



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 26 September, 2023

1. The House met at 11.17 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 *Second Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 27 July, 2023.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Mr Speaker's Remark**
Mr Speaker made the following remarks:

THE 10TH HOUSE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA: TIME TO WALK THE TALK

Honourable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press, fellow Nigerians, I am happy to welcome you today to the Hallowed Chamber of the House of Representatives after our annual long recess. We must give Almighty God praise for bringing us back safely and in good health.

2. *It is with a renewed sense of purpose and dedication to the peoples' work that I am excited to warmly welcome each and every one of you back to the Peoples' House. I hope that each one of you had a rejuvenating time with your loved ones, and that you return to this esteemed chamber with renewed energy and determination to serve the people who have placed their trust in us. We must always remember the immense responsibility we hold as Representatives of the people and the compelling duty we have to serve our great nation.*

3. *I understand that Members had expected to resume plenary in our main Chamber after the recess. However, the work has not been completed but there is progress and I can report that by the time we resume early next year, we should be resuming in the main Chamber. I plead with you to continue to endure the inconveniences of this Ad-hoc arrangement as delivering service to our constituents is our utmost priority at this time.*

4. *During our time away, I am certain that each one of you had the opportunity to engage with your constituents, listening to their concerns, hopes, and aspirations. It is through these interactions that we truly get to understand the impact of our decisions on the lives of those we represent. Let us never forget that our primary duty is not just to serve but to serve faithfully.*

5. *In the course of our recess, our country has continued to face numerous challenges and presented with even greater opportunities and prospects. It is now our collective responsibility to address these issues with wisdom, integrity, and a commitment to the betterment of our society. The people have placed their trust in us, and it is our duty to honour that trust by working diligently towards their welfare. Thus, as we resume our legislative duties today, it is crucial that we prioritize the needs of our constituents. We must remain steadfast in our commitment to promoting good governance, ensuring social justice, and fostering economic growth. Our decisions should be guided by a deep understanding of the issues at hand and a genuine desire to improve the lives of those we represent.*

6. *In this pursuit, the House had hit the ground running upon inauguration in June. To give proper focus and direction to the House in meeting the needs of our people, we set up a Legislative Agenda Committee under the able leadership of the House Leader, Prof. Julius Ihonybere. This was borne out of our belief that agenda setting for parliament is a significant institutional framework available to shape policy outcomes that will benefit the vast majority of citizens.*

7. *In carrying out this assignment, the Committee convened a Stakeholders Forum which enabled Nigerians to make substantial input into the Agenda. This people's driven approach is central to and reflects our belief that Citizens' Engagement is the fulcrum of representative democracy. It is also the product of the "Open NASS" initiative which places high premium on regular, meaningful and productive engagement with the citizens. I am delighted to report that the Committee has completed its assignment and we are all enjoined to go through it to ensure that it embodies and meets our commitment to our people.*

8. *Similarly, we set up several Ad-hoc Committees to address matters of national importance. This was done before the constitution of our standing committees. The Ad-hoc Committees worked all through the recess in their different areas of mandate and I can report that they have made tremendous progress in the various tasks assigned to them. Let me use this opportunity to sincerely thank Members of these committees for the sacrifice, diligence, commitment and dedication that they brought to these important assignments. I am aware that most of the Ad-hoc Committees are yet to conclude their Reports. In the light of this development, all Ad-hoc Committees are required to conclude their assignments and submit their reports on or before 3th of October, 2023.*

9. *Accordingly, all Ad-hoc Committees shall cease to exist on October 3, 2023. However, in an event that any Ad-hoc Committee(s) is unable to conclude its assignment on this date, such tasks shall be yielded to the relevant Standing Committees.*

10. *My dear Colleagues, permit me to express my displeasure at the failure of some state caucuses to send their nominations for membership of the Standing Committees. This is in spite of all the pleas made to us before our recess and assurances received from the State caucuses. As a result therefore, we are yet to fully populate the Standing Committees of the House. Consequently, the House leadership has resolved to make such nominations for States who fail to do so, by Thursday, 28 September, 2023. As you make these nominations, kindly be informed of the creation of three additional Committees (State and Local Government, Traditional Institutions and Petroleum Resources (Training Fund). This brings the total number of House Committees to 137. We equally created 13 more Parliamentary Friendship Groups to facilitate and deepen our capacity development and peer learning.*

11. *The leadership of the House has considered that in order to strengthen the capacity of the House, only chairmen and Deputies of the Parliamentary Friendship Groups will constitute*

membership of the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora. This is done to allow the leaders of the Groups to gain some insight in the management of the Groups from the Foreign Affairs and Diaspora Committees.

12. Honourable Colleagues, it is important to emphasize that for the first time in the House of Representatives, a committee on Monitoring and Evaluation was created to supervise the activities of the Standing Committees and advise the Leadership on the performance of the Committees. This is in line with our avowed commitment to service delivery. Committees that fail to meet the benchmarks would be reconstituted. In the same vein, the leadership has also for the first time created a committee on the implementation of the legislative agenda to ensure adherence and full compliance to the Agenda in our quest to serve Nigerians.
13. In view of the premium this House has placed on capacity building, the leadership has concluded arrangement with the National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILDS) to organise leadership programme for chairmen and Deputies of the Standing Communities of the House.
14. In furtherance of our efforts to mitigate the capacity gaps of the House, I have met with Development Partners and Donor Agencies providing interventions for capacity building for Members and staff of the House of Representatives. The outcome of the meeting was the imperative to set up a Programmes Coordinating Unit (PCU) in the Speaker's Office. This unit is expected to harmonise and coordinate the capacity development drive of the House. In setting about this task, all interventions and technical support from Donor Agencies, Development Partners and CSOs will now be centralized and channelled through the Unit. The essence is to track, monitor and coordinate these interventions to ensure that they meet the right standards, protect the image of the House and promote national security. Henceforth, Committees, Staff, Development Partners, Donor Agencies and CSOs in the House of Representatives would be mandatorily required to route such interventions through this unit.
15. I need not remind you of the enormous challenges confronting our nation at this time. They are challenges that will engage our attention in the coming days and months. National Security remains precarious even in the face of numerous successes recorded by our gallant security personnel. Only a few days ago, the nation was rocked by the gruesome murder of a joint team of security personnel in Ehime Mbanofe of Imo State. A similar sad incident happened in Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State when scores of soldiers were ambushed and gruesomely murdered by terrorists. Sadly, some female students of the Federal University, Gusau were abducted by terrorists while there were reports of travelers being kidnapped along the Opi-Enugu Road.
16. Furthermore, Superintendent Okpolonwo Agbashim, Divisional Police Officer in Ahoada Local Government Area of Rivers State was brutally murdered by deadly cultists. In Zaria, Kaduna State, the Central Mosque collapsed, resulting in fatalities while residents of Trade More Estate in Abuja suffered extensive losses owing to a devastating perennial flood. There was equally distressing reports of attacks in communities in Plateau State. These are just a few examples of what happened as I believe some of you may have one experience or the other.
17. While we mourn the loss of fellow citizens who had to pay the supreme price in the line of duty, we must condemn these attacks on the state and citizens in strongest terms. However, our best response will be the deployment of our legislative powers and instruments to ensure the security of life and property across the country.
18. Honourable Colleagues, our economic challenges remain as daunting as they were before the recess. The country is challenged on several economic fronts: cost of living crisis occasioned by high cost of energy, cost of food is skyrocketing daily, lack of livable wages, the negative effects of the unpredictable and fluctuating foreign exchange rates, a disappearing middle class and a host of other issues. When people are hungry and despondent, what is needed is a leadership with a clear vision, a leadership that on daily basis, demonstrates its commitment and capacity to tackle the

challenges at hand; a leadership that should be innovative in proffering short and long term solutions. That is what Nigerians need at this time and as Representatives of the people, we must rise up to the occasion.

19. While the Executive Arm of government is engaging the citizens and trying to work out strategies to tackle the hardship in the country, our legislative actions must therefore be dictated by a clear robust vision aimed at supporting the Executive in restoring our citizens on the path of prosperity. We must deploy the necessary legislative instruments to create jobs, ensure payment of living wages in the civil service, pull Nigerians out of poverty, address the prevailing infrastructure deficit, rid the country of crippling insurgency; ensure the security of lives and property and affordable functional education so that no child is left behind.

20. On account of these economic challenges, the organized labour under the aegis of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) seems to have lost patience with the painstaking effort of the government to plan and provide sustainable minimum wage and palliatives to citizens. The organized labour it appears would embark on a nationwide strike by this midnight following the expiration of a 21 days ultimatum issued to government. As the peoples' representatives, we feel and equally share in the pains of our people at these very difficult times.

21. However, I would like to appeal to the Nigerian Labour Congress to consider the various actions being taken by the Federal Government to alleviate the current hardship faced by Nigerians. As promised earlier, this House remains committed to getting a survival wage to all Nigerian workers. The 10th House had assured Nigerians that we would be interfacing between the organized labour and the government to quickly work out a realistic new national minimum wage and such other palliatives to enable citizens cope with the economic impact of fuel subsidy removal, the downward fall of the Naira to the dollar, skyrocketing cost of food and general high cost of living in the country.

22. It is in our considered opinion that embarking on a nationwide strike at this point will only aggravate an already bad situation. I therefore urge the leadership of Labour Unions to give us the benefit of doubt and suspend any planned strike action while we engage the executive.

23. Hon. Colleagues, it has not been entirely woes and gloom for our nation as we have been presented with opportunities and prospects to turn the tide around. Only recently, His Excellency President Ahmed Tinubu recorded a huge diplomatic and economic breakthrough with the United Arab Emirates which would see the resumption of issuance of visa to Nigerians by the UAE and the return of Emirates Airlines to Nigerian skies. We equally recorded some major economic agreements in India just as we had a productive outing at the recently concluded 78 General Assembly of The United Nations.

24. In the coming days, the executive arm of government is expected to present a 2023 Supplementary Appropriation Bill as well as the 2024 Appropriation Bill to this Honourable House. It is expected that the time to consider these Bills will be short, but we must roll-up our sleeves and get to work immediately and ensure the speedy consideration of the Bills that will encapsulate the yearnings of the people. While we will maintain the tradition established by the 9th House in terms of speedy consideration of the appropriation bills, we must diligently consider the Bills to ensure that they meet the needs of our constituents. We have to put in extra work hours to ensure that the budget is passed in good time to enable its implementation from the first day of the 2024.

25. Our nation and indeed this 10th House of the People does not have the luxury of time in the face of profound national challenges. We must therefore do everything within our powers to champion causes towards addressing the yearnings of our people. On this score, our goals are clear, our determination unrivalled. We must key into the Legislative Agenda of this House as a roadmap towards navigating our numerous challenges. Our Bills, Motions, Resolutions, actions and more should mirror the Legislative Agenda being a joint product between the House and citizens.

26. Government has been fully formed with the inauguration of Ministers by Mr President while Committees have been constituted in the two chambers of the National Assembly. We have no time to spare in delivering results to our people. Committees must actively engage MDAs to ensure optimum service delivery in accordance with legislations passed by the National Assembly. In the discharge of your committee assignment and oversight, you must be guided by established legislative ethics and standing orders of the House.

27. Finally, Honourable Colleagues, let us approach this new session with a renewed sense of purpose and dedication. Our nation looks to us for leadership, and it is our duty to rise to the occasion. Together, let us work tirelessly towards building a better future for our people, guided by the principles of justice, equality, and progress. We have set legislative agenda which will act as the barometer to measure our legislative actions. It is time to walk the talk.

28. Thank you, and may we have a productive and successful session ahead.

5. Oaths of Allegiance

A Member-elect, Salisu Majigiri (*Mashi/Dutsi Federal Constituency*) took and subscribe to the Oaths of Allegiance and Membership as prescribed by law.

6. Announcement

Bereavement:

Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Emerengwa Boniface Sunday (*Ikwerre/Emohua Federal Constituency*) announcing the death of Hon. Isalah Ubojiekere Elechi (*Ikwerre/Emohua Federal Constituency*, 1979 - 1983) on 10 January, 2023 at the age of 82.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(ii) **Letter of Resignation:**

Mr Speaker read the following communications from:

- (a) Hon. Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo (*Akoko North East/Akoko North West Federal Constituency*), announcing his resignation as a result of his recent appointment as a Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- (b) Hon. Yusuf Tanko Sununu (*Ngaski/Shanga/Yauri Federal Constituency*), announcing his resignation as a result of his recent appointment as a Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

(iii) **Declaration of Seat Vacant:**

- (a) **NOTIFICATION OF VACANCY IN THE SEAT OF AKOKO NORTH EAST/AKOKO NORTH WEST FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY, HELD BY HON. OLUBUNMI TUNJI-OJO**

Honourable Members,

I write to notify Honourable Members of the House of Representatives, pursuant to Section 68 (1) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, that the Seat of Akoko North East/Akoko North West Federal Constituency of Ondo State held by Hon. Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo has become vacant.

2. *This vacancy is as a result of his resignation on 26 September, 2023, which was announced in the House Plenary on 26 September, 2023. He was a member of the All Progressive Congress (APC).*

3. *This notification is in fulfillment of Section 68 (2) of the Constitution of the*

Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, and for the records.

(Signed)

Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas

(b) NOTIFICATION OF VACANCY IN THE SEAT OF NGASKI/SHANGA/YAURI FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY, HELD BY HON. YUSUF TANKO SUNUNU

Honourable Members,

I write to notify Honourable Members of the House of Representatives, pursuant to Section 68 (1) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, that the Seat of Ngaski/Shanga/Yauri Federal Constituency of Kebbi State held by Hon. Yusuf Tanko Sununu has become vacant.

2. This vacancy is as a result of his resignation on 26 September, 2023, which was announced in the House Plenary on 26 September, 2023. He was a member of the All Progressive Congress (APC).

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

(Signed)

Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas

7. Petitions

- (i) A petition from Wellington Bassey Barrack Host Community Development Forum, Abak Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State, on alleged wrongful acquisition of their community land since 1972 without adequate compensation, was presented and laid by Hon. Clement Jimbo Ernest (Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency);*
- (ii) A petition from Humanity Chambers (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Mr Mfon Essien Akpan, on alleged abuse of power and illegal disposal of exhibit Car/505/2021 during the pendency of charge No. MU/26K/2022, was presented and laid by Hon. Patrick Umoh (Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency).*
- (iii) A petition from Goddy Osa Igbaekemen, on alleged non-release of his promotion letters and non-payment of promotion arrears and allowances, was presented and laid by Hon. Ihonvbere Julius (Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency);*
- (iv) A petition from United Patriots Assembly of Nigeria, on behalf of seventeen (17) Host Communities, on alleged fuelling of Host Community crisis and underdevelopment of the Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research, Benin City, Edo State was presented and laid by Hon. Billy James Osawaru (Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode Federal Constituency).*
- (v) A petition from Lynpact Solicitors, on behalf of Mr Victor Ezechi, on constant dehumanization and brutalization of innocent citizens of Kwale, Ndokwa/Ukwuani Federal Constituency, Delta State by ASP. Ogbegbe Usman of the Rapid Response Squad, was presented and laid by Hon. Nnamdi Ezechi (Ndokwa East/Ndowa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency);*
- (vi) A petition from Alajo & Associates (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Balogun Olamgbe, on his dismissal from service by the National Examination Council (NECO), was presented and laid by Hon. Aluko Ahmed (Ilorin East/Ilorin South Federal Constituency).*

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

(i) Need for Justice, Safeguarding the Legacy of Late Ilerioluwa Olademeji Aloba a.k.a Mohbad, and Protecting the Rights of Young Promising Artists in Contracts with their Record Labels:

Hon. Babajide Benson (*Ikorodu 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.

The Need for Justice, Safeguarding the Legacy of Late Ilerioluwa Olademeji Aloba a.k.a Mohbad, and Protecting the Rights of Young Promising Artists in Contracts with their Record Labels:

The House:

Notes that the Nigerian music industry mourns the loss of the talented artist Ilerioluwa Olademeji Aloba, popularly known as Mohbad, who tragically passed away under mysterious circumstances on September 12, 2023, which has dominated discussions across the nation and beyond;

Also notes the heartfelt protests, a procession of youth chanting his name, and the call for an investigation as they marched to a tribute concert, with numerous musicians in attendance which is evident that Mohbad's fans are struggling to come to terms with his untimely demise;

Further notes that Mohbad left his record label, Marlian Records, owned by Azeez Fashola (Naira Marley), in 2022, citing various grievances, including unpaid royalties. This issue is indicative of a broader challenges faced by artists asserting their right;

Aware that a disturbing industry practice of mistreatment highlights the struggles of young artists who, in their quest for success, become entangled in parasitic contracts of bullying when they seek to exit these agreements;

Concerned that Mohbad's case is not an isolated incident. Many artists in Nigeria find themselves ensnared in unfavourable contractual agreements, limiting their creative freedom and financial growth;

Cognizant that the Nigerian music industry lacks substantial institutional funding, pushing many artists into unscrupulous contracts with record labels that hinders growth and sustainability;

Also cognizant that Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) functions encompass copyright registration, law enforcement, education, royalty management, international collaboration, legal advocacy, and policy development, hence should be protecting copyright and promoting artists' interests in Nigeria;

Disturbed that most of the proceeds of the late artist are still going to the Marlian Music Group, and there have been no moves from any agency to protect the Estate of the late singer who is currently the 46th best-selling digital artiste in the world;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of Mohbad;
- (ii) monitor the ongoing investigation of Mohbad's death, particularly the allegations of harassment and unpaid royalties;
- (iii) invite the Nigeria Copyright Commission (NCC) to put measures in place immediately to protect the rights of Mohbad's songs and lyrics, addressing copyright infringements and ensuring the proper management of his musical assets while securing his son's benefits from his musical legacy;
- (iv) collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including record labels, artists, legal experts, and industry associations, to develop and implement industry-wide guidelines that ensure fair treatment, transparent contractual agreements, and proper compensation for artists, reviewing existing copyright and contract laws in Nigeria, identifying gaps or areas in need of reform.
- (v) mandate the Committees on Justice, and Police Affairs to ensure compliance (*Hon. Babajimi Benson — Ikorodu Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Nigerian music industry mourns the loss of the talented artist Ilerioluwa Olademeji Aloba, popularly known as Mohbad, who tragically passed away under mysterious circumstances on September 12, 2023, which has dominated discussions across the nation and beyond;

Also noted the heartfelt protests, a procession of youth chanting his name, and the call for an investigation as they marched to a tribute concert, with numerous musicians in attendance which is evident that Mohbad's fans are struggling to come to terms with his untimely demise;

Further noted that Mohbad left his record label, Marlian Records, owned by Azeez Fashola (Naira Marley), in 2022, citing various grievances, including unpaid royalties. This issue is indicative of a broader challenges faced by artists asserting their right;

Aware that a disturbing industry practice of mistreatment highlights the struggles of young artists who, in their quest for success, become entangled in parasitic contracts of bullying when they seek to exit these agreements;

Concerned that Mohbad's case is not an isolated incident. Many artists in Nigeria find themselves ensnared in unfavourable contractual agreements, limiting their creative freedom and financial growth;

Cognizant that the Nigerian music industry lacks substantial institutional funding, pushing many artists into unscrupulous contracts with record labels that hinders growth and sustainability;

Also cognizant that Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) functions encompass copyright registration, law enforcement, education, royalty management, international collaboration, legal advocacy, and policy development, hence should be protecting copyright and promoting artists' interests in Nigeria;

Disturbed that most of the proceeds of the late artist are still going to the Marlian Music Group, and there have been no moves from any agency to protect the Estate of the late singer who is currently the 46th best-selling digital artiste in the world;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of Mohbad;
- (ii) monitor the ongoing investigation of Mohbad's death, particularly the allegations of harassment and unpaid royalties;
- (iii) invite the Nigeria Copyright Commission (NCC) to put measures in place immediately to protect the rights of Mohbad's songs and lyrics, addressing copyright infringements and ensuring the proper management of his musical assets while securing his son's benefits from his musical legacy;
- (iv) collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including record labels, artists, legal experts, and industry associations, to develop and implement industry-wide guidelines that ensure fair treatment, transparent contractual agreements, and proper compensation for artists, reviewing existing copyright and contract laws in Nigeria, identifying gaps or areas in need of reform.
- (v) mandate the Committees on Justice, and Police Affairs to ensure compliance (HR. 176/09/2023).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(ii) ***Need to Tackle Life-Threatening Erosions in Anambra State:***

Hon. Pascal Agbodike (*Ihiala 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 — Negatived.

9. **Presentation of Bills**

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Nigerian Medical Research Council (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.470).
- (2) Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2023 (HB.471).
- (3) National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.472).
- (4) Traditional Complementary and Alternative Medicine Council of Nigeria (Establishment)

Bill, 2023 (HB.473).

- (5) Federal College of Agriculture, Urhonigbe, Edo State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.474).
- (6) National Film and Video Censors Board Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 475).
- (7) Federal University of Sports, Afuze, Edo State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.476).
- (8) Federal School of Nursing and Midwifery, Sobe, Edo State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.477).
- (9) Federal Medical Centre, Sabongida-Ora, Edo State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.478).
- (10) National Institute of Graphic Arts Designs and Printing Technology, Shomolu, Lagos State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.479).

10. Presentation of Reports

- (i) ***Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate Alleged Abuse of 2.3 Trillion Naira from the Tertiary Education Tax by Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND):***
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate Alleged Abuse of 2.3 Trillion Naira from the Tertiary Education Tax by Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) from 2011 to date" (Hon. Unyime Josiah Idem — Ukanafun/Oruk Anam Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

- (ii) ***Ad-hoc Committee to investigate the decision of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria:***
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee to investigate the decision of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) on Medical and Dental Students studying in Ukraine (HR. 146/07/2023)" (Hon. Emil Inyang — Akamkpa/Biase Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

- 11. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Ibeju Lekki, Lagos State and for Related Matters (HB. 160) — *Third Reading***
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Ibeju Lekki, Lagos State and for Related Matters (HB. 160) be now read the Third Time" (Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonybere — House Leader).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

- 12. A Bill for an Act to Establish National Youths Welfare Scheme Fund to Manage and Coordinate Youths Welfare Services to reduce challenges in Governance and Security in the Country and for Related Matters (HB. 04) — *Second Reading***
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish National Youths Welfare Scheme Fund to Manage and Coordinate Youths Welfare Services to reduce challenges in Governance and Security in the Country and for Related Matters (HB. 04) be read a Second Time".

Order read, deferred by leave of the House.

13. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Acts Authentication Act, Cap A2 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to provide the Timeframe for the Performance of the Functions of the Clerks of the National Assembly and for Related Matters (HB. 06) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Acts Authentication Act, Cap A2 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to provide the Timeframe for the Performance of the Functions of the Clerks of the National Assembly and for Related Matters (HB. 06) be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu — Bende Federal Constituency and 6 Others*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Justice.

14. **Need to Curb the Unethical Practices and Abuse Associated with Assisted Reproductive Health Technology in Nigeria**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the utilization of Assisted Reproductive Techniques (ART) and referrals to fertility centres has witnessed a notable surge in Nigeria, especially since the advent of the new millennium;

Also notes that the fertility industry has emerged as a thriving industry estimated to be worth one billion dollars, with private and public hospitals across the country engaged in the practice;

Recognize that the practice is providing an alternative avenue for establishing pregnancies and parenthood;

Also recognize that the Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) procedures entails surgical extraction of eggs from a woman's ovaries fusion with sperm in laboratory settings and subsequent reintegration into the donor's body or transfer to a woman or storage in an egg bank;

Worried that women undergo surgical egg retrieval, relinquishing control over the eggs obtained between ₦100,000 to ₦150,000 per retrieval, with five to six eggs extracted per month;

Also worried about the widespread practice of terming this process as "donation," while in reality, desperate women of childbearing age are coerced through targeted marketing to sell their eggs with potentially adverse effects on their future reproductive health and overall well-being;

Alarmed by the fact that fertility centres have capitalized on the absence of a suitable regulatory framework to exploit providers/donors and potentially engage in the trade of donated eggs; and

Cognizant that if this trend is not urgently checked, it will lead to an increase in cases of infertility and cancer infections among young donors and surrogates as well as promoting exploitative practices;

Resolves to:

- (i) mandate the Committee on Health Institutions to produce a comprehensive framework for regulating egg procurement and transfer services in Nigeria, including ensuring informed consent, appropriate compensation and safeguarding the well-being of providers/donors;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Health Institutions to investigate cases of unethical and exploitative practices in egg procurement and surrogacy by fertility hospitals and clinics and

report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Babajimi Benson — Ikorodu Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

(i) *Leave out Prayer (i) (Hon. Kingsley Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency).*

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(ii) *In Prayer (ii) immediately after the word "Institution", insert the words "Speciality Healthcare" (Hon. Dawodu Bashiru Ayinla — Oshodi/Isolo I Federal Constituency).*

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(iii) *In Prayer (ii) as amended, immediately after the word "Speciality Healthcare", insert the words "and Human Rights" (Hon. Beni Lar — Langtang North/Langtang South Federal Constituency).*

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the utilization of Assisted Reproductive Techniques (ART) and referrals to fertility centres has witnessed a notable surge in Nigeria, especially since the advent of the new millennium;

Also noted that the fertility industry has emerged as a thriving industry estimated to be worth one billion dollars, with private and public hospitals across the country engaged in the practice;

Recognized that the practice is providing an alternative avenue for establishing pregnancies and parenthood;

Also recognized that the Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) procedures entails surgical extraction of eggs from a woman's ovaries fusion with sperm in laboratory settings and subsequent reintegration into the donor's body or transfer to a woman or storage in an egg bank;

Worried that women undergo surgical egg retrieval, relinquishing control over the eggs obtained between ₦100,000 to ₦150,000 per retrieval, with five to six eggs extracted per month;

Also worried about the widespread practice of terming this process as "donation," while in reality, desperate women of childbearing age are coerced through targeted marketing to sell their eggs with potentially adverse effects on their future reproductive health and overall well-being;

Alarmed by the fact that fertility centres have capitalized on the absence of a suitable regulatory framework to exploit providers/donors and potentially engage in the trade of donated eggs; and

Cognizant that if this trend is not urgently checked, it will lead to an increase in cases of infertility and cancer infections among young donors and surrogates as well as promoting exploitative practices;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Health Institutions, Speciality Healthcare, and Human Rights to investigate cases of unethical and exploitative practices in egg procurement and surrogacy by fertility hospitals and clinics and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 177/09/2023**).

15. Investigation into the Collection and Disbursement of Stamp Duties Revenue in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Stamp Duties is a Tax Payable in respect of dutiable instruments such as contracts, agreements and receipts as provided under the Stamp Duties Act 2004;

Also notes that Stamp Duties Revenue is being collected by the duo of Central Bank of Nigeria through the Commercial Banks and the FIRS on behalf of the federation;

Aware that the new formula for distribution of stamp duties revenue allocates 15% to the Federal Government and the Federal Capital Territory and 85% to the States;

Also aware that Section 52 of the Finance Act, 2021 expanded the scope of the Stamp Duty Act to cover electronic transactions tagged "electronic money transfer levy" (EMTL);

Informed that the Central Bank of Nigeria through the then Governor, Godwin Emefiele in December 2022 admitted the collection of ₦370.68 billion as stamp duties revenue between 2016-2022;

Concerned about the past experience of disagreements between the States and Federal Government on the distribution of stamp duties revenue that resulted in litigation;

Cognizant of the fact that the Finance Act, 2021 has provided for the distribution of stamp duties revenue collected within thirty (30) days from the month of collection; and

Disturbed about the seeming lack of adequate information relating to the collection and distribution of the revenue and effective implementation of the provisions of the Finance Act;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the extent of the collection of stamp duties revenue and its distribution and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Mansur Manu Soro — Gamawa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Debate adjourned to enable Committee on Justice ascertain the judicial status of the matter.

16. Call to End Incessant Dehumanization and Harassment of Road Travellers by Security Agents in South East

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the reports and growing instances of dehumanization, harassment, and extortion of citizens in the Southeast geopolitical zone by security agencies estimated to be in billions of Naira;

Disturbed by the incessant and continued dehumanization and harassment of road travellers in the Southeast Geopolitical zone of Nigeria by security agents, especially by some Police officers and Army personnel who have perfected the acts of extorting money forcefully from road travellers embarking on daily journey to earn their living;

Worried that the weapons given to the security agents to protect lives and property are now been used by some unscrupulous security agents to harass and dehumanize law-abiding travellers within the Southeast/South Geopolitical zone;

Alarmed at the brazen manner in which travellers within the Southeast are forcefully moved out from their travelling cars/vehicles by security agents and are ordered to walk some kilometres with their hands raised above their heads thus dehumanizing and portraying them as common criminals or prisoners creating a feeling of discontentment, social unrest and creating the feeling of a conquered territory;

Aware that while a vast majority of the security personnel diligently professionally perform their duties, there have been regrettable cases of misconduct, abuse of power, and extortion perpetrated by a few individuals within these agencies, specifically, on 8 July, 2023 some unscrupulous Police officers waylay and detained some travellers engage in legitimate business along Owerri-Onitsha express road and forcefully collect the sum of ₦500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) from the travellers;

Concerned at the inability of some security personnel entrusted with the protection of lives and property to conduct themselves professionally in carrying out checks on road travellers except to subject and subjugate them to inhuman treatment thus causing disenchantment between the citizenry and the security agents this has further worsened the needed collaborative effort needed to checkmate crime and criminality within the South East Geopolitical zone;

Worried that regularly, travellers within South East are forced to open their phones and laptops and in some instances are forced to part with their hard-earned money and their belongings; and

Recognizing the urgent need to address these acts of dehumanization, harassment and extortion of road travellers within the Southeast geopolitical zone and to restore public confidence of citizens in the security agents;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Inspector-General (IG) of Police to identify and discipline the police officers perpetuating these inhuman and degrading treatments on road travellers along the South East Geopolitical Zone;
- (ii) also urge the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) to call on the military personnel manning roadblocks within the South East Geopolitical Zone to carry out their duties professionally and stop the incessant harassment of law-abiding citizens; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on National Security and Intelligence, Army, Police Affairs, and Human Rights to investigate the forceful collection of ₦500,000.00 by some police officers on 8 July, 2023 from travellers along Owerri-Onitsha express road using Moniepoint POS with the name Divine (*Hon. Attorney Matthew Nwogu — Abo-Mbaise/Ngor Okpala Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the reports and growing instances of dehumanization, harassment, and extortion of citizens in the Southeast geopolitical zone by security agencies estimated to be in billions of Naira;

Disturbed by the incessant and continued dehumanization and harassment of road travellers in the Southeast Geopolitical zone of Nigeria by security agents, especially by some Police officers and Army personnel who have perfected the acts of extorting money forcefully from road travellers embarking on daily journey to earn their living;

Worried that the weapons given to the security agents to protect lives and property are now being used by some unscrupulous security agents to harass and dehumanize law-abiding travellers within the Southeast/South Geopolitical zone;

Alarmed at the brazen manner in which travellers within the Southeast are forcefully moved out from their travelling cars/vehicles by security agents and are ordered to walk some kilometres with their hands raised above their heads thus dehumanizing and portraying them as common criminals or prisoners creating a feeling of discontentment, social unrest and creating the feeling of a conquered territory;

Aware that while a vast majority of the security personnel diligently professionally perform their duties, there have been regrettable cases of misconduct, abuse of power, and extortion perpetrated by a few individuals within these agencies, specifically, on 8 July, 2023 some unscrupulous Police officers waylay and detained some travellers engaged in legitimate business along Owerri-Onitsha express road and forcefully collect the sum of ₦500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) from the travellers;

Concerned at the inability of some security personnel entrusted with the protection of lives and property to conduct themselves professionally in carrying out checks on road travellers except to subject and subjugate them to inhuman treatment thus causing disenchantment between the citizenry and the security agents this has further worsened the needed collaborative effort needed to checkmate crime and criminality within the South East Geopolitical zone;

Worried that regularly, travellers within South East are forced to open their phones and laptops and in some instances are forced to part with their hard-earned money and their belongings; and

Recognizing the urgent need to address these acts of dehumanization, harassment and extortion of road travellers within the Southeast geopolitical zone and to restore public confidence of citizens in the security agents;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Inspector-General (IG) of Police to identify and discipline the police officers perpetuating these inhuman and degrading treatments on road travellers along the South East Geopolitical Zone;
- (ii) also urge the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) to call on the military personnel manning roadblocks within the South East Geopolitical Zone to carry out their duties professionally and stop the incessant harassment of law-abiding citizens; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on National Security and Intelligence, Army, Police Affairs, and Human Rights to investigate the forceful collection of ₦500,000.00 by some police officers on 8 July, 2023 from travellers along Owerri-Onitsha express road using Moniepoint POS with the name Divine (HR. 178/09/2023).

17. Need to Complete the Shore Protection Project at Ibene Local Government Area and other Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) Projects Abandoned in Eket/Onna/Esit-Eket/Ibene Federal Constituency

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the contract for Shore Protection works in Ibene Local Government Area in Akwa Ibom State was awarded since September 15, 2006, to a company called Smith Engineering Company Limited by the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC);

Also notes that as part of the terms of the contract, the contractor was to be paid a 50% mobilization fee before the company moved to the site. The contract sum was ₦3,287,787,000.00, for which ₦1,643,893,500, being half of the contract sum, had been paid to the contractor before the company mobilized to the site;

Aware that the scope of the contract was to cover the shorelines along Upenekang, Iwuoachang, Okorutip, Odoro-Ikot, Iwuo-Okpom, Mkpanak and Itak Abasi villages in Ibeno Local Government Area;

Informed that the Federal Ministry of Environment through its Flood Early Warning Systems (FEWS) Central Hub has warned that; amongst others, Upenekang; a seashore coastal village covered by the abandoned project, may witness heavy rainfall that may lead to flooding. This could have been avoided had the project been completed as and when due;

Concerned that since many of the villages in Ibeno Local Government Area lie at the coast of the Atlantic Ocean, to protect against the dangers and constant threat of ocean surge, it is recommended that setbacks like dykes and other control measures should be established around the communities most prone to ocean encroachment which is what the shore protection project was to achieve;

Worried that after receiving 50% of the contract sum, the contractor has only achieved 8% completion, and had since abandoned the project site, having mobilized only a few materials to the site at Upenekang. No one knows the whereabouts of the contractor at this moment; and

Alarmed that many of the projects embarked on by the Niger Delta Development Commission in the Federal Constituency, have suffered the same fate of abandonment by contractors who were mobilized and had moved to site only to disappear without completion of the projects;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge Niger Delta Development Commission to assess the level of work executed by Smith Engineering Company Limited from 2006 to date and to carry out the same assessment in all abandoned projects across the Federal Constituency;
- (ii) also urge the Niger Delta Development Commission to either compel the company which was given the contract, to immediately return to the site or take necessary action to recover the mobilization paid to the contractor and the contract re-awarded to another competent contractor;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission to:
 - (a) demand a comprehensive list of abandoned projects across the Federal Constituency and ensure thorough investigation as to why most of the projects across the Federal Constituency are abandoned, and
 - (b) ensure that the project is completed, and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Okpolupm Etteh — Eket/East Eket/Ibeno/Onna Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the contract for Shore Protection works in Ibeno Local Government Area in Akwa Ibom State was awarded since September 15, 2006, to a company called Smith Engineering Company Limited by the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC);

Also noted that as part of the terms of the contract, the contractor was to be paid a 50% mobilization

fee before the company moved to the site. The contract sum was ₦3,287,787,000.00, for which ₦1,643,893,500, being half of the contract sum, had been paid to the contractor before the company mobilized to the site;

Aware that the scope of the contract was to cover the shorelines along Upenekang, Iwuoachang, Okorutip, Odoro-Ikot, Iwuo-Okpom, Mkpanak and Itak Abasi villages in Ibeno Local Government Area;

Informed that the Federal Ministry of Environment through its Flood Early Warning Systems (FEWS) Central Hub has warned that; amongst others, Upenekang; a seashore coastal village covered by the abandoned project, may witness heavy rainfall that may lead to flooding. This could have been avoided had the project been completed as and when due;

Concerned that since many of the villages in Ibeno Local Government Area lie at the coast of the Atlantic Ocean, to protect against the dangers and constant threat of ocean surge, it is recommended that setbacks like dykes and other control measures should be established around the communities most prone to ocean encroachment which is what the shore protection project was to achieve;

Worried that after receiving 50% of the contract sum, the contractor has only achieved 8% completion, and had since abandoned the project site, having mobilized only a few materials to the site at Upenekang. No one knows the whereabouts of the contractor at this moment; and

Alarmed that many of the projects embarked on by the Niger Delta Development Commission in the Federal Constituency, have suffered the same fate of abandonment by contractors who were mobilized and had moved to site only to disappear without completion of the projects;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge Niger Delta Development Commission to assess the level of work executed by Smith Engineering Company Limited from 2006 to date and to carry out the same assessment in all abandoned projects across the Federal Constituency;
- (ii) also urge the Niger Delta Development Commission to either compel the company which was given the contract, to immediately return to the site or take necessary action to recover the mobilization paid to the contractor and the contract re-awarded to another competent contractor;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission to:
 - (a) demand a comprehensive list of abandoned projects across the Federal Constituency and ensure thorough investigation as to why most of the projects across the Federal Constituency are abandoned, and
 - (b) ensure that the project is completed, and report within four (4) weeks (HR. 179/09/2023).

Motion referred to Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

18. Need to Rehabilitate the Benin-Warri Expressway

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

- Notes* the importance of robust and well-maintained infrastructure in fostering economic development within Nigeria and the critical role played by the Benin-Warri Expressway in facilitating trade,

transportation, and socioeconomic activities in the region;

Also notes that the Benin-Warri corridor is pivotal to the Nigerian economy linking Benin and Warri and serves as a conduit for the movement of goods and services from the Northern to Southern coastal regions with hundreds of petroleum-laden trucks plying the road daily;

Worried about the deplorable state of the Benin-Warri Expressway characterized by potholes and erosion which poses a threat to road users thus, increasing travel time, vehicle maintenance costs and transportation bottlenecks, ultimately hindering economic activities in the region;

Also worried that the deteriorating condition of the road poses severe safety risks to commuters resulting in fatal accidents as well as increased cases of kidnapping;

Concerned that the Benin Bye-pass the Ologbo and Sapele-Amukpe sections of the road are worst hit, as commuters sometimes spend up to seven hours on transit;

Also concerned that despite billions of naira meant for COVID-19 allocation were channel for the repairs of bad portions of the road, the road is still in deplorable conditions;

Cognizant that the Niger Delta Development Commission in line with the mandate, made budgetary provisions for emergency repairs of the road with nothing to show for it; and

Also cognizant of the call for the immediate rehabilitation of the Benin-Warri Expressway by various stakeholders, including community leaders, business associations, and civil society organizations, underscoring the urgent need for concerted action;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to expeditiously carry out maintenance on the failed portions of the road;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Works and Public Accounts to conduct a thorough investigation into the activities of FERMA on the utilization of the COVID-19 allocation for the road; and
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission to conduct a thorough investigation with regards to the budgetary allocations to this road from the Commission (*Hon. Francis Ejirogene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South. Udu Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the importance of robust and well-maintained infrastructure in fostering economic development within Nigeria and the critical role played by the Benin-Warri Expressway in facilitating trade, transportation, and socioeconomic activities in the region;

Also noted that the Benin-Warri corridor is pivotal to the Nigerian economy linking Benin and Warri and serves as a conduit for the movement of goods and services from the Northern to Southern coastal regions with hundreds of petroleum-laden trucks plying the road daily;

Worried about the deplorable state of the Benin-Warri Expressway characterized by potholes and erosion which poses a threat to road users thus, increasing travel time, vehicle maintenance costs and transportation bottlenecks, ultimately hindering economic activities in the region;

Also worried that the deteriorating condition of the road poses severe safety risks to commuters resulting in fatal accidents as well as increased cases of kidnapping;

Concerned that the Benin Bye-pass the Ologbo and Sapele-Amukpe sections of the road are worst hit, as commuters sometimes spend up to seven hours on transit;

Also concerned that despite billions of naira meant for COVID-19 allocation were channel for the repairs of bad portions of the road, the road is still in deplorable conditions;

Cognizant that the Niger Delta Development Commission in line with the mandate, made budgetary provisions for emergency repairs of the road with nothing to show for it; and

Also cognizant of the call for the immediate rehabilitation of the Benin-Warri Expressway by various stakeholders, including community leaders, business associations, and civil society organizations, underscoring the urgent need for concerted action;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to expeditiously carry out maintenance on the failed portions of the road;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Works and Public Accounts to conduct a thorough investigation into the activities of FERMA on the utilization of the COVID-19 allocation for the road; and
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission to conduct a thorough investigation with regards to the budgetary allocations to this road from the Commission (HR. 180/09/2023).

Motion referred to Committees on Works, Public Accounts, and Niger Delta Development Commission, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

19. Need for Completion of the Okeigbo-Igbo Olodumare Power Project in Ile Oluji/ Okeigbo Local Government Area of Ondo State:

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Government embarked on a power project at Okeigbo-Ajejigi-Kajola Bolorunduro-Awopeju-Orisunmibare Camp-Okealafia-Igbo Olodumare in Ile Oluji/Okeigbo Local Government Area of Ondo State to light up the communities, against the backdrop of the persistent poor power supply in the area;

Also notes that the project was awarded to Elektrint Nigeria Limited in 2005, through the then Ministry of Power and Steel to connect the above-mentioned communities to the National grid;

Further notes that the project advanced with the installation of various equipment, including six 500kv transformers installed at different locations, installation of concrete electric poles across the communities as well as high tension wire in almost all the project locations;

Concerned that the project has become one of the abandoned projects in the country as no effort has been made to complete it in line with the laudable intentions of the government, eighteen years after initiating it;

Further concerned that if urgent steps are not taken to complete this laudable project, the dwellers of these affected communities will continually be in total blackout and all the national resources expended on this project thus far will completely become a waste;

Informed that the project is at 70% completion stage, and only requires minimal additional resources to make it functional; and

Convinced that completing the power project will boost production activities and facilitate economic development, as most companies and business outfits currently rely on generators with the attendant increase in the cost of production, leading to high prices of goods and services;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Power to ensure completion of the project and include the Okeigbo - Ajejigi - Kajola - Bolorunduro - Awopeju - Orisunmibare Camp - Okealafia - Igbo Olodumare power project in the 2024 budget estimates and prioritize funding for the project; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Power to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Power to take necessary steps for immediate completion of the power project, and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Ayodele Festus Adefiranye — Akoko South East/Akoko South West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Federal Government embarked on a power project at Okeigbo-Ajejigi-Kajola Bolorunduro-Awopeju-Orisunmibare Camp-Okealafia-Igbo Olodumare in Ile Oluji/Okeigbo Local Government Area of Ondo State to light up the communities, against the backdrop of the persistent poor power supply in the area;

Also noted that the project was awarded to Elektrint Nigeria Limited in 2005, through the then Ministry of Power and Steel to connect the above-mentioned communities to the National grid;

Further noted that the project advanced with the installation of various equipment, including six 500kv transformers installed at different locations, installation of concrete electric poles across the communities as well as high tension wire in almost all the project locations;

Concerned that the project has become one of the abandoned projects in the country as no effort has been made to complete it in line with the laudable intentions of the government, eighteen years after initiating it;

Further concerned that if urgent steps are not taken to complete this laudable project, the dwellers of these affected communities will continually be in total blackout and all the national resources expended on this project thus far will completely become a waste;

Informed that the project is at 70% completion stage, and only requires minimal additional resources to make it functional; and

Convinced that completing the power project will boost production activities and facilitate economic development, as most companies and business outfits currently rely on generators with the attendant increase in the cost of production, leading to high prices of goods and services;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal ministry of Power to ensure completion of the project and include the Okeigbo - Ajejigi - Kajola - Bolorunduro - Awopeju - Orisunmibare Camp - Okealafia - Igbo Olodumare power project in the 2024 budget estimates and prioritize funding for the project; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Power to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Power to take necessary steps for immediate completion of the power project, and report within four (4)

weeks (HR. 181/09/2023).

Motion referred to Committee on Power, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

20. Need to Address the Absence of Power Supply in Ndokwa and Ukwuani Local Government Areas of Delta State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Ndokwa and Ukwuani Local Government Areas hosts 960 megawatts Okpai Independent Power Plant, which plays a significant role in supplying electricity to Anambra, Enugu and Abuja, making it a crucial asset for the nation's power distribution system;

Concerned that despite its significant role in power supply as well as hosting several Oil Companies including the Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC), Sterling Exploration and Energy Production Company (SEEPCO), Midwestern Oil and Gas limited, Energia limited, Pillar Oil limited, Chorus Energy limited, communities in Ndokwa and Ukwuani Local Government Areas lack electricity supply, which is impeding socio-economic progress in the area;

Aware that in 2021, the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) awarded the contract sum of about 4.2 billion Naira for construction of a 132KV Double Circuit transmission line to address the electricity needs of the Ndokwa/Ukwuani communities;

Worried that the project has experienced significant delays and has been stalled for over a year due to price variations, and despite formal requests by the contractor for additional funding to complete the project, it still remains uncompleted as all efforts have proved futile; and

Cognizant of the need to prioritize the electrification project in Ndokwa and Ukwuani Local Government Areas and ameliorate the untold hardship the people have faced despite their contribution to the power sector;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Power and Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) to urgently provide required funds to ensure completion of the Okpai-Kwale Transmission Line Project in Ndokwa and Ukwuani Local Government Areas of Delta State; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Power to ensure that bottlenecks mitigating against the completion of the project are effectively addressed and the project is completed in due time (*Hon. Nnamdi Ezechi — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Ndokwa and Ukwuani Local Government Areas hosts 960 megawatts Okpai Independent Power Plant, which plays a significant role in supplying electricity to Anambra, Enugu and Abuja, making it a crucial asset for the nation's power distribution system;

Concerned that despite its significant role in power supply as well as hosting several Oil Companies including the Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC), Sterling Exploration and Energy Production Company (SEEPCO), Midwestern Oil and Gas limited, Energia limited, Pillar Oil limited, Chorus Energy limited, communities in Ndokwa and Ukwuani Local Government Areas lack electricity supply, which is impeding socio-economic progress in the area;

Aware that in 2021, the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) awarded the contract sum of about 4.2 billion Naira for construction of a 132KV Double Circuit transmission line to address the electricity needs of the Ndokwa/Ukwuani communities;

Worried that the project has experienced significant delays and has been stalled for over a year due to price variations, and despite formal requests by the contractor for additional funding to complete the project, it still remains uncompleted as all efforts have proved futile; and

Cognizant of the need to prioritize the electrification project in Ndokwa and Ukwuani Local Government Areas and ameliorate the untold hardship the people have faced despite their contribution to the power sector;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Power and Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) to urgently provide required funds to ensure completion of the Okpai-Kwale Transmission Line Project in Ndokwa and Ukwuani Local Government Areas of Delta State; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Power to ensure that bottlenecks mitigating against the completion of the project are effectively addressed and the project is completed in due time (HR. 182/09/2023).

Motion referred to Committee on Power, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

21. Need to Implement Policy and Programmes for Sustainable Population Growth in Nigeria

Ordered read, deferred by leave of the House.

22. Need to Control the Menace of Gully Erosion and Construct a Bridge at Yamadawa-Adaraye in Ungogo Local Government Area of Kano State:

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the negative impacts of gully erosions in Nigeria result in loss of farmlands, properties, lives and basic sources of livelihoods, thus resulting in disconnecting families from neighbouring villages as well as pothole traps and loss of soil;

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

Further notes that the inhabitants of the affected areas lost their farmlands, and plots of land, hence cannot access the markets and cities for the daily sales of farm produce, which is the only source of income;

Aware that the Communities of Dingim, Minjibir to Tsamiyar Kifi Ungogo, Zangon Marikita Ungogo to Dankunku Ungogo and Yan Masara to Tashar Bala in Gayawa Ungogo are affected by the menace of the gully erosion covering about 22 km and created wide gullies stretching in Ungogo Local Government Area causing tributaries in Minjibir/Ungogo Federal Constituency;

Worried that the erosion has destroyed properties and rendered residents homeless, inhibiting people living in the urban areas from visiting their families in the villages, while some families and ancestral lands are annihilated because of the effect of the gully erosion;

Convinced that if the menace of this gully erosion is controlled, it shall bring succour and relief to

the people of Minjibir/Ungogo Federal Constituency, especially families and communities directly affected by this gully erosion; and

Also worried that if nothing is done urgently to construct a Bridge in Yamadawa-Adaraye in Ungogo Local Government Area of Kano State, the people will continue to suffer and may eventually wipe out some villages;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the ecological fund office to, immediately commence the control of the erosion in Yan Masara to Tashar Bala, to Dankunkuru Ikm, Inkyan Rangaza to Rummawa 3Km, Zangon Marikita to Dankunkuru to Koranci 3km all in Ungogo Local Government Area and gully erosions at Dingim village in Minjibir to Tsamiyar Kifi in Ungogo which is about 15km connecting Minjibir/Ungogo Federal Constituency;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Works to construct the Yamadawa-Adaraye Bridge to prevent future loss of lives and properties;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministries of Finance and Budget and National Planning to release funds for the control of gully erosions in the affected communities; and
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Ecological Funds to ensure compliance (*Hon. Sani Adamu Wakili – Minjibir/Ungogo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the negative impacts of gully erosions in Nigeria result in loss of farmlands, properties, lives and basic sources of livelihoods, thus resulting in disconnecting families from neighbouring villages as well as pothole traps and loss of soil;

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

Further noted that the inhabitants of the affected areas lost their farmlands, and plots of land, hence cannot access the markets and cities for the daily sales of farm produce, which is the only source of income;

Aware that the Communities of Dingim, Minjibir to Tsamiyar Kifi Ungogo, Zangon Marikita Ungogo to Dankunkuru Ungogo and Yan Masara to Tashar Bala in Gayawa Ungogo are affected by the menace of the gully erosion covering about 22 km and created wide gullies stretching in Ungogo Local Government Area causing tributaries in Minjibir/Ungogo Federal Constituency;

Worried that the erosion has destroyed properties and rendered residents homeless, inhibiting people living in the urban areas from visiting their families in the villages, while some families and ancestral lands are annihilated because of the effect of the gully erosion;

Convinced that if the menace of this gully erosion is controlled, it shall bring succour and relief to the people of Minjibir/Ungogo Federal Constituency, especially families and communities directly affected by this gully erosion; and

Also worried that if nothing is done urgently to construct a Bridge in Yamadawa-Adaraye in Ungogo Local Government Area of Kano State, the people will continue to suffer and may eventually wipe out some villages;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the ecological fund office to, immediately commence the control of the erosion in Yan Masara to Tashar Bala, to Dankunku 1km, Inkyan Rangaza to Rummawa 3Km, Zangon Marikita to Dankunku to Koranci 3km all in Ungogo Local Government Area and gully erosions at Dingim village in Minjibir to Tsamiyar Kifi in Ungogo which is about 15km connecting Minjibir/Ungogo Federal Constituency;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Works to construct the Yamadawa-Adaraye Bridge to prevent future loss of lives and properties;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministries of Finance and Budget and National Planning to release funds for the control of gully erosions in the affected communities; and
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Ecological Funds to ensure compliance (HR. 183/09/2023).

Motion referred to Committee on Ecological Funds, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

23. Need to Investigate the Low Implementation Level of the Cabotage Act

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act, 2003, was enacted by the National Assembly to restrict the use of foreign vessels in domestic coastal trade, assist in promoting the development of indigenous tonnage and establish a vessel financing fund, thus the Act was introduced to stimulate, empower and reposition indigenous shipping companies for active participation in the Sub-Saharan shipping activities;

Also notes that the main objective of the Act was to protect indigenous shipping companies, create economic and employment opportunities for Nigerians in the Maritime sector;

Observes that after twenty (20) years of the enactment of the law, the shipping trade is still dominated by foreign-owned vessels;

Aware that on 25 June, 2023, at the International Maritime Organization Day of the Seafarers celebration, the Joint Body of the Seafarer's Professional Groups (NSPG) said that the Nation's maritime industry is losing \$100 billion annually due to the inability of the Federal Government to implement the Cabotage Act;

Also aware that at the same event, the Secretary General of the Merchant Seafarers Association of Nigeria, Captain Alfred Oniye informed the audience that most of the jobs that are supposed to be handled by Nigerian Seafarers are being occupied by foreigners, thus rendering 80% of Nigerian Seafarers jobless. He said further that if the Cabotage Act is fully implemented, it will create thousands of jobs for Nigerians because ships would be built locally and owned by Nigerians;

Worried that due to the very low implementation of the Cabotage Act by Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Limited and others that are involved in maritime activities, the nation economy and job creation are being seriously threatened;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Nigerian Maritime Safety Administration, Shipping Services, and Ports and Harbour to investigate the low implementation of the Cabotage Act and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Awaji-Inombek Dagomie Abiante — Andoni/Opobo Nkoro Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act, 2003 was enacted by the National Assembly to restrict the use of foreign vessels in domestic coastal trade, assist in promoting the development of indigenous tonnage and establish a vessel financing fund, thus the Act was introduced to stimulate, empower and reposition indigenous shipping companies for active participation in the Sub-Saharan shipping activities;

Also noted that the main objective of the Act was to protect indigenous shipping companies, create economic and employment opportunities for Nigerians in the Maritime sector;

Observed that after twenty (20) years of the enactment of the law, the shipping trade is still dominated by foreign-owned vessels;

Aware that on 25 June, 2023, at the International Maritime Organization Day of the Seafarers celebration, the Joint Body of the Seafarer's Professional Groups (NSPG) said that the Nation's maritime industry is losing \$100 billion annually due to the inability of the Federal Government to implement the Cabotage Act;

Also aware that at the same event, the Secretary General of the Merchant Seafarers Association of Nigeria, Captain Alfred Oniye informed the audience that most of the jobs that are supposed to be handled by Nigerian Seafarers are being occupied by foreigners, thus rendering 80% of Nigerian Seafarers jobless. He said further that if the Cabotage Act is fully implemented, it will create thousands of jobs for Nigerians because ships would be built locally and owned by Nigerians;

Worried that due to the very low implementation of the Cabotage Act by Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Limited and others that are involved in maritime activities, the nation economy and job creation are being seriously threatened;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Nigerian Maritime Safety Administration, Shipping Services, and Ports and Harbour to investigate the low implementation of the Cabotage Act and report within four (4) weeks (HR. 184/09/2023).

24. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 3 October, 2023 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.01 p.m.

Tajudeen Abass
Speaker

