



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

FIRST VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 9 November, 2023

1. The House met at 11.03 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Wednesday, 1 November, 2023.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.
4. **Oaths of Allegiance and Membership**
A Member-elect, Sani Aliyu (*Katsina Federal Constituency*), took and subscribed the Oaths of Allegiance and Membership as prescribed by law.
5. **Need to Strengthen Relationship between the Legislative and Executive Arms of Government**
Mr Speaker read a communication from the Senior Special Assistant to the President on National Assembly Matters (House of Representatives), informing all relevant Chairmen of Standing Committees, *Ad-hoc* Committees, and Special Committees to channel all issues, complaint and matters that can lead to conflicts between the Legislature, Ministries, Agencies, or any Parastatals of government to his office a Suit No. 1.82, House of Representatives, National Assembly Complex, Abuja, for amicable settlement in the spirit of democratic governance.
6. **Announcement**
Bereavement:
Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Donald Kimikanboh Ojogo (*Ilaje/Ese-Odo Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of a former member, Hon. Adeleke Adekunle Agbudeloye (*Ilaje/Ese-Odo Federal Constituency, Second Republic*) on Sunday, 17 September, 2023.
7. **Petitions**
 - (i) A petition from the Amalgamated Forum, Bomo Community Land Disputes Committee, on behalf of the Residence Farmers, Magarida Ta Tsakiya Bomo Community, Kaduna State, on alleged non-payment of compensation for land occupation by the Nigerian Army, was presented and laid by Hon. Sadiq Abdullahi (*Sabon Gari Federal Constituency*);

- (ii) A petition from Kolawole Olowookere & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Adebayo Olaide, on alleged non-compliance with court judgments in Suits No: M/554/2011 and in Appeal No: CA/1/244/2013 by the Nigeria Police Force, was presented and laid by Hon. Olamijuwonlo Alao Akala (*Ogbomoso North/Ogbomoso South/Orire Federal Constituency*);
- (iii) A petition from Larry Oyibo, on behalf of China - Africa Warnewfeng Ventures Limited, on alleged failure to rectify the power outage at their factory by the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) and the Eko Electricity Distribution Company (EEDC), was presented and laid by Hon. Adebayo Adesola Samuel Olumuyiwa (*Apapa Federal Constituency*);
- (iv) A petition from Solomon Adeola Juwon & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Tongshuwa Simon Musa, on alleged non-payment of his entitlement by Management of the Federal College of Forestry Mechanisation/Forestry Research Institute, Afaka, Kaduna State, was presented and laid by Hon. Lalu Ishaya David (*Bokkos/Mangu Federal Constituency*);
- (v) A petition from Makun Abubakar Alhaji, on the termination of his appointment from service by the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), was presented and laid by Hon. Saidu Musa Abdullahi (*Bida/Gbako/Katcha Federal Constituency*);
- (vi) A petition from Ayodele Bolarinwa Adeyemi and 10 Others, on alleged misappropriation of funds by the Management Staff of the Federal Science and Technology College, Usi, Ekiti State, was presented and laid by Hon. Akinlayo Kolawole (*Ekiti East/Gbonyin/Emire Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

- (i) ***Need to Conduct a National Baseline Survey on Fake Anti-Malaria Medicines in Nigeria:*** Hon. Billy Osawaru (*Orhionwon/Uhunmwode 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.

Need to Conduct A National Baseline Survey on Fake Anti-malaria Medicines in Nigeria:

The House:

Aware that, in Nigeria there is an Agency that is charged with the responsibility of regulating the production, importation and distribution of drugs called the National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC). In June 2018 NAFDAC was informed of the circulation of some fake varieties of anti-malaria drugs imported fraudulently from India. Counterfeit/fake anti-malaria drugs are mostly observed to be deliberately made to look like brand name drugs or may have no active ingredients or have less than the required amount of active ingredients or may even contain ingredients which are not what is described on the package label imported/manufactured, distributed/sold and eventually ignorantly used by malaria patients without any curative effects;

Also aware that the use of these fake drugs is crucial and brings complications in treatment and eventually increases the risk of death;

Concerned that counterfeiting of drugs was almost ignored or at least largely underestimated but it has now clearly emerged as one of the most crucial public health problems in Nigeria. Although important efforts have been made to fight against this criminal traffic by NAFDAC, but much more needs to be done;

Worried that according to the research of the World Health Organization WHO in 2022, it was estimated that 116,000 people die in Sub-Saharan Africa each year because of Counterfeit Malaria Drugs. World Health Organization (WHO) Global Malaria Report (2023) Stated that, twenty-two (22) persons die every hour from Malaria in Nigeria making it approximately two hundred thousand (200,000) deaths annually. In other words, over a quarter of all deaths from Malaria are linked to fraudulent medicines thus the need for a National Baseline Survey Project to collect information on the status of fake anti-malaria medicines to determine mode of approach, level of effort needed and probably resources required to dismantle the unfortunate development of this crime against humanity;

Cognizant that baseline survey is an important activity that must be urgently done, in order to determine the before and after situations of the project "fight against low quality Anti-Malaria Medicines in Nigeria";

Also cognizant that the survey will provide the "fight" with useful information that will be used to determine the methodology to be adopted to reduce the number of deaths from the use of Fake Malaria Drugs in Nigeria .

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Control, and Drugs and Narcotics to urgently conduct a Baseline Survey on fake Anti-Malaria Medicines in the six geo-political zones of the country and to report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Billy F. Osawaru — Orhionwon/Uhunmwode Federal Constituency and One Other*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In the Prayer, immediately after the words "Malaria Control", *insert* the words "and NAFDAC" (*Hon. Dickson Tarkighir — Guma/Makurdi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that, in Nigeria there is an Agency that is charged with the responsibility of regulating the production, importation and distribution of drugs called the National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC). In June 2018 NAFDAC was informed of the circulation of some fake varieties of anti-malaria drugs imported fraudulently from India. Counterfeit/fake anti-malaria drugs are mostly observed to be deliberately made to look like brand name drugs or may have no active ingredients or have less than the required amount of active ingredients or may even contain ingredients which are not what is described on the package label imported/manufactured, distributed/sold and eventually ignorantly used by malaria patients without any curative effects;

Also aware that the use of these fake drugs is crucial and brings complications in treatment

and eventually increases the risk of death;

Concerned that counterfeiting of drugs was almost ignored or at least largely underestimated but it has now clearly emerged as one of the most crucial public health problems in Nigeria. Although important efforts have been made to fight against this criminal traffic by NAFDAC, but much more needs to be done;

Worried that according to the research of the World Health Organization WHO in 2022, it was estimated that 116,000 people die in Sub-Saharan Africa each year because of Counterfeit Malaria Drugs. World Health Organization (WHO) Global Malaria Report (2023) Stated that, twenty-two (22) persons die every hour from Malaria in Nigeria making it approximately two hundred thousand (200,000) deaths annually. In other words, over a quarter of all deaths from Malaria are linked to fraudulent medicines thus the need for a National Baseline Survey Project to collect information on the status of fake anti-malaria medicines to determine mode of approach, level of effort needed and probably resources required to dismantle the unfortunate development of this crime against humanity;

Cognizant that baseline survey is an important activity that must be urgently done, in order to determine the before and after situations of the project "fight against low quality Anti-Malaria Medicines in Nigeria";

Also cognizant that the survey will provide the "fight" with useful information that will be used to determine the methodology to be adopted to reduce the number of deaths from the use of Fake Malaria Drugs in Nigeria .

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Control, Drugs and Narcotics, and NAFDAC to urgently conduct a Baseline Survey on fake Anti-Malaria Medicines in the six geo-political zones of the country and to report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 346/11/2023**).

(ii) ***Continuous Killings of Fishermen by Pirates Terrorising Akwa Ibom State Waterways:***
Hon. Uduak Alphonsus Odudoh (*Ikot Abasi/Mkpat Enin/Eastern Obolo 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.

Continuous Killings of Fishermen by Pirates Terrorising Akwa Ibom State Waterways:

The House:

Notes that the security of lives and properties of Nigerians informed the primary purpose of the Nigerian Government provided for under section 14(2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);

Aware of the persistent activities of sea pirates which of course has continually aggravated threats to users of waterways including fishermen, who are often vulnerable, thereby

truncating their trades and adversely impacting on the economy of Akwa Ibom State and Nigeria at large;

Also aware of the man inhumanity to man masterminded by pirates against fishermen, having killed 9 persons and 15 inflicted gun shot and machete injuries, as at late last week in Uta Ewa, Ikot Abasi Local Government Area within the Akwa Ibom State waterways;

Worried that in few weeks, pirates have sized more than 200 wooden boats belonging to fishermen in the aforementioned coastal line;

Also worried that fishermen are currently living at the mercies of these pirates and are often forced to pay royalties ranging from Four Hundred Thousand Naira (₦400,000) to Six Hundred Thousand Naira (₦600,000) monthly before exploring the waterways, failure which they risk attacks;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Chief of Naval Staff, Heads of relevant security agencies to come to the rescue of fishermen and take immediate, proactive and decisive action against pirates terrorising the Akwa Ibom State waterways;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Navy, Police Affairs, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Uduak Alphonsus Odudoh — Ikot Abasi/Mkpat Enin/Eastern Obolo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the security of lives and properties of Nigerians informed the primary purpose of the Nigerian Government provided for under section 14(2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);

Aware of the persistent activities of sea pirates which of course has continually aggravated threats to users of waterways including fishermen, who are often vulnerable, thereby truncating their trades and adversely impacting on the economy of Akwa Ibom State and Nigeria at large;

Also aware of the man inhumanity to man masterminded by pirates against fishermen, having killed 9 persons and 15 inflicted gun shot and machete injuries, as at late last week in Uta Ewa, Ikot Abasi Local Government Area within the Akwa Ibom State waterways;

Worried that in few weeks, pirates have sized more than 200 wooden boats belonging to fishermen in the aforementioned coastal line;

Also worried that fishermen are currently living at the mercies of these pirates and are often forced to pay royalties ranging from Four Hundred Thousand Naira (₦400,000) to Six Hundred Thousand Naira (₦600,000) monthly before exploring the waterways, failure which they risk attacks;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Chief of Naval Staff, Heads of relevant security agencies to come to the

rescue of fishermen and take immediate, proactive and decisive action against pirates terrorising the Akwa Ibom State waterways;

- (ii) mandate the Committees on Navy, Police Affairs, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 347/11/2023**).

9. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.861).
- (2) National Entrepreneurship and Artisan Training Institute, Ibefun-Ilado, Ogun State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.862).
- (3) National Institute for Creative and Performing Arts, Ososa-Ijebu, Ogun State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.863).
- (4) Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2023 (HB.864).
- (5) Health Equipment Credit Guarantee Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.865).
- (6) Federal College of Aviation Technology, Ogume, Delta State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.866).
- (7) Federal University of Medical and Health Sciences, Kwale, Delta State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.867).
- (8) National Institute for Cardiovascular Disease Research and Treatment, Kano State, (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.868).
- (9) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (HB.869).
- (10) Medical and Dental Practitioners Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.870).
- (11) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (HB.871).
- (12) Police Service Commission Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2023 (HB.872).
- (13) Fiscal Responsibility Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.873).
- (14) Finance Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.874).
- (15) Federal College of Agricultural Technology, Otun-Ekiti, Ekiti State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.875).
- (16) National Steel Council Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.876).
- (17) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (HB.877).
- (18) National Apprenticeship Training Institute (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.878).
- (19) National Teachers' Institute Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.879).
- (20) Federal University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Bida, Niger State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.880).

- (21) National Research and Innovation Council (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.881).
- (22) Federal University, Gusau, Zamfara State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.882).

10. A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Agriculture, Ute Ukpu to make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (HB.105) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Agriculture, Ute Ukpu to make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (HB.105) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Philip Agbese — Ado/Ogbadigbo/Okpokwu Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions.

11. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Central Bank of Nigeria Act, Cap. C4, Laws of Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Related Matters (HB.16) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Central Bank of Nigeria Act, Cap. C4, Laws of Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Related Matters (HB.16) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committees on Banking Regulations.

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

Order deferred by leave of the House.

13. Reconsideration of Outstanding Bills from Preceding Assembly

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

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

Also notes that the underlisted Bills were passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but for which assent or withholding thereof was not communicated before the

end of the tenure of the last Assembly;

- (i) Chartered Institute of Mentoring and Life Coaching of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.753);
- (ii) Institute of Chartered Trustees of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2023(HB.714);
- (iii) Federal College of Education, Ugboha, Edo State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.522);
- (iv) National Institute of Agricultural Research Oria, Edo State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.523);
- (v) National Road Fund Bill, 2023 (HB.305);
- (vi) Bankruptcy and Insolvency Bill, 2023 (HB.611);
- (vii) National Food Safety Council and National Food Safety Management Committee (Est) Bill, 2023 (HB.613);
- (viii) Nigerian Weights and Measures Regulatory Agency Bill, 2023 (HB.614);
- (ix) Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.615);
- (x) Federal Produce Inspection Service (Enforcement of Exports Standards)(Etc.) Bill, 2023 (HB.616);
- (xi) National Research and Innovation Council (Est) Bill, 2023 (HB.697); and
- (xii) Office of Budget Management of the Federation (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.698).

Aware that the Bills were read for the first time as HB.753, HB.714, HB.522, HB.523, HB.305, HB.611, HB.613, HB.614, HB.615, HB.616, HB.697 and HB.698 respectively;

Resolves to:

Re-commit the Bills to the Committee of the Whole for consideration (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive – Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

14. Rescission on the Nigerian Peace Corps (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 309 and HB. 482)

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

15. Illegal Incarceration of Okumah Chika and Discriminatory Arrests of Nigerians in the Republic of Benin

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Okumah Chika, a Nigerian who legitimately and legally resides and works in the Republic of Benin is alleged to have been arrested by the country's Police Service - the Republican Police (DGPR) on April 18, 2023;

Concerned that Okumah Chika, who after his undergraduate academic programme in the Republic of Benin, worked as an Administrative Staff at ESFAM University in Port Novo, has been

incarcerated at the Akpro-Missérété Prison since April 26, 2023, over allegations of internet fraud;

Also concerned that after a series of investigations which confirmed that Okumah Chika is legally employed by ESFAM University and that his job schedule includes processing admissions, facilitating transcripts, academic guidance and similar duties, he is still being held in detention by the Republican Police authorities;

Worried that many Nigerians in the Republic of Benin who are legal residents, engaging in lawful enterprises are victims of unlawful and discriminatory arrests and detention by the Republican Police;

Also worried that the unlawful and illegal detention of Okumah Chika and other patriotic Nigerians are mostly orchestrated and influenced by their Beninese colleagues, work-mates and acquaintances who are envious of the hardworking, resilient and enterprising spirit of Nigerians;

Disturbed that the incessant arrests and hounding of Nigerians living and working in the Republic of Benin has made their lives hellish as they are perpetually living in fear, worry and confusion, if urgent and immediate steps are not taken to address this issue, it may affect the age-long diplomatic relations between Nigeria and the Republic of Benin;

Cognizant that, considering the economic benefits which the Republic gains from Nigeria, the mistreatment of Nigerians living over there is not a reflection of appreciation for Nigeria's benevolence;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights and Diaspora to investigate the incessant mistreatment of Nigerians living in the Republic of Benin and report within two (2) weeks (*Hon. Kingsley Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency and Ten Others*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Okumah Chika, a Nigerian who legitimately and legally resides and works in the Republic of Benin is alleged to have been arrested by the country's Police Service - the Republican Police (DGPR) on April 18, 2023;

Concerned that Okumah Chika, who after his undergraduate academic programme in the Republic of Benin, worked as an Administrative Staff at ESFAM University in Port Novo, has been incarcerated at the Akpro-Missérété Prison since April 26, 2023, over allegations of internet fraud;

Also concerned that after a series of investigations which confirmed that Okumah Chika is legally employed by ESFAM University and that his job schedule includes processing admissions, facilitating transcripts, academic guidance and similar duties, he is still being held in detention by the Republican Police authorities;

Worried that many Nigerians in the Republic of Benin who are legal residents, engaging in lawful enterprises are victims of unlawful and discriminatory arrests and detention by the Republican Police;

Also worried that the unlawful and illegal detention of Okumah Chika and other patriotic Nigerians are mostly orchestrated and influenced by their Beninese colleagues, work-mates and acquaintances who are envious of the hardworking, resilient and enterprising spirit of Nigerians;

Disturbed that the incessant arrests and hounding of Nigerians living and working in the Republic of

Benin has made their lives hellish as they are perpetually living in fear, worry and confusion, if urgent and immediate steps are not taken to address this issue, it may affect the age-long diplomatic relations between Nigeria and the Republic of Benin;

Cognizant that, considering the economic benefits which the Republic gains from Nigeria, the mistreatment of Nigerians living over there is not a reflection of appreciation for Nigeria's benevolence;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights and Diaspora to investigate the incessant mistreatment of Nigerians living in the Republic of Benin and report within two (2) weeks (**HR. 348/11/2023**).

16. Flood Disaster and Erosion in White Sand Areas of Alimosho Local Government Area, Lagos State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that heavy rainfall and floods have caused significant damage in communities like White Sand, Fagbile, in Isheri-Oshun of Alimosho Federal Constituency, linking 6th Avenue, FESTAC Town in Amuwo Odofin Federal Constituency of Lagos State, destroying goods and properties worth millions of naira and leaving thousands homeless;

Also notes that the floods in Alimosho Federal Constituency affected infrastructures on FESTAC-Isheri-Oshun roads and SAMADI-Vulcanizer roads connecting Israel-Afolabi-FESTAC and Festivals of Arts and Culture (FESTAC) Town roads in Lagos State;

Concerned that this natural disaster caused by environmental degradation due to human activities can lead to epidemics, hunger, and despair among communities if not addressed by the Federal Government;

Aware that Section 20 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) mandates the government to ensure the environmental sustainability and safety of citizens' lives and properties, and Goal 7 of the Sustainable Development Goals advocates the same;

Recognizes that Federal Government intervention in the communities can significantly prevent and mitigate the devastating effects of perennial flood disasters;

Cognizant that the personal losses suffered by the residents in the affected areas can be alleviated by providing relief materials pending the provision of a permanent solution to the problem;

Resolves to:

- (i) commiserate with the people of Alimosho Federal Constituency and urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send relief materials to the victims of the flood disaster;
- (ii) urge the Ecological Fund Office (EFO) to redeem the ecological problems in Alimosho Federal Constituency of Lagos State;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Environment, Ecological Fund, and Works to undertake a tour assessment of the affected areas, ascertain the level of damages to the communities and liaise with relevant agencies to recommend measures to tackle the menace; and

- (iv) mandate the Committees on Works, and Appropriations to make provision in the 2024 Budget estimates to rehabilitate damaged roads in Alimosho Federal Constituency of Lagos State (*Hon. Ganiyu Adele Ayuba — Alimosho Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 349/11/2023).

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

17. Re-connection of Electricity Supply to Shinkafi/Zurmi Federal Consistency of Zamfara State by Kaduna Electricity Distribution Company

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

18. Need to Investigate the Privatisation and Subsequent Abandonment of Osogbo Steel Rolling Mills

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Osogbo Steel Rolling Company was one of the three Inland Rolling Mills in Nigeria established by an Act of the Federal Government of 1976 and officially commissioned in 1983 to produce a maximum of 210,000 metric tons of Iron Rods annually;

Also notes that Nigeria Machine Tools (NMT) was founded in 1980 to manufacture and distribute high-integrity machine tools and other engineering products and spares designed to serve the projects, operation and maintenance needs of a range of industries;

Further notes that the two entities were critical components of the Nigerian industrial sector as the Osogbo Steel Rolling Mills produced part of the steel used in the construction of Africa's largest Third Mainland Bridge in Lagos;

Aware that the Privatization and Commercialization Act provides for the privatization and commercialization of Federal Government-owned enterprises, as well as those in which the Federal Government has an equity stake;

Also aware that both companies and other National Assets were sold to private investors by the administration of former President Olusegun Obasanjo through the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) to bring in core investors either foreign or domestic to turn around the company and contribute to the growth of the economy;

Further aware that Osogbo Steel Rolling Company was designed to be completed in three phases, the first phase was to produce 210,000 tons annually with 1,000 workers, the second phase was to increase the annual capacity to 420,000 tons of steel annually with a staff strength of 2,000 while the third phase was to increase capacity to 630,000 tons annually with 3,000 staff strength;

Recalls that in line with the Privatization Act, the Federal Government sought and got a Federal high court order to liquidate Osogbo Steel Rolling Company and other Steel Rolling Mills in 2005;

Also recalls that the stakeholders in Osun State, including lawmakers, are protesting the abandonment of Osogbo Steel Rolling Mills and Nigeria Machine Tools, calling for a review of privatization.

Worried that after the privatization of Osogbo Steel Rolling Mills, the company has suffered a lack of maintenance and investment leading to a state of disrepair and operational inefficiency, thus

undermining the potential of the steel industry to create employment opportunities and economic growth in the region;

Also worried that after the privatization of Nigeria Machine Tools, the company has experienced a decline in production capacity and overall performance which is a significant setback for the manufacturing sector;

Further worried that the abandonment of Osogbo Steel Rolling Mills and Nigeria Machine Tools by investors and the failure of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) to oversee and enforce the provisions of the asset sales and purchase agreement has led to the proliferation of substandard steel product littering the Nigeria market;

Observes that the abandoned properties are used by Criminals, Gunmen, Kidnappers, and Marijuana dealers, among several societal ill actors;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Bureau of Public Enterprise (BPE) to embark on regular inspections and monitoring of government-owned enterprises acquired by investors;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Privatization and Commercialization, Industry, and Steel to investigate the abandonment of Osogbo Steel Rolling Company and Nigeria Machine Tools (NMT) and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Adewale Morufu Adebayo — Irepodun/Orolu/Olorunda/Osogbo Federal Constituency and one other*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In the Heading, immediately after the words “Rolling Mills”, *insert* the words “and other Rolling Mills in Nigeria” (*Hon. Dominic Okafor — Aguata Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
“urge the Bureau of Public Enterprises to conduct a regular assessment of the performances of all Privatised Public Enterprises and provide periodic report to the House Committee on Privatization and Commercialization for appropriate legislative action” (*Hon. Saidu Musa Abdullahi — Bida/Gbako/Katcha Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

Need to Investigate the Privatisation and Subsequent Abandonment of Osogbo Steel Rolling Mills and Other Rolling Mills in Nigeria:

The House:

Noted that Osogbo Steel Rolling Company was one of the three Inland Rolling Mills in Nigeria established by an Act of the Federal Government of 1976 and officially commissioned in 1983 to produce a maximum of 210,000 metric tons of Iron Rods annually;

Also noted that Nigeria Machine Tools (NMT) was founded in 1980 to manufacture and distribute high-integrity machine tools and other engineering products and spares designed to serve the projects, operation and maintenance needs of a range of industries;

Further noted that the two entities were critical components of the Nigerian industrial sector as the Osogbo Steel Rolling Mills produced part of the steel used in the construction of Africa's largest Third Mainland Bridge in Lagos;

Aware that the Privatization and Commercialization Act provides for the privatization and commercialization of Federal Government-owned enterprises, as well as those in which the Federal Government has an equity stake;

Also aware that both companies and other National Assets were sold to private investors by the administration of former President Olusegun Obasanjo through the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) to bring in core investors either foreign or domestic to turn around the company and contribute to the growth of the economy;

Further aware that Osogbo Steel Rolling Company was designed to be completed in three phases, the first phase was to produce 210,000 tons annually with 1,000 workers, the second phase was to increase the annual capacity to 420,000 tons of steel annually with a staff strength of 2,000 while the third phase was to increase capacity to 630,000 tons annually with 3,000 staff strength;

Recalled that in line with the Privatization Act, the Federal Government sought and got a Federal high court order to liquidate Osogbo Steel Rolling Company and other Steel Rolling Mills in 2005;

Also recalled that the stakeholders in Osun State, including lawmakers, are protesting the abandonment of Osogbo Steel Rolling Mills and Nigeria Machine Tools, calling for a review of privatization.

Worried that after the privatization of Osogbo Steel Rolling Mills, the company has suffered a lack of maintenance and investment leading to a state of disrepair and operational inefficiency, thus undermining the potential of the steel industry to create employment opportunities and economic growth in the region;

Also worried that after the privatization of Nigeria Machine Tools, the company has experienced a decline in production capacity and overall performance which is a significant setback for the manufacturing sector;

Further worried that the abandonment of Osogbo Steel Rolling Mills and Nigeria Machine Tools by investors and the failure of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) to oversee and enforce the provisions of the asset sales and purchase agreement has led to the proliferation of substandard steel product littering the Nigeria market;

Observed that the abandoned properties are used by Criminals, Gunmen, Kidnappers, and Marijuana dealers, among several societal ill actors;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Bureau of Public Enterprise (BPE) to embark on regular inspections and monitoring of government-owned enterprises acquired by investors;
- (ii) *also* urge the Bureau of Public Enterprises to conduct a regular assessment of the performances of all Privatised Public Enterprises and provide periodic report to the House Committee on Privatization and Commercialization for appropriate legislative action;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Privatization and Commercialization, Industry, and Steel to investigate the abandonment of Osogbo Steel Rolling Company and Nigeria Machine Tools (NMT) and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 350/11/2023**).

19. Need to Replace Damaged Concrete Poles and Connect to the National Grid Communities in Shira and Gaide Local Government Areas, Bauchi State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Rural Electrification Agency was established in 2006, and was mandated by its enabling Act to Promote Rural Electrification in the Country, Co-ordinate Rural Electrification Programs and administer the Rural Electrification Fund (REF) to promote, support and provide rural electrification through Public and Private Sector Participation; and reliable electricity is what makes the difference between sustainable development and retrogression, as energy poverty affects the standard of other social systems, including healthcare, education and living conditions;

Also note that the core mandate of the Agency is to provide access to reliable electric power for rural dwellers irrespective of where they live and what they do, in a way that would allow a reasonable return on investment and appropriate tariff that is economically responsive and supportive of the average rural customers;

Concerned that the following communities namely: Zubo, Beli, Gagidiba, Dango, Bukul, Kilbori, Bangire and Zigau Communities in Shira Local Government Area of Bauchi State were electrified and connected to the national grid;

Worried that the Zirami, Uzum, Sabon Sara, Zankan, Tagwaye, Jawo, and Faguji communities in Giade Local Government Area of Bauchi State were equally connected to the national grid after the completion of the projects;

Aware that after a heavy downpour, the infrastructure in the above-mentioned communities was damaged as a result of a rain storm occasioned by strong winds in September 2019; and

Also worried that the concrete poles and aluminum conductors were destroyed and the accessories washed away by flood;

Resolves to:

- (i) mandate the Committee on Rural Electrification Agency to interface the Agency to ensure the replacement of damaged poles and connection to the national grid of the following Communities: Zubo, Beli, Gagidiba, Dango, Bukul, Kilbori, Bangire, Zigau and Zirami, Uzum, Sabon Sara, Zankan, Tagwaye, Jawo, and Faguji respectively to the national grid in Shira/Giade Federal Constituency, Bauchi State;
- (ii) also mandate the Committee on Appropriation to include the electrification of the above-mentioned communities in Shira/Giade Federal Constituency in the 2024 Appropriation Act;
- (iii) further mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Sani Ibrahim Tanko — Shira/Giade Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 351/11/2023).

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

20. Need to Revitalize the Sabke Dam in Daura Local Government Area of Katsina State
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the challenges faced by residents of Daura Local Government Area and its surrounding areas due to insufficient access to water resources which is crucial for agricultural sustainability;

Also notes the Sabke Dam project was initiated in 1998 by the Federal Government with the aims to enhance agricultural production and provide potable water to the people of Daura Local Government Area;

Further notes the abandonment of the Sabke Dam project has inflicted severe socio-economic hardships on the residents of Daura Local Government Area;

Aware of the imperative of conducting a comprehensive 7km upstream and 3km downstream desilting and river training operation to optimize reservoir inflow by mitigating sedimentation and vegetation, thereby enhancing agricultural output;

Disturbed by the adverse impact of the vandalized power line from Shargalle village to the Sabke Dam project, the lack of agricultural machinery hindering agricultural production, and the dire state of complementary resources such as deteriorating staff quarters and the absence of operational vehicles, which collectively pose significant barriers to agricultural productivity, socioeconomic progress, and other vital aspects;

Cognizant that revitalizing the Sabke Dam project holds immense potential to yield substantial benefits to Daura Local Government Area, its environs and the entire nation, particularly in elevating agriculture and expanding access to potable water, ultimately enhancing livelihoods for its residents;

Also cognizant of the need to address issues of public concern and advocate for the well-being and development of the constituencies to the benefit of all.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministries of Water Resources, Agriculture, and Rural Development and Power to expedite action on the revitalization of the Sabke Dam project and reconnect to the national grid via the power line from Shargalle village;
- (ii) also urge relevant authorities to prioritize the well-being and livelihoods of the citizens and restore access to potable water and irrigation facilities through the prompt revitalization of the Sabke Dam project;
- (iii) mandate the Committees of Water Resources to engage with the Federal Ministries of Water Resources, Agriculture, and Rural Development and Power and provide a comprehensive update on the status of the Sabke Dam project; and
- (iv) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Aminu Jamo Daura — Daura/Sandamu/Mai'adua Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (ii), immediately after the words “revitalization of the”, *leave out* all other words, and *insert* the words “Daura, Dayeshi, Sonkaya, Mashi, Shagale and Dutsi of the Saska Dam project in Daura, Maiadua, Dutsi and Mashi Local Government Areas, Katsina State” (*Hon. Salisu Yusuf Majigiri — Mashi/Dutsi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the challenges faced by residents of Daura Local Government Area and its surrounding areas due to insufficient access to water resources which is crucial for agricultural sustainability;

Also noted the Sabke Dam project was initiated in 1998 by the Federal Government with the aims to enhance agricultural production and provide potable water to the people of Daura Local Government Area;

Further noted the abandonment of the Sabke Dam project has inflicted severe socio-economic hardships on the residents of Daura Local Government Area;

Aware of the imperative of conducting a comprehensive 7km upstream and 3km downstream desilting and river training operation to optimize reservoir inflow by mitigating sedimentation and vegetation, thereby enhancing agricultural output;

Disturbed by the adverse impact of the vandalized power line from Shargalle village to the Sabke Dam project, the lack of agricultural machinery hindering agricultural production, and the dire state of complementary resources such as deteriorating staff quarters and the absence of operational vehicles, which collectively pose significant barriers to agricultural productivity, socioeconomic progress, and other vital aspects;

Cognizant that revitalizing the Sabke Dam project holds immense potential to yield substantial benefits to Daura Local Government Area, its environs and the entire nation, particularly in elevating agriculture and expanding access to potable water, ultimately enhancing livelihoods for its residents;

Also cognizant of the need to address issues of public concern and advocate for the well-being and development of the constituencies to the benefit of all;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministries of Water Resources, Agriculture, and Rural Development and Power to expedite action on the revitalization of the Sabke Dam project and reconnect to the national grid via the power line from Shargalle village;
- (ii) also urge relevant authorities to prioritize the well-being and livelihoods of the citizens and restore access to potable water and irrigation facilities through the prompt revitalization of the Daura, Dayeshi, Sonkaya, Mashi, Shagale and Dutsi of the Saska Dam project in Daura, Maiadua, Dutsi and Mashi Local Government Areas, Katsina State;
- (iii) mandate the Committees of Water Resources to engage with the Federal Ministries of Water Resources, Agriculture, and Rural Development and Power and provide a comprehensive update on the status of the Sabke Dam project; and
- (iv) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 352/11/2023**).

21. Call to Activate the African Regional Aquaculture Centre (ARAC) in Omuihuechi Aluu, Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that on 29 May, 2023, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu declared an emergency in the Agricultural Sector and food sufficiency in Nigeria;

Also notes that the President renamed the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, demonstrating the administration's commitment to ensuring Nigeria's food security;

Aware that the African Regional Aquaculture Centre is a department of the Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMR), established in 1980 with FAO/UNDP assistance, the centre trains senior and vocational aquaculture professionals to increase fish production through brackish water fish farming, focusing on training and research in aquaculture;

Further notes the centre also provides training for a one-year postgraduate diploma in aquaculture and a one-year Master of Science (MSc) degree in aquaculture;

Worried that the centre's significant mandate has been neglected due to a lack of funds and previous administration abandonment, causing a shortage of trained personnel for the country's fish sufficiency;

Concerned that the last postgraduate programmes were discontinued in 2000 due to a lack of funds. Reactivation of the postgraduate programmes and new courses are needed to meet current realities. Over 8,000 fish farmers and extension advisers have been trained, but tens of thousands may be denied access;

Disturbed that the majority of the people in Rivers State and the South-South are predominately farmers and fishermen, eager to support the current Nigerian administration in ensuring food sufficiency if the Centre has full operational capacity;

Recognizes the urgent need to investigate the immediate and remote cause(s) of the abysmal performance of the African Regional Aquaculture Centre (ARAC) to save it from its moribund state;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to interface with the establishment to unravel the remote and immediate cause of the present decadency of the African Regional Aquaculture Centre (ARAC); and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions to ensure that the African Regional Aquaculture Centre (ARAC) enjoys reasonable funding in the 2024 Budget Estimates (*Hon. Boniface Sunday Emerengwa — Emohua/Ikwerre Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on 29 May, 2023, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu declared an emergency in the Agricultural Sector and food sufficiency in Nigeria;

Also noted that the President renamed the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, demonstrating the administration's commitment to ensuring Nigeria's food security;

Aware that the African Regional Aquaculture Centre is a department of the Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMR), established in 1980 with FAO/UNDP assistance, the centre trains senior and vocational aquaculture professionals to increase fish production through brackish water fish farming, focusing on training and research in aquaculture;

Further noted the centre also provides training for a one-year postgraduate diploma in aquaculture and a one-year Master of Science (MSc) degree in aquaculture;

Worried that the centre's significant mandate has been neglected due to a lack of funds and previous administration abandonment, causing a shortage of trained personnel for the country's fish sufficiency;

Concerned that the last postgraduate programmes were discontinued in 2000 due to a lack of funds. Reactivation of the postgraduate programmes and new courses are needed to meet current realities. Over 8,000 fish farmers and extension advisers have been trained, but tens of thousands may be denied access;

Disturbed that the majority of the people in Rivers State and the South-South are predominately farmers and fishermen, eager to support the current Nigerian administration in ensuring food sufficiency if the Centre has full operational capacity;

Recognized the urgent need to investigate the immediate and remote cause(s) of the abysmal performance of the African Regional Aquaculture Centre (ARAC) to save it from its moribund state;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to interface with the establishment to unravel the remote and immediate cause of the present decadency of the African Regional Aquaculture Centre (ARAC); and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions to ensure that the African Regional Aquaculture Centre (ARAC) enjoys reasonable funding in the 2024 Budget Estimates (**HR. 353/11/2023**).

22. Consideration of Reports

(i) *Ad-hoc Committee on Legislative Agenda:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on Legislative Agenda of the House of Representatives" (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(*Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair*)

Recommendation 1: Strengthening Good Governance:

- (a) Rule of Law and Human Rights;
- (b) Improving National Assembly Delivery Processes:
 - Internal and External Communications
 - E-Parliament
 - Inter-Chamber Synergy

- Members' Welfare
 - Executive-Legislative Engagement;
- (c) Anti-Corruption & Oversight and Technology;
- (d) Executive-Legislative Engagement (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*).

Amendment Proposed:

*Leave out Recommendation 1 (b) *Executive-Legislative Engagement (Hon. Chinda Kingsley — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency).*

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question that Recommendation 1 as amended stands part of the Recommendation — Agreed to.

Recommendation 2: Improving National Security:

- (a) Improved Accountability in the Security Sector;
- (b) Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Insurgency;
- (c) Inter-Agency Collaboration and Improved Intelligence Sharing;
- (d) Police Reforms;
- (e) Reform of National Assembly Security/Sergeant-at-Arms (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation 3: Law Reform:

- (a) Constitutional Reform;
- (b) Local Government Reform;
- (c) Decongesting the Exclusive Legislative List;
- (d) Justiciability of Certain Social and Economic Rights;
- (e) Judicial and Legal System Reform;
- (f) Electoral Reform (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation 4: Economic Growth and Development:

- (a) Economic Restructuring;
- (b) Economic Diversification and Agricultural Development (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation 5: Social Sector Reform and Development:

- (a) Education:

- Universal Basic Education,
 - Secondary Education,
 - Technical Education,
 - Almajiri Education and Out-of-School Children;
- (b) Healthcare;
- (c) Infrastructure Development:
- Energy and Power
 - Roads and Highways
 - Rail Transport
 - Inland Waterways and Ports
 - Aviation;
- (d) Pension Reform (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation 6: Inclusion and Open Parliament:

- (a) Women's Representation and Participation;
- (b) Youth Development;
- (c) Open Parliament and Citizens' Engagement;
- (d) Inclusion of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Persons Living with Disabilities (PLWD) in National Planning;
- (e) Media (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*).

Amendment Proposed:

In the heading of Recommendation 6, *leave out* the word “inclusion”, and *insert* the word “inclusive” (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question that Recommendation 6 as amended stands part of the Recommendation — Agreed to.

Recommendation 7: Influencing/Directing Nigeria's Foreign Policy (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation 8: Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report proceedings.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on Legislative Agenda of the House of Representatives and

approved Recommendation 1 as amended, approved Recommendations 2 - 5, approved Recommendation 6 as amended, approved Recommendations 7 and 8 of the Report.

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

- (ii) ***Ad-hoc Committee on the Review of Standing Orders of the House of Representatives:***
That the House do consider the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on the Review of Standing Orders of the House Representatives.

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

23. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 14 November, 2023 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Usman Bello Kumo — Chief Whip).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.37 p.m.

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker