of an edition of the register published under this section by authority of the Registrar in the current year, or documents purporting to be prints of an edition of the register so published in the current year and of the list of corrections to that edition so published, is (without prejudice to any other mode of proof) admissible in any proceeding as evidence that any person specified in the document, or the documents read together as being registered, was so registered at the date of the edition, or of the list of corrections, as the case may be, that any person not so specified was not so registered.
- (3) Where, in accordance with subsection (2), a person is, in any proceeding, shown to have been or not to have been registered at a particular date, he shall, unless the contrary is proved, be taken for the purposes of those proceedings as having at all material times thereafter continued to be, or not to be so enrolled or registered (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

PART V — REGISTRATION

Clause 10: Registration of members of the Council.

- (1) A person shall not hold any appointment or practice as a Psychologist in Nigeria, unless he is registered with, and licensed by, the Council under the provisions of this Bill.
- (2) A registered Psychologist shall be licensed, and is entitled to practice as a Psychologist in Nigeria either as:
- (a) a clinician;
 - (b) a researcher;

- (c) scientist- practitioner; or
 - (d) restricted or limited licensee.
- (3) Subject to section 12 of this Bill and requirements under section 8 (10) of this Bill, a person is entitled to be:
- (a) fully registered as a Psychologist under this Bill, if he:
 - (i) is a Nigerian citizen,
 - (ii) is of good character and a fit and proper person,
 - (iii) has attended a course of training approved by the Council under section 15 of this Bill, or the course was conducted at an institution approved by the Council,
 - (iv) holds a qualification approved by the Council,
 - (v) has undergone the statutory continuous internship training for at least one year under a registered Psychologist approved by the Council for the purpose of internship or in an institution approved for that purpose by the Council and has obtained a certificate of experience,
 - (vi) holds a certificate of experience issued under section 11 (1) (c) of this Bill, and
 - (vii) pays the prescribed fee;
 - (b) registered as a Fellow, if he:
 - (i) has attended a course of training approved by the Council or the course was conducted at an institution so approved by the Council,
 - (ii) holds a qualification approved by the Council,
 - (iii) has undergone the statutory internship training in an institution approved for that purpose by the Council and under a registered Psychologist approved by the Council for that purpose,
 - (iv) shall have spent five years as Associate fellow, and
 - (v) pays the prescribed fee;
 - (c) registered as an Associate Fellow, if he:
 - (i) has attended a course of training approved by the Council or the course was conducted at an institution so approved by the Council,
 - (ii) holds a qualification approved by the Council,
 - (iii) has undergone the statutory internship training in an

institution approved for that purpose by the Council and under a registered Psychologist approved by the Council for that purpose,

- (iv) shall have spend five years as Chartered Member, and
- (v) pays the prescribed fee;
- (d) registered as a Chartered Member, if he:
 - (i) has attended a course of training approved by the Council or the course was conducted at an institution so approved by the Council,
 - (ii) holds a qualification approved by the Council,
 - (iii) has undergone the statutory internship training in an institution approved for that purpose by the Council and under a registered Psychologist approved by the Council for that purpose,
 - (iv) shall have spend five years as Member, and
 - (v) pays the prescribed fee;
- (e) registered as a Member, if he:
 - (i) has attended a course of training approved by the Council or the course was conducted at an institution so approved by the Council,
 - (ii) holds a qualification approved by the Council,
 - (iii) has undergone the statutory internship training in an institution approved for that purpose by the Council and under a registered Psychologist approved by the Council for that purpose, and
 - (iv) shall have spend two years as Graduate Member, and
 - (v) pays the prescribed fee;
- (f) registered as a Graduate Member, if he:
 - (i) has attended a course of training approved by the Council or the course was conducted at an institution so approved by the Council,
 - (ii) holds a qualification approved by the Council,
 - (iii) is undergoing or has undergone the statutory internship training in an institution approved for that purpose by the Council and under a registered Psychologist approved by the Council for that purpose, and
 - (iv) pays the prescribed fee (*Hon. Julius Ihouvbere - House Leader*).

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

Clause 11: Registration of Nigerians who are qualified outside Nigeria.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of section 10 of this Bill, a Nigerian citizen who qualified in an approved institution outside Nigeria is entitled to be fully registered under this Bill, if he satisfies the Council that:
 - (a) he holds a qualification granted outside Nigeria and for the time being accepted by the Council for the purposes of this subsection as regards the profession;
 - (b) in the country in which the qualification was granted he was under no legal disability in the practice of Psychology;
 - (c) he holds a certificate of registration as a Psychologist from the country of study;
 - (d) in addition to any other condition that may be prescribed by the Council, he had received instructions in an approved institution in Nigeria and passed such examination as the Council may prescribe; and
 - (e) he pays the prescribed fee.
- (2) A person aggrieved by a decision of the Council under this section may appeal to the Minister of Health within one month after notification of the refusal is communicated to him (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 12: Registration of non-citizens of Nigeria.

- (1) A person who is not a citizen of Nigeria may be registered as a Psychologist under this Bill if the country of which he is a citizen or national, as the case may be, grants reciprocal registration facilities to Nigerian citizens and if:
 - (a) he holds a qualification approved by the Council;
 - (b) he has passed the Council's examination in law and ethics governing the practice of psychology in Nigeria and such other examinations as the Council may prescribe and before being registered acquires the required experience in accordance with section 11 (1) (a) of this Bill; and
 - (c) has been resident in Nigeria for at least 24 calendar months and shall have been enrolled or undergoing internship in Nigeria.
- (2) An applicant for registration shall, in addition to evidence of qualification, satisfy the Council that he:
 - (a) is of good character;
 - (b) has attained the age of 21 years;
 - (c) has not been convicted in Nigeria or elsewhere of any offence involving fraud or dishonesty; and

(d) has paid the prescribed fee.

(3) The Council may provisionally accept a qualification produced in respect of an application for registration under this section or direct that the application be renewed within such period as may be specified in the direction.

(4) Any entry directed to be made in the register under subsection (3) shall show that such registration is provisional and no entry so made shall be converted to full registration without the consent of the Council signified in writing in that respect (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 13: Public Registration in the Gazette.

The Council shall publish in the Federal Government Gazette particulars of qualifications for the time being accepted for registration under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 14: Rules as to practice.

(1) No registered person shall practise as a Psychologist in any year unless he has paid to the Council in respect of that year the appropriate practising fee which shall be due every January as prescribed under this section:

(a) in the case of a Psychologist of at least 15 years post-registration experience, ₦25,000.00;

(b) in the case of a Psychologist of at least 15 years but more than 10 years post-registration experience, ₦20,000.00;

(c) in the case of a Psychologist of 10 years post-registration experience and below, ₦10,000.00;

(d) in the case of a Psychologist undergoing internship training, ₦5,000.00; and

(e) in the case of a Psychologist trained abroad and currently holding Bachelor of Psychology and Masters in any field of Psychology who is back in Nigeria for the purpose of National Service Youth Corps (NYSC), during his year in the National Service Youth Corps scheme, ₦5,000.00.

(2) Without prejudice to being fully registered, any Psychologist with at least 50 years post registration experience shall not pay practicing fee.

(3) Every fully registered Psychologist who has paid his registration fee as prescribed in subsection (1) or is exempted from payment of registration fee as in subsection (2) is entitled to an annual practicing licence authorising him subject to any regulation in force to practice in Nigeria.

(4) The Council may, with the confirmation of the Minister of Health, vary the practicing fees prescribed in subsection (1).

(5) The Council shall share the aggregate amount collected as practicing fees as:

- (a) 70% to the Nigerian Psychological Association; and
 - (b) 30% to the Council.
- (6) Any Psychologist who, in respect of any year without paying the practicing fee, practices as such commits an offence and is liable on conviction by a competent panel of enquiry or court of law:
- (a) in the case of a first offence, to a fine of twice the prescribed practicing fee;
 - (b) in the case of second or subsequent offence, to a fine of not less than 10 times the prescribed practicing fee; and
 - (c) if the Psychologist is in the employment of any person, the employer is also guilty of an offence punishable in like manner as the Psychologist if it is proved that the failure to pay the practicing fee was with his knowledge, consent and connivance (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 15: Approval of Qualifications.

- (1) The Council may approve any institution (accredited by a recognised regulatory body) for the purposes of this Bill and may approve any:
 - (a) course of training at any approved institution which is intended for persons seeking to become or are already Psychologist and which in the opinion of the Council is designed to confer on persons completing it sufficient knowledge and skill for the practice of the profession; and
 - (b) qualification which, as a result of an examination taken in conjunction with a course of training approved by the Council under this section is granted to candidates who reached a standard at the examination indicating in the opinion of the Council that the candidates have sufficient knowledge and skill to practise as a Psychologist.
- (2) The Council may, if it deems fit, withdraw any approval given under this section in respect of any course, qualification or institution, but before withdrawing such an approval, the Council shall:
 - (a) give notice that it proposes to do so to such person in Nigeria appearing to the Council to be a person by whom the course is conducted or the qualification is granted or the institution is controlled, as the case may be;
 - (b) afford each such person an opportunity to make representation to the Council with regard to the proposal; and
 - (c) take into consideration any representation made as regards the proposal;
- (3) A course, qualification or institution shall not be treated as approved during the period the approval is withdrawn under subsection (2).

- (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (3), the withdrawal of an approval under subsection (2) shall not prejudice the registration or eligibility for registration of any person who, by virtue of the approval, was registered or eligible for registration (either unconditionally or subject to his obtaining a certificate of experience) immediately before the approval was withdrawn.
- (5) The giving or withdrawal of an approval under this section shall have effect from such date, either before or after the execution of the instrument signifying the giving, or withdrawal of the approval, as the Council may specify in the instrument, and the Council shall:
 - (a) publish a copy of every such instrument in the Federal Government Gazette; and
 - (b) not later than seven days before its publication, send a copy of the instrument to the Minister of Health (*Hon. Julius Ihomvber - House Leader*).

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

Clause 16: Supervision of instructions and examinations leading to approved qualifications.

- (1) The Council shall keep itself informed of the nature of the:
 - (a) instruction given at approved institutions to persons attending approved courses of training; and
 - (b) examination as a result of which approved qualifications are granted;
- (2) For the purposes of discharging that duty, the Council may appoint, either from among its own members or otherwise, persons to visit approved institutions or to attend such examinations.
- (3) A Visitor under this section shall report to the Council on:
 - (a) the adequacy of the instruction given to persons attending approved courses of training at institutions visited by him;
 - (b) the adequacy of the examinations attended by him; and
 - (c) any other matter relating to the institutions or examinations on which the Council may, either generally or in a particular case, request him to report, but no such person shall interfere with the giving of any instructions or the holding of any examination.
- (4) On receiving, a report made under this section, the Council may, if it deems fit, and shall, if so required by the instructions, send a copy of the report to the person appearing to the Council to be in charge of the institution or responsible for the examinations to which the report relates, requesting that person to make observation on the report to the Council within such period as may be specified in the request, not being more than one month beginning with the date of the request.
- (5) There shall be established a College of Psychology (in this Bill referred to as "the College") which shall be the training arm of the Nigerian Council for Psychologists where prospective members shall undergo training for a specified period of time and pass relevant examinations before induction into membership.

- (6) The College shall be headed by a Director-General who shall be appointed by the Board and the activities of the College shall be regulated by the Board.
- (7) There shall be other Directors and relevant officers to be appointed by the Director-General with the approval of the Board for the smooth running of the College.
- (8) The conditions of service and the tenure of office of the Director-General and other Directors of the College shall be specified in their letters of appointment and be determined by the Board (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

PART VI — DUTIES OF PSYCHOLOGISTS

Clause 17: Duties of a Psychologist.

It is the exclusive duties of the psychologists, as defined by this Bill, to provide such professional services in line with their training and such duties include:

- (a) provision of psychological services involving psychological assessment using psychological tests;
- (b) provision of psychological treatment including psychotherapy, behaviour therapy, cognitive behaviour therapy psychoprophylaxis, psychoeducation and all other treatment that are psychological in nature;
- (c) development, custody and use of psychological tests;
- (d) development and use of personality tests and assessment thereof for clinical, industrial or organisational, personnel evaluation and placement, educational, or for other uses where psychological variables of individuals are needed for relevant decisions;
- (e) conduct of psychological fitness to work tests;
- (f) development and use of intelligence test batteries; and
- (g) all other duties where certification as psychologists is required for effective competent performance and for public good in line with global practices (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

PART VII — PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE

Clause 18: Establishment of Investigating Panel and Disciplinary Tribunal.

- (1) There is established for the Council the Investigating Panel (in this Bill referred to as "the Panel") charged with the duty of:
 - (a) conducting preliminary investigations into any case where it is alleged that a person registered has misbehaved in his capacity as a Psychologist or should for any other reason be the subject of proceedings before the Tribunal; and

(b) deciding whether the case should be referred to the Tribunal.

(2) The Panel shall be constituted by the Board and shall consist of six members of the Council and one member of the Board who shall be the Chairman of the Panel.

(3) There is established for the Council the Disciplinary Tribunal (in this Bill referred to as "the Tribunal") charged with the duties of considering and determining any case referred to it by the Panel and any other case which the Tribunal takes cognisance of under this Bill.

(4) The Tribunal shall consist of the Chairman of the Council and eight members of the Council appointed by the Board.

Second Schedule.

(5) The provision of the Second Schedule to this Bill shall, if applicable to the Tribunal and Panel respectively, have effect with respect to those bodies.

(6) The Council shall not make rules that are not consistent with this Bill as to acts which constitute professional misconduct.

(7) The Panel shall act independently in receiving and investigating allegations under subsection (3) and shall have power to receive complaints directly from any individual or organisation.

(8) A person shall not be appointed as a member of the Tribunal or Panel unless such a person is a Fellow of the Council (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 19: Penalties for professional misconduct.

(1) Where:

(a) a person registered under this Bill is judged by the Tribunal to be guilty of infamous conduct in any professional respect, or

(b) a person registered under this Bill is convicted by any court or Tribunal in Nigeria or elsewhere having power to award imprisonment, of an offence (whether or not an offence punishable with imprisonment) which, in the opinion of the Tribunal, is incompatible with the status of a Psychologist, or

(c) the tribunal is satisfied that the name of any person has been fraudulently registered,

the Tribunal may, if it deems fit, give any of the directions specified in subsection (2).

(2) The Tribunal may give a directive under subsection (1):

(a) ordering the Registrar to strike the person's name off the relevant part of the register; or

(b) suspend the person from practice by ordering him not to engage in practice as Psychologist for such period not exceeding three years as may be specified in the direction; or

- (c) admonish that person.
- (3) The Tribunal may, if it deems fit, defer or further defer its decision as to the giving of a direction under subsection (1) until a subsequent meeting of the Tribunal, but no:
 - (a) decision shall be deferred under this subsection for periods exceeding two years in the aggregate; and
 - (b) person shall be a member of the Tribunal for the purposes of reaching a decision which has been deferred or further deferred, unless he was present as a member of the Tribunal where the decision was deferred.
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (1) (b), a person shall not be treated as convicted, unless the conviction stands at a time when to appeal or further appeal is pending or may (without extension of time) be brought in connection with the conviction.
- (5) When the Tribunal gives a direction under subsection (1), the Tribunal shall cause notice of the direction to be served on the person to whom it relates.
- (6) A person to whom a direction relates may, at any time within 28 days from the date of service on him of notice of the direction, appeal against the direction to the Federal High Court and the Tribunal may appear as respondent to the appeal and, for the purpose of enabling directions to be given as to the costs of the appeal and of proceedings before The Tribunal, and the Tribunal is deemed to be a party thereto whether or not it appears on the hearing of the appeal.
- (7) A direction of the Tribunal under subsection (1) takes effect where:
 - (a) no appeal under this section is brought against the direction within the time limited for such an appeal, or on the expiration of that time;
 - (b) an appeal is brought and is withdrawn or struck out for want of prosecution, on the withdrawal or striking out of the appeal; and
 - (c) an appeal is brought and is not withdrawn or struck out as aforesaid, if and when the appeal is dismissed and shall not take effect in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.
- (8) A person whose name is struck off the register under a direction of the Tribunal under this section is not entitled to be registered in that register again except under direction in that behalf given by the Tribunal on the application of that person.
- (9) A direction under subsection (8) for the striking off of a person's name from the register may prohibit an application under this subsection by that person until the expiration of such period from the date of the direction (and where he has duly made such an application, from the date of his last application, as may be specified in the direction) (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

PART VIII — MISCELLANEOUS

Clause 20: Application of the Act to un-enrolled persons.

Any person who is not a member of the Nigerian Psychological Association (in this Bill referred to as "the Association") but, for the purpose of this Bill would have been qualified to apply for and obtain membership of the Association may, within the period of three months beginning from the commencement of this Bill, apply for membership of the profession in such manner as may be prescribed by rules made by the Council, and if approved, he shall be registered, according to his qualification (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 21: Persons deemed to practice as professional psychologists.

A person is deemed to practise as a Psychologist if, in consideration of remuneration received or to be received and whether by himself or in partnership with any other person he:

- (a) engages himself in the practice of psychology or holds himself out to the public as a psychologist after being duly certified by the Council to have met all necessary requirements;
- (b) renders professional service or assistance in or about matters of principle or detail relating to psychology; or
- (c) renders any other service or assistance in or about matters of principle or detail relating to psychology (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 22: Rules as to practice.

(1) The Council may make rules for the:

- (a) training of suitable persons in any field of Psychology methods and practice;
- (b) supervision and regulation of the engagement, training and transfer of such persons;
- (c) prescribing the form of licence to practise to be issued annually or, if the Council deems fit, by endorsement of an existing licence;
- (d) restricting the right to practise as a Psychologist in default of payment of the amount of the annual subscription where the default continues for longer than such period as may be prescribed by the rules; and
- (e) restricting the right to practise as a Psychologist if the qualification granted outside Nigeria does not entitle the holder to practice as a Psychologist.

(3) Rules when made under this section shall, if the Chairman of the Council so directs, be published in the Federal Government Gazette. (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 23: Provision of Library Facilities.

The Council shall:

- (a) provide and maintain a library comprising books and publications for the advancement of knowledge of Psychology and such other books and publications as the Council may deem necessary for the purpose; and
- (b) encourage research into psychology disciplines and allied subjects to the extent that the Council may consider necessary (*Hon. Julius Ihonyhere - House Leader*).

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

Clause 24: Offences and Penalties.

- (1) A person who is not a registered Psychologist commits an offence if:
 - (a) for or in expectation of reward, practices or holds himself out to practice as a Psychologist; or
 - (b) take or use the title Psychologist; or
 - (c) without reasonable excuse, takes or uses any name, title addition or description implying that he is authorised by law to practice as a Psychologist.
- (2) A person who, for the purpose of procuring the registration of any name, qualification or other matter:
 - (a) makes a statement; or
 - (b) recklessly makes a statement,which believes to be false, commits an offence.
- (3) If, on or after the relevant date, any person who is not a member of the profession and practices or holds himself out to practice for or in expectation of reward or takes or uses name, title, addition or description implying that he is authorised by law to practice as a Psychologist, commits an offence.
- (4) In the case of a person falling within section 20 of this Bill:
 - (a) the provisions of subsection (3) does not apply in respect of anything done by him during the period of three months mentioned in section 20;
 - (b) if, within that period, he duly applies for membership of the profession then, unless within that period he is notified that his application has not been approved, the provision of subsection (3) does not apply in respect of anything done by him between the end of that period and the date on which he is registered or is notified; and
 - (c) if the Registrar, or any other person employed by or on behalf of the Council, willfully makes any falsification in any matter relating to the register,he commits an offence.

- (5) A person commits an offence under this section and is liable:
- (a) on summary conviction, to a fine of at least ₦100,000.00;
 - (b) on conviction or indictment, to a fine of at least ₦100,000.00 or to imprisonment for four years, or both.
- (6) Where an offence under this section which has been committed by a body corporate is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of any director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate or any person purporting to act in any such capacity, he and the body corporate, are deemed to be guilty of that offence and are liable to be prosecuted against and punished accordingly by a constituted disciplinary committee by the Council or court of law (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 25: Regulations and rules.

- (1) In this section, "the relevant date" means the second anniversary of the coming into effect of this Bill or such earlier date as may be prescribed for the purposes of this section by order of the Minister published in the Federal Government Gazette.
- (2) Any regulation made under this Bill shall be published in the Federal Government Gazette as soon as may be after there are made, a copy of such regulations shall be sent to the Minister not later than seven days before they are so published.
- (3) Rules made for the purposes of this Bill are subject to confirmation by the Nigerian Psychological Association at its next meeting or at any special meeting of the Association for that purpose, and if then annulled, shall cease to have effect on the day after the date of annulment, but without prejudice to anything done in pursuance or intended to be done in pursuance of such rules (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 26: Interpretation.

In this Bill:

"Association" means the Nigerian Psychological Association (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Board" means the Governing Board of the Council established under section 4 (1) of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Council" means the Nigerian Council for Psychologists established under section 1 (1) of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Disciplinary Tribunal" means the Nigerian Council for Psychologists Disciplinary Tribunal established under section 18 (3) of this Bill (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

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

"fees" include annual subscription (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

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

"Member" means a registered member of the profession, which includes Graduate Members, Members, Chartered Members, Associate Fellows and Fellows (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

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

"Minister" means the Minister charged with the responsibility for matters relating to Health (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

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

"Panel" means the Nigerian Council for Psychologists Investigating Panel established under section 18 (1) of this Bill (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

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

"profession" means the practice of Psychology; and (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

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

"register" means the register prepared and maintained under section 8 (8) of this Bill (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

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

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

Clause 27: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Nigerian Council for Psychologists (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

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

SCHEDULES

FIRST SCHEDULE

Section 5 (3)

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE COUNCIL

Qualifications and Tenure of Office of Members of the Council

1. (1) A person shall not be a member of the Council unless he is a Nigerian citizen fully registered under this Bill as a Psychologist and at the date of his appointment, has had not less than 17 years registration experience in Psychology profession.
- (2) Subject to the provision of this paragraph, a member of the Council shall hold office for three years beginning with the date of his appointment or election.
- (3) Any member of the Board, other than a member appointed by the office, may, by notice in writing under his hand addressed to the Chairman, resign his office.
- (4) A person who retires or ceases to be an elected member of the Council is eligible again to become a member of the Council, and any appointed member may be re-appointed.
- (5) If for any reason there is a vacancy in office of a member:
 - (a) such member was appointed by the Minister or any other body, the Minister or that body may appoint another fit person to fill that vacancy; or
 - (b) such member was elected, the Council may, if the time between the unexpired portion of the term of office and the next general meeting of the Council appears to warrant the filling of the vacancy, co-opt a fit person for such time.

Proceedings of the Council

2. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Council may make standing orders regulating its proceedings or any of its committee.
- (2) Questions for determinations shall be decided by a majority of the members present and voting and, in the event of equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- (3) Standing orders made for a committee shall provide for the committee to report back to the Council on any matter referred to it by the Council.
- (4) The quorum of the Council shall be two third and the quorum of a committee of the Council shall be fixed by the Council.

Meeting of the Council

3. (1) Subject to the provisions of any standing orders of the Council, the Council shall meet whenever it is summoned by the Chairman and, if the Chairman is required to do so by notice in writing given to him by at least five other members, he shall summon a meeting of the Council to be held within 14 days from the date on which the notice is given, the Council shall meet at least twice a year.

- (2) At any meeting of the Council, the Chairman shall preside and in his absence, the Vice Chairman shall preside, but in their absence, the members present at the meeting shall appoint one of their members to preside at the meeting.
 - (3) Where the Council desires to obtain the advice of any person on a particular matter, the Council may co-opt him as a member for such period as the Council deems fit, but a person who is a member by virtue of this subparagraph shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Council and shall not count towards a quorum.
 - (4) Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this paragraph, the first meeting of the Council shall be summoned by the Minister.
- 4.
- (1) The Council may set up one or more committees to carry out on behalf of the Council such functions as the Council may determine.
 - (2) A committee set up under this paragraph shall consist of the number of persons determined by the Council of whom not more than two-third may be persons who are not members of the Council.
 - (3) A person other than a member of the Council shall hold office on the committee in accordance with the terms of the letter by which he is appointed.
 - (4) A decision of a committee of the Council is of no effect until it is confirmed by the Council.

Miscellaneous

- 5.
- (1) The fixing of the seal of the Council shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman and the Registrar who is the Secretary of the Board of the Council.
 - (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 Council by any person generally or specifically authorised to act for that purpose by the Council.
 - (3) Any document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal of the Council shall be received in evidence and is, unless the contrary is proved, deemed to be so executed.
 - (4) The validity of any proceeding of the Board or of a committee of the Council is not adversely affected by:
 - (a) any vacancy in membership of the Board;
 - (b) any defect in the appointment of a member of the Board or of a person to serve on the committee; or
 - (c) reason that a person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings.
 - (5) Any member of the Council and any person holding office of a committee of the Council, who has a personal interest in any contract or arrangement entered into or proposed to be considered by the Council or a committee shall disclose his interest, and shall not vote on any question relating to the contract or arrangement.
 - (6) A person shall not by reason only of his membership of the Council be treated as holding an office in the Public Service of the Federation (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

SECOND SCHEDULE

Section 18 (5)

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL AND INVESTIGATING PANEL

The Investigating Panel

1. The quorum of the Panel shall be three, all of whom shall be Clinical Psychologist.
2.
 - (1) The Panel may, at any of its meetings attended by all the members of the Panel, make standing orders with respect to the Panel.
 - (2) Subject to the provisions for any such standing orders, the Panel may regulate its own procedure.
3.
 - (1) A person ceasing to be a member of the Tribunal or the Panel shall be eligible for appointment as a member of that body.
 - (2) A person may, if otherwise eligible, be a member of both the Tribunal and the Panel; but no person who acted as member of the Panel with respect to any case shall act as a member of the Panel with respect to that case.

The Disciplinary Tribunal

4. The quorum of the Tribunal shall be four members.
5.
 - (1) The Attorney-General of the Federation shall make rules as to the:
 - (a) selection of members of the Tribunal for the purpose of any proceeding;
 - (b) procedure to be followed; and
 - (c) rules of evidence to be observed in proceedings before the Tribunal.
 - (2) The rules shall in particular provide:
 - (a) for securing that notice of the proceedings shall be given at such time and in such manner, as may be specified by the rules, to the person who is the subject of the proceedings;
 - (b) for determining who, in addition to the person aforesaid, shall be party to the proceedings;
 - (c) for securing that any party to the proceedings shall, if he so requires, be entitled to be heard by the Tribunal.
 - (d) for securing that any party to the proceedings may be represented by a legal practitioner;
 - (e) subject to the provisions of section 19 (6) of this Bill, as to the costs of proceedings before the Tribunal;

- (f) for requiring, in a case where it is alleged that the person who is the subject of the proceedings is guilty of infamous conduct in any professional respect, that where the Tribunal adjudges that the allegation has not been proved it shall record a finding that the person is not guilty of such conduct in respect of the matters to which the allegation relates; and
 - (g) for publishing in the Federal Government Gazette notice of any direction of the Tribunal which has taken effect providing that a person's name shall be struck off a register.
- 6. For the purposes of any proceeding before the Disciplinary Tribunal any member of the Disciplinary Tribunal may administer oaths and any party to the proceedings may issue out of the Registry of the Federal High Court writs of subpoena ad testificandum and deces tecum but no person appearing before the tribunal shall be compelled to:
 - (a) make any statement before the Tribunal tending to incriminate himself; or
 - (b) produce any document under such a writ which he could not be compelled to produce at the trial of an action.
- 7.
 - (1) For the purpose of advising the Tribunal on questions of law arising in the proceedings before it, there shall, in all such proceedings be an assessor to the Tribunal who shall be appointed by the Council on the nomination of the Attorney-General of the Federation and shall be a legal practitioner of at least seven years standing.
 - (2) The Attorney-General of the Federation shall make rules as to the functions of assessors appointed under this paragraph and in particular such rules shall contain provisions for securing:
 - (a) that where an assessor advises the Tribunal on any question of law as to evidence, procedure or any other matters specified by rules, he shall do so in the presence of every party or person representing a party to the proceedings who appear there or, if the advice is tendered while the Tribunal is deliberating in private, that every such party or person as aforesaid shall be informed what advice the assessor has tendered; and
 - (b) that every such party or person shall be informed if in any case the Tribunal does not accept the advice of the assessor on such a question as aforesaid
 - (3) An assessor may be appointed under this paragraph either generally or for any particular class or proceedings and shall hold and vacate office in accordance with the terms of the letter by which he is appointed.
- 8. The Tribunal or Panel may act notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership, and the proceedings of either body shall not be invalidated by any irregularity in the appointment of a member of that body or subject to paragraph 7 (2) of this Schedule, by reason of the fact that any person who was not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings of that body.
- 9. Any document authorised or required by virtue of this Bill to be served on the Tribunal or the Panel shall be served on the Registrar.
- 10. Any expenses of the Tribunal or the Panel shall be defrayed by the Council.
- 11. A person shall not by reason of his appointment as an assessor to the Tribunal, be treated as holding an office in the public service of the Federation (*Hon. Julius Ihonwere House Leader*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill establishes the Nigerian Council for Psychologists charged with the responsibility determining the standard of knowledge and skill to be attained by persons seeking to become registered members of the psychology profession in Nigeria (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Council for Psychologists Charged with the Responsibility for Determining the Standards of Knowledge and Skill to be Attained by Persons Seeking to Become Registered Members of the Psychology Profession in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB.610) (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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 Council for Psychologists charged with the responsibility of Advancing the Study, Training and Practice of Psychology Profession and for Related Matters (HB.610) and approved Clauses 1 - 18, 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.

26.

Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 15 November, 2023 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.10 p.m.

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker