



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 15 February, 2024

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, 14 February, 2024.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Petitions**
 - (i) A petition from E. A. Molaajo & Co., (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Mohammed Mustapha on alleged refusal to pay judgment sum of Fifty million Naira (₦50,000,000.00) in favour of their client by Nigeria Airforce, was presented and laid by Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali (*Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro Federal Constituency*);
 - (ii) The following petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Peter Aniekwe (*Anambra East/Anambra West Federal Constituency*):
 - (a) Initiative for Leadership and Economic Watch in Nigeria, on behalf of Solomon Adodo and 23 others, on alleged violation of the provisions of Money Laundering Act, 2022, Investments and Securities Act, 2007, and Nigeria's Relevant Tax Laws by OKX, the operators of Digital Asset Exchange;
 - (b) Initiative for Leadership and Economic Watch in Nigeria, on behalf of Solomon Adodo and 23 others, on alleged violation of the provisions of Money Laundering Act, 2022, Investments and Securities Act, 2007, and Nigeria's Relevant Tax Laws by Boundless Nexus Limited, the operators of Digital Asset Exchange;
 - (c) Initiative for Leadership and Economic Watch in Nigeria, on behalf of Solomon Adodo and 23 others, on alleged violation of the provisions of Money Laundering Act, 2022, Investments and Securities Act, 2007, and Nigeria's Relevant Tax Laws by Yellow Card, the operators of Digital Asset Exchange;

- (d) Initiative for Leadership and Economic Watch in Nigeria, on behalf of Solomon Adodo and 23 others, on alleged violation of the provisions of Money Laundering Act, 2022, Investments and Securities Act, 2007, and Nigeria's Relevant Tax Laws by ROQQU, the operators of Digital Asset Exchange;
- (b) Initiative for Leadership and Economic Watch in Nigeria, on behalf of Solomon Adodo and 23 others, on alleged violation of the provisions of Money Laundering Act, 2022, Investments and Securities Act, 2007, and Nigeria's Relevant Tax Laws by BYBIT, the operators of Digital Asset Exchange.

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 5)

(i) *Need to Address the Worsening Insecurity in Fika Local Government Area and Its Environs in Yobe State:*

Hon. Muhammed Buba Jajere (*Fika/Fune 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 5 (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 5 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Need to Address the Worsening Insecurity in Fika Local Government Area and Its Environs in Yobe State:

The House:

Notes that the state of insecurity in Fika LGA and its environs has assumed a worrisome dimension as a village called Gurjaje in Fika Local Government Area was razed down by unknown bandits on Monday, 12 February, 2024;

Also notes that as a result of the bandits' attack, one person was confirmed dead, while several others injured, houses and properties worth several millions of Naira were also destroyed;

Concerned that many rural dwellers have been displaced on account of this onslaught with agricultural and economic activities greatly paralyzed;

Worried that the inhabitants of villages in the Local Government Area now live in fear while majority of them had been displaced and disposed of their valuable sources of income;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Chief of Army Staff and the Inspector General of Police to deploy more security personnel to the Local Government Area and its environs with a view to improving the security situation of the area;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, the North East Development Commission (NEDC) and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently provide relief materials to the affected community of Gurjaje in Fika LGA, Yobe State;

- (iii) mandate the Committees on Army, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Muhammed Buba Jajere — Fika/Fune Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

(HR. 51/02/2024).

Agreed to.

- (ii) ***Need to Implement Part XIV of the Nigeria Police Act, 2020:***
Hon. Asama Daniel Ago (*Jos North/Bassa 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 5 (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 5 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Need to Implement Part XIV of the Nigeria Police Act, 2020:

The House:

Notes that over the years the House of Representatives passed several Resolutions on attacks by assailants in communities across Nigeria and despite numerous resolution arising from those motions, these communities still continue to be victims of these heinous attacks;

Also notes that all efforts of the security agencies seem inadequate because of the overwhelming nature of the situation;

Aware that the atrocious killings have become incessant in several communities across the Federation with recent attacks in Nkienzha community of Bassa LGA, Plateau State;

Also aware that the Police Act, 2020 provides for establishment of Community Policing as stipulated explicitly in Sections 113, 114, 116 and 117 of the Police Act;

Disturbed that despite the commencement of the Police Act, 2020, this aspect of community policing is yet to be fully implemented;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence to honour the innocent victims of these horrendous attack across the nation;
- (ii) urge the Inspector General of Police to implement fully the community policing as outlined in Part XIV of the Nigeria Police Act, 2020;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Asama Daniel Ago — Jos North/Bassa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

(HR. 52/02/2024).

6. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply Management of Nigeria Act, 2007 to be in tandem with what obtains in the Procurement Professional Practice across the Globe and for Related Matters (HB.346) — *Second Reading***

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

7. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the University Teaching Hospitals (Reconstitution of Boards, etc.) Act, Cap. U15, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Related Matters (HB.962) — *Second Reading***

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the University Teaching Hospitals (Reconstitution of Boards, etc.) Act, Cap. U15, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Related Matters (HB.962) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Ukodhiko Ajirioghene Jonathan — Isoko North/Isoko South 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 Health Institutions.

8. **Rescission of Clauses 4 (2), 11 (1) and 15 (6) of the NABRO Bill, 2023**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the NABRO Bill, 2023 was passed on 21 December, 2023 and is awaiting the concurrence of the Senate;

Also notes that after the passage, it was realized that Clauses 4 (2), 11 (1) and 15 (6) of the NABRO Bill as Passed should be re-examined to achieve the intendment of the Bill;

Appreciates that rescinding the decision on Clauses 4 (2), 11 (1) and 15 (16) of the NABRO Bill will address the mischief the Bill seeks to cure;

Resolves to:

Rescind its decision on Clauses 4 (2), 11 (1) and 15 (16) of the NABRO Bill and recommit same to the Committee of the whole for reconsideration and passage *proposed: (Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency)*.

Agreed to.

9. **Call for National Disaster Insurance Scheme**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that billions of Nigerian taxpayers' funds allocated to addressing natural and artificial disasters, yet no significant relief has been provided to affected victims;

Also notes that billions of private and public infrastructures are destroyed annually by the combined effects of floods, fire, and storms of unimaginable proportions, hence the need to address the noticeable gaps in disaster mitigation management in Nigeria;

Aware that the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), saddled with the management of disasters in Nigeria, has used insufficient resources to manage disasters, often resulting in insignificant budgets and unable to mitigate the actual effects;

Informed that the affected victims are worst off after each disaster mitigation exercise as hopes and expectations are dashed, leading to huge frustration and suicide contemplations by many, who are often occupationally and habitually displaced;

Concerned that the rise in unwholesome practices by hoodlums and bandits may be linked to the frustrations of victims whose livelihoods, such as farming and animal husbandry, have been lost without future assistance;

Worried that Institutions responsible for risk management during emergencies are not fulfilling their expected responsibilities;

Cognizant of the need to connect the relevant agencies to transform their risk-bearing capacity into multilateral risk-bearing capacity and influence that can put smiles on the faces of victims;

Recognizes that bold steps must be taken to secure citizens' futures and address disasters affecting everyone, regardless of class, creed, or gender, and evolve a new mitigation approach;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency, Ministry of Environment, Office of the National security Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation, Fire Services Department, National Human Rights Commission, the Central Bank of Nigeria, Nigerian Insurance Corporation and Representatives of Insurance firms to re-examine the current disaster policy framework for National Development and consider implementing a new national disaster insurance scheme to ensure public confidence;
- (ii) also urge the National Orientation Agency, the Ministry of Information and national Orientation, and the public enlightenment unit of the National Emergency Management Agency to embark on public enlightenment and sensitization programs nationwide in all Nigerian languages to educate the people on early warning signals, especially on fire during the coming harmattan season;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Ecological Funds, Appropriations, Environment, National Security and Intelligence, Finance, Water Resources, Human Rights, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Biodun Omoleye Francis — Ijero/Ekiti West/Efon Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 53/02/2024).

Motion referred to the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Ecological Funds Appropriations, Environment, National Security and Intelligence, Finance, Water Resources, Human Rights, and Legislative Compliance, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 10 (5).

10. Call for Channelization of Wase Dam to Neighbouring Communities in Gezawa and Gabasawa, Kano State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Minjibir Wase Dam was built along the Jakara stream's drainage system and channeled into the lowlands of Minjibir in order to improve food security, address water scarcity, and support irrigation agriculture and reservoir construction for flood control

Also notes that Wase Dam is contaminated with industrial and household water waste, causing negative impact on the environment, food crops, aquatic life, and human health, thus emphasizing the need for a treatment method that conserves nutrients and removes harmful substances from polluted water before its use for agricultural and domestic purposes;

Aware that the construction of a water treatment plant and irrigation canals from Wase dam to Barwa, Mesar Gudal, Yautar Kudu, Yautar Arewa, Marayar Gawo Tsalle, Yunbu, Marayar Kuka, Yaranchi, Bariya Digilo, Bangare, Baita, Masaku, and Yarkogi villages will help solve the problem of water shortage, curb desertification, provide water for irrigation and animal husbandry, boost socioeconomic activities, and enhance rural livelihoods in the host communities;

Also aware that the construction of irrigation canals will enhance government efforts to combat desertification by creating a conducive environment for afforestation at the Federal and State levels;

Observes that the construction of a plant and irrigation canals will significantly help to reduce seasonal flooding caused by the Wase Dam overflow, thereby protecting neighbouring communities;

Recognizes that the proposed irrigation canals will increase the number of beneficiaries, boost youth employment, reduce rural-urban migration, and make the local economy resilient to market forces; as the Wase Dam is currently underutilized, with only 20,000 people benefiting from its services;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources through Hadeja-Jama'are River Basin Development Authority to construct a water treatment plant and irrigation canals to connect Barwa, Mesar Gudal, Yautar Kudu, Yautar Arewa, Marayar Gawo, Tsalle, Yunbu, Marayar Kuka, Yaranchi, Bariya Digilo, Bangare, Baita, Masaku and Yarkogi villages in Gezawa/Gabasawa Federal Constituency; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Water Resources to liaise with Hadeja-Jama'are River Basin Development Authority to conduct a needs assessment for the project to prioritize and capture same in 2025 budget estimates and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Mohammed Chiroma Garba — Gezawa/Gabasawa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:

“urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to conduct a comprehensive environmental impact analysis on the affected areas” (*Hon. Inuwa Garba — Yamaltu/Deba Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Minjibir Wase Dam was built along the Jakara stream's drainage system and channeled into the lowlands of Minjibir in order to improve food security, address water scarcity, and support irrigation agriculture and reservoir construction for flood control

Also noted that Wase Dam is contaminated with industrial and household water waste, causing negative impact on the environment, food crops, aquatic life, and human health, thus emphasizing the need for a treatment method that conserves nutrients and removes harmful substances from polluted water before its use for agricultural and domestic purposes;

Aware that the construction of a water treatment plant and irrigation canals from Wase dam to Barwa, Mesar Gudal, Yautar Kudu, Yautar Arewa, Marayar Gawo Tsalle, Yunbu, Marayar Kuka, Yaranchi, Bariya Digilo, Bangare, Baita, Masaku, and Yarkogi villages will help solve the problem of water shortage, curb desertification, provide water for irrigation and animal husbandry, boost socioeconomic activities, and enhance rural livelihoods in the host communities;

Also aware that the construction of irrigation canals will enhance government efforts to combat desertification by creating a conducive environment for afforestation at the Federal and State levels;

Observed that the construction of a plant and irrigation canals will significantly help to reduce seasonal flooding caused by the Wase Dam overflow, thereby protecting neighbouring communities;

Recognized that the proposed irrigation canals will increase the number of beneficiaries, boost youth employment, reduce rural-urban migration, and make the local economy resilient to market forces; as the Wase Dam is currently underutilized, with only 20,000 people benefiting from its services;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources through Hadeja-Jama'are River Basin Development Authority to construct a water treatment plant and irrigation canals to connect Barwa, Mesar Gudal, Yautar Kudu, Yautar Arewa, Marayar Gawo, Tsalle, Yunbu, Marayar Kuka, Yaranchi, Bariya Digilo, Bangare, Baita, Masaku and Yarkogi villages in Gezawa/Gabasawa Federal Constituency; and
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to conduct a comprehensive environmental impact analysis on the affected areas;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Water Resources to liaise with Hadeja-Jama'are River Basin Development Authority to conduct a needs assessment for the project to prioritize and capture same in 2025 budget estimates and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 54/02/2024**).

11. Deplorable State of Road Network in the Federal Housing Estate, Alimosho Federal Constituency of Lagos State

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

12. Need to Rescue the Nigerian Economy from imminent Collapse and Restore Investors' Confidence in the System

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that conventional fiscal policies require a minimum of 90 days to manifest, in contrast to the current trend in Nigeria where immediate enforcement is prevalent, thus necessitating the need for a shift towards a collaborative approach which integrates fiscal and monetary policies with

stakeholder's engagement to prevent isolation and guarantee active stakeholders' involvement in consequential decisions;

Also notes that the Central Bank of Nigeria has raised customs tariffs six times in the past six months, causing inflation and disrupting import and excise duty calculations, which businesses rely on for business planning;

Aware that businesses and investors rely on a stable transactional exchange rate for import and excise duty calculations for at least two years to enable effective business planning;

Alarmed that the Central bank of Nigeria experienced a series of exchange rate adjustments for customs duties within six months, in 24 June, 2023, the rate increased from ₦422.30/\$1 to ₦589/\$1, followed by ₦770.88/\$1 on July 6, 2023, ₦783.174/\$1, on November 14, 2023, ₦951.941/\$1 on December 7, 2023, and a double-adjustment on February 2 and 3, 2024, reaching ₦1,356.833/\$1 and ₦1,413.62/\$1 respectively, illustrating excessive fluctuations and volatility in the currency market, raising significant concerns about business planning and economic stability;

Worried that due to the frequent customs exchange rate hikes, Nigerian importers are shifting towards ports in Tema, Ghana; Lome, Togo; and Cotonou, Benin Republic, causing a substantial 65% decrease in cargo importation and business activities at Nigerian seaports, with daily container examinations dropping from approximately 250 to just about 80;

Concerned that the current system in Nigeria which relies on a market-based exchange rate for calculating customs duties causes fluctuations based on market conditions, and poses significant predictability and stability challenges for businesses, thus necessitating alternative solutions for customs duties by considering options like a fixed-rate system or a hybrid system combining market based and fixed elements to enhance predictability and stability;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Finance and Central Bank of Nigeria to provide adequate notice to stakeholders in the maritime industry and the general public before altering customs exchange rates. This ensures transparency and allows stakeholders to prepare for any changes that may affect their operations;
- (ii) also urge the Central Bank of Nigeria to maintain the system exchange rate for Customs duty and Excise duty purposes below N1,000/\$1 preferably N951.941/\$1 to encourage patronage in Nigerian ports to prevent galloping inflation, aiming to balance economic stability with competitiveness in the global;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Finance to ensure the international best practice of allowing a 90-day grace period for fiscal policy changes to facilitate the completion of ongoing transactions under existing policies; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Finance, Banking Regulations, and Customs and Excise, to interface with the Minister of Finance, Central Bank of Nigeria, Governor and Comptroller General of the Nigeria Customs on how fixed exchange rate for Customs and Excise duties will work for the system to boost exports and encourage patronage in the nations Ports (*Hon. Leke Joseph Abejide — Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that conventional fiscal policies require a minimum of 90 days to manifest, in contrast to the current trend in Nigeria where immediate enforcement is prevalent, thus necessitating the need for a shift towards a collaborative approach which integrates fiscal and monetary policies with stakeholder's engagement to prevent isolation and guarantee active stakeholders' involvement in consequential decisions;

Also noted that the Central Bank of Nigeria has raised customs tariffs six times in the past six months, causing inflation and disrupting import and excise duty calculations, which businesses rely on for business planning;

Aware that businesses and investors rely on a stable transactional exchange rate for import and excise duty calculations for at least two years to enable effective business planning;

Alarmed that the Central bank of Nigeria experienced a series of exchange rate adjustments for customs duties within six months, in 24 June, 2023, the rate increased from ₦422.30/\$1 to ₦589/\$1, followed by ₦770.88/\$1 on July 6, 2023, ₦783.174/\$1, on November 14, 2023, ₦951.941/\$1 on December 7, 2023, and a double-adjustment on February 2 and 3, 2024, reaching ₦1,356.833/\$1 and ₦1,413.62/\$1 respectively, illustrating excessive fluctuations and volatility in the currency market, raising significant concerns about business planning and economic stability;

Worried that due to the frequent customs exchange rate hikes, Nigerian importers are shifting towards ports in Tema, Ghana; Lome, Togo; and Cotonou, Benin Republic, causing a substantial 65% decrease in cargo importation and business activities at Nigerian seaports, with daily container examinations dropping from approximately 250 to just about 80;

Concerned that the current system in Nigeria which relies on a market-based exchange rate for calculating customs duties causes fluctuations based on market conditions, and poses significant predictability and stability challenges for businesses, thus necessitating alternative solutions for customs duties by considering options like a fixed-rate system or a hybrid system combining market based and fixed elements to enhance predictability and stability;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Finance and Central Bank of Nigeria to provide adequate notice to stakeholders in the maritime industry and the general public before altering customs exchange rates. This ensures transparency and allows stakeholders to prepare for any changes that may affect their operations;
- (ii) also urge the Central Bank of Nigeria to maintain the system exchange rate for Customs duty and Excise duty purposes below N1,000/\$1 preferably N951.941/\$1 to encourage patronage in Nigerian ports to prevent galloping inflation, aiming to balance economic stability with competitiveness in the global;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Finance to ensure the international best practice of allowing a 90-day grace period for fiscal policy changes to facilitate the completion of ongoing transactions under existing policies; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Finance, Banking Regulations, and Customs and Excise, to interface with the Minister of Finance, Central Bank of Nigeria, Governor and Comptroller General of the Nigeria Customs on how fixed exchange rate for Customs and Excise duties will work for the system to boost exports and encourage patronage in the nations Ports (**HR. 55/02/2024**).

13. Need to Review the 2024 Hajj Fare payable by Intending Pilgrims

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Hajj is an important pillar of the Islamic religion that enjoins the visitation of the Holy Mosques and other historical sites, among other significant rituals in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;

Also notes that this year's Hajj fare has been fixed at a very exorbitant rate of about five million Naira (₦5,000,000.00), which is unsuitable for middle- and low-income intending pilgrims;

Concerned that, given the surrounding circumstances and prevailing economic reality, it has become necessary to reassess and review the processes and procedures adopted by the National Hajj Commission in arriving at the fare with a view to reducing it thereby making same affordable to the intending pilgrims;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to intervene by subsidizing the Hajj fare to enable intending pilgrims participate in the religious ritual; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Muslim Pilgrimage to engage the National Hajj Commission in reviewing and reassessing processes and strategies aimed at making pilgrimage fare more affordable for intending pilgrims (*Hon. Umar Shehu Ajilo — Makarfi/Kudan Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (ii), immediately after the words “intending pilgrims”, *insert* the words and figure “and report within four (4) weeks” (*Hon. Abdulkakeem Kamilu Ado — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Hajj is an important pillar of the Islamic religion that enjoins the visitation of the Holy Mosques and other historical sites, among other significant rituals in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;

Also noted that this year's Hajj fare has been fixed at a very exorbitant rate of about five million Naira (₦5,000,000.00), which is unsuitable for middle- and low-income intending pilgrims;

Concerned that, given the surrounding circumstances and prevailing economic reality, it has become necessary to reassess and review the processes and procedures adopted by the National Hajj Commission in arriving at the fare with a view to reducing it thereby making same affordable to the intending pilgrims;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to intervene by subsidizing the Hajj fare to enable intending pilgrims participate in the religious ritual; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Muslim Pilgrimage to engage the National Hajj Commission in reviewing and reassessing processes and strategies aimed at making pilgrimage fare more affordable for intending pilgrims and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 56/02/2024**).

14. Abuse of Due Process in the Award of Contract and Constructions of Metropolitan Fire Stations in FCT, Lagos, Abeokuta, Minna, Kano and Enugu States

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

15. Need to Fund Mangu Dam Project to Completion

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Mangu Dam Project, awarded in 2002 by the Federal Government of Nigeria through the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, had the purpose of constructing a dam and water treatment plant, providing portable drinking water, supporting irrigation farming, and potentially generating electricity;

Also notes that the water supply component of the project was designed to provide portable drinking water to eleven communities in Mangu LGA of Plateau State, including Gindiri, Chanso, Kasuwan Ali, Langai, Kadunu, Mangu town, Mangu-Halle, Panyam, Pushit, Kerang, and Mangun;

Aware that the project, initially awarded in 2002 to Messrs Transproject Company Ltd under President Olusegun Obasanjo's administration, was abandoned until August 2014, when it was awarded to another contractor, Messrs Infouest International Ltd, during President Goodluck Jonathan's administration;

Worried that the water treatment plant and Dam were awarded to various contractors, however, the former Minister for Water Resources inaugurated the plant on December 17, 2018, but the Dam is not yet completed owing to inadequate funding over the past two years;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to make provisions for the Mangu Dam Project in the 2025 budget estimates with consideration of variations in prices and initiate budgetary releases for the completion of the project;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to award the contract for the reticulation component of the projects; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Water Resources and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Ishaya David Lalu — Bokkos/Mangu Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:

“mandate the Committee on Water Resources to investigate the matter and report within four (4) weeks” (*Hon. Inuwa Garba — Yamaltu/Deba Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Mangu Dam Project, awarded in 2002 by the Federal Government of Nigeria through the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, had the purpose of constructing a dam and water treatment plant, providing portable drinking water, supporting irrigation farming, and potentially generating electricity;

Also noted that the water supply component of the project was designed to provide portable drinking water to eleven communities in Mangu LGA of Plateau State, including Gindiri, Chanso, Kasuwan Ali, Langai, Kadunu, Mangu town, Mangu-Halle, Panyam, Pushit, Kerang, and Mangun;

Aware that the project, initially awarded in 2002 to Messrs Transproject Company Ltd under President Olusegun Obasanjo's administration, was abandoned until August 2014, when it was awarded to another contractor, Messrs Infouest International Ltd, during President Goodluck Jonathan's administration;

Worried that the water treatment plant and Dam were awarded to various contractors, however, the former Minister for Water Resources inaugurated the plant on December 17, 2018, but the Dam is not yet completed owing to inadequate funding over the past two years;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to make provisions for the Mangu Dam Project in the 2025 budget estimates with consideration of variations in prices and initiate budgetary releases for the completion of the project;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to award the contract for the reticulation component of the projects;
- (iii) mandate the the Committee on Water Resources to investigate the matter and report within four (4) weeks; and
- (iv) also mandate Committees on Water Resources, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 57/02/2024**).

16. Alleged Non-Remittance and Under-Remittance of Tax by Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of Government, Oil Companies and Other Organisations

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

17. Dangerous Effects of Sport Betting and Need for the National Lottery Regulatory Commission to comply with the Lottery Regulatory Commission Act, 2005

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that sports betting is expanding like wildfire globally including Nigeria which has growing betting outfits such as Naira Bet, Bet 9ja, Sure Bet, Winners Golden Bet Max Bet, Merry Bet, 1960 Bet, Bet Colony, Stakers Den, Bet 360, Bet 365, Apollo Bet etc;

Also notes that News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reported that approximately 60 million Nigerians aged 18 to 40 are engaged in sports betting;

Aware that the National Lottery Act, 2005 provides for establishment of the National Lottery Regulatory Commission and the National Lottery Trust Fund and are intended to ensure fair operation and protection of players, stakeholders, and the public;

Also aware that Section 2 of the Regulations stipulates that a Licensee, appointed agents, franchisees, or operators shall adhere strictly to government policies on social responsibility in designing, advertising, and marketing;

Worried that weak or neglected regulations of sports betting has dangerously led to mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety, or addiction; strained or broken relationships due to lying or

stealing from friends and family, financial problems, legal issues, and job loss due to excessive loss or debt, increased crime rates and eventually committing suicide;

Disturbed that most players prefer betting through their mobile phones instead of visiting retail outlets in order to evade control and regulations;

Cognizant that if sport betting is properly regulated and supervised, it will generate tax revenue for the government and contribute to economic growth;

Further aware of the need to carry campaigns to prevent the negative social impact of lottery and prohibit underage participation;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation to conduct comprehensive nationwide campaigns to raise public awareness about the negative impact of youth participation in sports betting;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Inter-Governmental Affairs to conduct a Public Hearing on the dangerous effects and benefits of sports betting in Nigeria and report within (four) 4 weeks (*Hon. Kelechi Nwogu — Etche/Omuma Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that sports betting is expanding like wildfire globally including Nigeria which has growing betting outfits such as Naira Bet, Bet 9ja, Sure Bet, Winners Golden Bet Max Bet, Merry Bet, 1960 Bet, Bet Colony, Stakers Den, Bet 360, Bet 365, Apollo Bet etc;

Also noted that News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reported that approximately 60 million Nigerians aged 18 to 40 are engaged in sports betting;

Aware that the National Lottery Act, 2005 provides for establishment of the National Lottery Regulatory Commission and the National Lottery Trust Fund and are intended to ensure fair operation and protection of players, stakeholders, and the public;

Also aware that Section 2 of the Regulations stipulates that a Licensee, appointed agents, franchisees, or operators shall adhere strictly to government policies on social responsibility in designing, advertising, and marketing;

Worried that weak or neglected regulations of sports betting has dangerously led to mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety, or addiction; strained or broken relationships due to lying or stealing from friends and family, financial problems, legal issues, and job loss due to excessive loss or debt, increased crime rates and eventually committing suicide;

Disturbed that most players prefer betting through their mobile phones instead of visiting retail outlets in order to evade control and regulations;

Cognizant that if sport betting is properly regulated and supervised, it will generate tax revenue for the government and contribute to economic growth;

Further aware of the need to carry campaigns to prevent the negative social impact of lottery and prohibit underage participation;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation to conduct comprehensive nationwide campaigns to raise public awareness about the negative impact of youth participation in sports betting;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Inter-Governmental Affairs to conduct a Public Hearing on the dangerous effects and benefits of sports betting in Nigeria and report within (four) 4 weeks (**HR. 58/02/2024**).

18. Need to Immortalise Late Governor Oluwarotimi Odunayo Akeredolu (SAN) CON in Recognition of his Tremendous Contributions to National Development

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

19. Privilege (Order Six, Rule 2)

Hon. Bob Solomon (*Abua Odua/Ahoada East Federal Constituency*), referred to the Resolution of the House on a Motion presented by Hon. Ademorin Kuye Aliu on the “***Need to Monitor Increased FAAC Allocations and Useage in Accordance with Enabling Laws in the Country to Reduce Poverty in Nigeria***” in the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 13 February, 2024. He noted that the House Resolution (**HR. 32/02/2024**) mandating the Committees on Special Duties, National Planning and Economic Development, and Inter-Governmental Affairs to look into State spending and utilization of the increased allocation from FAAC contravenes Section 128 of the 1999 Constitution, (as amended), as such powers are vested in the State Houses of Assembly. He also noted that the powers of the National Assembly to conduct such investigation relates only to matters on which it can make laws as provided under Section 88 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended). He considered that a breach of the privilege of the House and sought the leave of the House to move a motion for rescission of the decision of the House.

Debate.

Ordered: *A substantive Motion for rescission of decision of the House be presented at next legislative day.*

20. Order of the Day

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do set down items 14 - 16 on the Order Paper till another legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 7 (3)” (Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader).

Agreed to.

21. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 20 February, 2024 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.45 p.m.

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker