



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 20 February, 2024

---

1. The House met at 11.13 a.m. Mr Deputy Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**  
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 15 February, 2024.

*The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.*

4. **Oaths of Allegiance and Membership**  
A Member-elect, Sadiq Abbas Tafida (*Jalingo/Yorro/Zing Federal Constituency*), took and subscribed the Oaths of Allegiance and Membership as prescribed by law.
5. **Deputy Speaker's Remarks**

**Protocol:**

*Honourable colleagues, my very warm greetings!*

*As we commence proceedings today, we are all aware of the challenges we face as a nation. The storm clouds of inflation gather, the cries of economic hardship echo, and whispers of doubt threaten to dim the flames of our collective spirit.*

*But let me assure you, the Nigerian spirit is not one that cowers in the face of adversity! We are a nation forged in resilience, a people united by dogged determination. The challenges we confront may seem insurmountable.*

*Yet, amidst these trials, amidst the anxieties and frustrations, I ask you, my colleagues, to remember the words of a great leader facing a seemingly insurmountable foe: "We have before us an ordeal of the most grievous kind. We have before us many, many long months of struggle and of suffering. But I say to you, my friends: fear not!"*

*Just as Winston Churchill rallied his nation in their darkest hour, so too must we rise to the occasion. This is not the time for division, for despair, for pointing fingers. This is the time for unity, for strength, for a staunch belief in ourselves and in the future of our beloved Nigeria.*

*Do the challenges seem immense? Yes, they do. But are they insurmountable? Absolutely not! We have the tools, the talent, and the tenacity to overcome. The macroeconomic management approach laid out by the Bola Ahmed Tinubu administration, while demanding sacrifice, is a necessary step towards long-term stability and prosperity. Let us trust in the expertise of those tasked with guiding our economic course, even as we hold them accountable for their actions.*

*But remember, fellow Nigerians, true progress cannot be achieved solely through policy pronouncements. It requires the collective effort of each and every one of us. Let us rise above petty squabbles and unite in a common purpose. Let us channel our frustrations into constructive criticism, into holding ourselves and our leaders accountable, but always with the betterment of our nation as the guiding star.*

*Let us focus on the broader canvas, on the multitude of measures being taken to address the root causes of inflation: streamlining foreign exchange flows, tackling food shortages, and investing in critical infrastructure. These, coupled with our collective spirit of enterprise and perseverance, hold the key to unlocking price stability and economic growth.*

*Therefore, I implore you, my colleagues, let us not be swayed by the winds of pessimism. Let us not be cowed by the naysayers. Let us remember the words of Chinua Achebe in 1967: "Being a Nigerian is abysmally frustrating and unbelievably exciting".*

*But let us not forget the "unbelievably exciting" part of Achebe's description. This excitement is not a frivolous notion, but the drumming energy of a nation teeming with potential. Look around you, colleagues. See the young entrepreneurs defying the odds, the farmers growing green life from arid soil, the artists painting vibrant futures, and the innovators dreaming of solutions. This is the true face of Nigeria, a kaleidoscope of talent, resilience, and audacity. We are a nation on the cusp of greatness, a land pregnant with possibility.*

*We are Nigerians, and within us lies the power to overcome any obstacle.*

*Let us rise to the challenge, hand in hand, heart to heart, and together build a brighter, more prosperous future for ourselves and for generations to come. Go forth, colleagues, with renewed hope, with relentless resolve, and with the unshakeable belief that, united, we can and will prevail!*

*Remember, the Nigerian spirit thrives not in comfort, but in the crucible of challenge. Let us rise to the occasion, and show the world the true meaning of resilience, of unity, and of unwavering hope!*

*May God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria!*

## **6. Petitions**

- (i) A petition from Abdulwasii Mustapha and 3 others, on behalf of the residents and landlords of Shehu Umar Yar'Adua Road, Lugbe, FCT, Abuja, on alleged forceful acquisition of their landed properties by Paul Odili of River Park Estate, was presented and laid by Hon. Jesse Okey-Joe Onuakalusi (*Oshodi Isolo II Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) A petition from Nsiong Mfon Effiong, on alleged unlawful detention of her brother Mfonmma Mfon Effiong for over ten (10) days by the Nigerian Military Police, Mambila Barracks Brigades, was presented and laid by Hon. Clement Ernest Jimbo (*Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency*).

*Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.*

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

(i) ***Unprovoked Fatal Shooting of Mr Nkemjika Nwogu by Personnel of the Nigerian Navy at Umunkpeyi, Nbawsi, Isiala Ngwa North Local Government Area of Abia State:***

Hon. Ginger Obinna Onwusibe (*Isiala Ngwa North/Isiala Ngwa South 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.*

**Unprovoked Fatal Shooting of Mr Nkemjika Nwogu by Personnel of the Nigerian Navy at Umunkpeyi, Nbawsi, Isiala Ngwa North Local Government Area of Abia State:**

The House:

*Notes* that available statistics show that from 2011 to 2021 show that Thirteen Thousand, Two Hundred and Forty-One (13,241) innocent citizens have been extra-judicially killed by Nigerian Security Agents, an average rate of One Thousand, Three Hundred and Twenty-Four (1,324) persons per year;

*Also notes* that between 2022 and 2023 the rate has increased with no record of convictions of the Nigerian Military personnel responsible;

*Further notes* that according to Ms Agnes Callamard, a United Nations Special Rapporteur for Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions for Nigeria, after an investigative visit to Nigeria in September 2019, indicated that Nigeria is sitting on an injustice-pressure cooker risking a break down of law and order by aggrieved citizens;

*Concerned* that the spate of extrajudicial killings by the Nigerian Military in Abia State in particular has been alarming that the Abia State Government on 23 October, 2020, inaugurated a 17 Member Judicial Panel of Enquiry to investigate the incessant cases of extrajudicial killings and brutality by Security Agents in Abia State from 2015, with a retired Chief Judge of the State, Hon. Justice Sunday Imo as Chairman;

*Aware* Sections 14 (2) (b) and 33 (1), (2) (a), (b) and (c) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that Government owes its citizens the duty of protecting and securing their lives;

*Regrets* on or about 15 February, 2024, Mr Nkemjika Nwogu (33 years), of Ntigha Okpuala, Ntigha Autonomous Community, Isiala Ngwa North LGA of Abia State, a Tricycle (Keke) driver married with two (2) children, was shot and killed in cold blood by personnel of the Nigerian Navy manning a check point at Umunkpeyi, Mbawsi, aforesaid over alleged refusal of the deceased to be extorted the sum of two hundred Naira (₦200) demanded by the said Naval personnel despite that he had allegedly paid money earlier that day to be allowed passage at the checkpoint;

*Worried* that it is against established Rules of Engagement for the Military, while on Internal Security Operations, to shoot at unarmed civilians and citizens who refuse to pay bribes at checkpoints or elsewhere in the country;

*Also worried* that the recent killing of Mr Nkemjika Nwogu and other innocent, unarmed

civilians in Abia State by personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces and the Nigerian Police is one too many in cases of extrajudicial killings across the country and ought to be investigated;

*Also concerned* that the killings if not immediately checked, could lead to anarchy and in turn negatively affect society;

*Further concerned* that the said killing by men of the Nigerian Navy is not only callous and inhuman, but would adversely affected and reduced the image and reputation of the Nigerian Navy before the rest of the world and indeed compromised our National security;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) condemn very strongly the killing of Mr Nkemjika Nwogu and scores of others by men of the Nigerian Navy;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Navy, Human Rights, and Justice to investigate the matter and report within two (2) weeks (*Hon. Ginger Obinna Onwusibe — Isiala Ngwa North/Isiala Ngwa South Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that available statistics show that from 2011 to 2021 show that Thirteen Thousand, Two Hundred and Forty-One (13,241) innocent citizens have been extra-judicially killed by Nigerian Security Agents, an average rate of One Thousand, Three Hundred and Twenty-Four (1,324) persons per year;

*Also noted* that between 2022 and 2023 the rate has increased with no record of convictions of the Nigerian Military personnel responsible;

*Further noted* that according to Ms Agnes Callamard, a United Nations Special Rapporteur for Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions for Nigeria, after an investigative visit to Nigeria in September 2019, indicated that Nigeria is sitting on an injustice-pressure cooker risking a break down of law and order by aggrieved citizens;

*Concerned* that the spate of extrajudicial killings by the Nigerian Military in Abia State in particular has been alarming that the Abia State Government on 23 October, 2020, inaugurated a 17 Member Judicial Panel of Enquiry to investigate the incessant cases of extrajudicial killings and brutality by Security Agents in Abia State from 2015, with a retired Chief Judge of the State, Hon. Justice Sunday Imo as Chairman;

*Aware* Sections 14 (2) (b) and 33 (1), (2) (a), (b) and (c) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that Government owes its citizens the duty of protecting and securing their lives;

*Regretted* on or about 15 February, 2024, Mr Nkemjika Nwogu (33 years), of Ntigha Okpuala, Ntigha Autonomous Community, Isiala Ngwa North LGA of Abia State, a Tricycle (Keke) driver married with two (2) children, was shot and killed in cold blood by personnel of the Nigerian Navy manning a check point at Umunkpeyi, Mbawsi, aforesaid over alleged refusal of the deceased to be extorted the sum of two hundred Naira (₦200) demanded by

the said Naval personnel despite that he had allegedly paid money earlier that day to be allowed passage at the checkpoint;

*Worried* that it is against established Rules of Engagement for the Military, while on Internal Security Operations, to shoot at unarmed civilians and citizens who refuse to pay bribes at checkpoints or elsewhere in the country;

*Also worried* that the recent killing of Mr Nkemjika Nwogu and other innocent, unarmed civilians in Abia State by personnel of the Nigerian Armed Forces and the Nigerian Police is one too many in cases of extrajudicial killings across the country and ought to be investigated;

*Also concerned* that the killings if not immediately checked, could lead to anarchy and in turn negatively affect society;

*Further concerned* that the said killing by men of the Nigerian Navy is not only callous and inhuman, but would adversely affected and reduced the image and reputation of the Nigerian Navy before the rest of the world and indeed compromised our National security;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) condemn very strongly the killing of Mr Nkemjika Nwogu and scores of others by men of the Nigerian Navy;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Navy, Human Rights, and Justice to investigate the matter and report within two (2) weeks (**HR. 59/02/2024**).

**(ii) *Massive Killings and Displacement of Innocent Nigerians in Isa/Sabon Birni Federal Constituency, Sokoto State:***

Hon. Mohammed Saidu Bargaja (*Isa/Sabon Birnin 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.*

**Massive Killings and Displacement of Innocent Nigerians in Isa/Sabon Birni Federal Constituency, Sokoto State:**

The House:

*Notes* with greatest dismay the recent massive killings and kidnappings of people on daily basis in Isa/Sabon Birni Federal Constituency, Sokoto State;

*Aware* that the last episode which took place on Thursday, 15 February, 2024 resulted in the destruction and displacement of over 35 and 45 villages to various locations within the State;

*Further Aware* that the unfortunate incidence affected Jambama, Gwabare, Mansalawa, Gidan Rana, Garin Maza, Takalmawa, Garin Shade, Tuiltube, Dan Gwandi, Kalage, Gidan

Dikko, Ka'ida, Adarawa, Taratsi, Garin Buzu, Yan Pako and Tsaika in Isa Local Government Area to mention but a few;

*Cognizant* that the towns and villages badly affected by this unfortunate mayhem in Sabon Birni include Burkusuma, Dama, Gangara, Dankura, Zangon Mallam, Dan Alaliki, Teke, Kwatsal, Masawa, Kuzari, Amuzawa, Lanjegu, Dan Ayagi, Gidan Aliko, Tustawa, Ta Girke, Mallamawa, Kiratawa, Sangerawa and Tamindawa to mention but a few;

*Disturbed* that the affected places are rendered empty, while schools, businesses and farming are completely shut down as most surviving victims are displaced to neighbouring towns and villages looking for food, shelter and means of livelihood;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Chief of Army Staff, the Chief of Air Staff and the Inspector-General of Police to deploy more combined security personnel (Army, Air Force and Police) to restore normalcy in the destabilised areas;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide food and non-good items to save thousands of victims from dying of hunger and severe hardship; and
- (iii) further urge the National Commission for Refugees to facilitate the relocation of victims to their villages and towns (*Hon. Mohammed Sa'idu Bargaja — Isa/Sabon Birni Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* with greatest dismay the recent massive killings and kidnappings of people on daily basis in Isa/Sabon Birni Federal Constituency, Sokoto State;

*Aware* that the last episode which took place on Thursday, 15 February, 2024 resulted in the destruction and displacement of over 35 and 45 villages to various locations within the State;

*Further Aware* that the unfortunate incidence affected Jambama, Gwabare, Mansalawa, Gidan Rana, Garin Maza, Takalmawa, Garin Shade, Tuiltube, Dan Gwandi, Kalage, Gidan Dikko, Ka'ida, Adarawa, Taratsi, Garin Buzu, Yan Pako and Tsaika in Isa Local Government Area to mention but a few;

*Cognizant* that the towns and villages badly affected by this unfortunate mayhem in Sabon Birni include Burkusuma, Dama, Gangara, Dankura, Zangon Mallam, Dan Alaliki, Teke, Kwatsal, Masawa, Kuzari, Amuzawa, Lanjegu, Dan Ayagi, Gidan Aliko, Tustawa, Ta Girke, Mallamawa, Kiratawa, Sangerawa and Tamindawa to mention but a few;

*Disturbed* that the affected places are rendered empty, while schools, businesses and farming are completely shut down as most surviving victims are displaced to neighbouring towns and villages looking for food, shelter and means of livelihood;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Chief of Army Staff, the Chief of Air Staff and the Inspector-General of Police to deploy more combined security personnel (Army, Air Force and Police) to restore normalcy in the destabilised areas;

- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide food and non-good items to save thousands of victims from dying of hunger and severe hardship; and
  - (iii) further urge the National Commission for Refugees to facilitate the relocation of victims to their villages and towns (**HR. 60/02/2024**).
- (iii) ***Incessant Killing and Destruction of Lives and Properties in Different Communities of Zurmi LGA, Zamfara State:***  
Hon. Bello Hassan Shinkafi (*Shinkafi/Zurmi 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.*

**Incessant Killing and Destruction of Lives and Properties in Different Communities of Zurmi LGA, Zamfara State:**

The House:

*Notes* that on Tuesday, 12 December, 2023, a group of bandits invaded Baichen Dauran, Nasamu, Zurmi Town, Kwabre, Gidan Duwa, Boko and other communities in Zurmi LGA, killing innocent people and destroying properties worth millions of Naira;

*Also notes* the most recent attack at 6.15 p.m. of 18 February, 2024, a gang of unknown gunmen invaded the Nasarawa Community in Zurmi LGA of Zamfara State leading to killing and destruction of lives and properties of the Community;

*Concerned* that the Nassarawa community is the commercial centre of the Local Government while many businesses and other commercial activities are carried out on daily basis and revenues are generated through those activities;

*Worried* that this ungodly act is coming at a period where the citizens of country are experiencing hardship due to economy downturn;

*Also worried* that due to this heinous attack, the affected communities lost many shops, houses, motorcycles, foodstuff etc worth millions of Naira resulting in the death of 2 senior gallant police officers by name Shitu Musa and Yahuza Suleiman attached to Zurmi Police Divisional Headquarters;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) observe a minute silence in memory of those that lost their lives;
- (ii) urge the Inspector-General of Police to set up a tactical team that will unravel the mystery behind this attack and report in two (2) weeks;
- (iii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently come to the rescue of affected persons with relief materials;

- (iv) further urge the Executive Arm of Government to deploy more military personnel in the affected area to avert any further occurrences;
- (v) mandate the Committees on Defence, Police Affairs, Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and report within two (2) weeks (*Hon. Bello Hassan Shinkafi — Shinkafi/Zurmi Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that on Tuesday, 12 December, 2023, a group of bandits invaded Baichen Dauran, Nasamu, Zurmi Town, Kwabre, Gidan Duwa, Boko and other communities in Zurmi LGA, killing innocent people and destroying properties worth millions of Naira;

*Also noted* the most recent attack at 6.15 p.m. of 18 February, 2024, a gang of unknown gunmen invaded the Nasarawa Community in Zurmi LGA of Zamfara State leading to killing and destruction of lives and properties of the Community;

*Concerned* that the Nassarawa community is the commercial centre of the Local Government while many businesses and other commercial activities are carried out on daily basis and revenues are generated through those activities;

*Worried* that this ungodly act is coming at a period where the citizens of country are experiencing hardship due to economy downturn;

*Also worried* that due to this heinous attack, the affected communities lost many shops, houses, motorcycles, foodstuff etc worth millions of Naira resulting in the death of 2 senior gallant police officers by name Shitu Musa and Yahuza Suleiman attached to Zurmi Police Divisional Headquarters;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) observe a minute silence in memory of those that lost their lives;
- (ii) urge the Inspector-General of Police to set up a tactical team that will unravel the mystery behind this attack and report in two (2) weeks;
- (iii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently come to the rescue of affected persons with relief materials;
- (iv) further urge the Executive Arm of Government to deploy more military personnel in the affected area to avert any further occurrences;
- (v) mandate the Committees on Defence, Police Affairs, Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and report within two (2) weeks (**HR. 81/02/2024**).

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (4) to enable it take more than 3 matters of urgent public importance” (*Hon. Midala Usman Balami — Askira Uba/Hawul Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*



(iv) ***Need to Prevent Killings and Deploy Urgent Security Measures in Saban Gari, Kelle, Dille, Lassa and Mussa Towns in Askira-Uba and Hawul Local Government Areas in Borno State:***

Hon. Midala Usman Balami (*Askira Uba/Hawul 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 Prevent Killings and Deploy Urgent Security Measures in Saban Gari, Kelle, Dille, Lassa and Mussa Towns in Askira-Uba and Hawul Local Government Areas in Borno State:**

The House:

*Notes* that the intermittent attacks, maiming, killing and wanton destruction of lives and properties in Borno State, particularly Sabon Gari, Kelle, Dille, Lassa and Mussa in Askira-Uba Local Government Area of Askira-Uba/Hawul Federal Constituency has become 'a new devastating normal' atrocity;

*Also notes* that these avoidable killings have continued unabated and there is urgent need for robust and efficient security measures to prevent future occurrences, as well as provision of essential relief materials to the victims which include women and children;

*Concerned* that residents of Sabon Gari, Kelle, Dille, Lassa and Mussa have been subjected to harrowing ordeal and trauma that affect the area which claimed the lives of numerous citizens in those communities, including travelers going for a wedding event;

*Worried* that the periodic attacks continues and no humanitarian assistance has been provided to the victims to cushion the effects of the attacks, there is dire need for urgent intervention by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), humanitarian organizations and other relevant establishments;

*Aware* that these incessant attacks continue to pose threat to lives and properties, Nigeria's territorial integrity and overall development of the Nigerian state. The need to wake up and contain the security challenges in Askira-Uba/Hawul Federal Constituency and the country in general cannot be overemphasized;

*Also worried* that such brazen acts of terrorism do not only threaten the lives and livelihoods of the residents of Sabon Gari, Kelle, Dille, Lassa and Mussa, but also undermine the peace and stability of Borno State, the Northeast sub-region and Nigeria;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of those killed in the attacks;
- (ii) urge the Nigerian Army and other relevant security agencies to deploy, strengthen and intensify security measures in Sabon Gari, Kelle, Dille, Mussa, Lassa and the entire axis;

- (iii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government through the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation in collaboration with Borno State Government to ensure rehabilitation, reconstruction and resettlement of affected communities in Askira-Uba LGA
- (iv) further urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide immediate relief materials and basic psychosocial support to the affected individuals/communities;
- (v) mandate the Committees on Army, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance (*Hon. Midala Usman Balami — Askira Uba/Hawul Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the intermittent attacks, maiming, killing and wanton destruction of lives and properties in Borno State, particularly Sabon Gari, Kelle, Dille, Lassa and Mussa in Askira-Uba Local Government Area of Askira-Uba/Hawul Federal Constituency has become 'a new devastating normal' atrocity;

*Also noted* that these avoidable killings have continued unabated and there is urgent need for robust and efficient security measures to prevent future occurrences, as well as provision of essential relief materials to the victims which include women and children;

*Concerned* that residents of Sabon Gari, Kelle, Dille, Lassa and Mussa have been subjected to harrowing ordeal and trauma that affect the area which claimed the lives of numerous citizens in those communities, including travelers going for a wedding event;

*Worried* that the periodic attacks continues and no humanitarian assistance has been provided to the victims to cushion the effects of the attacks, there is dire need for urgent intervention by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), humanitarian organizations and other relevant establishments;

*Aware* that these incessant attacks continue to pose threat to lives and properties, Nigeria's territorial integrity and overall development of the Nigerian state. The need to wake up and contain the security challenges in Askira-Uba/Hawul Federal Constituency and the country in general cannot be overemphasized;

*Also worried* that such brazen acts of terrorism do not only threaten the lives and livelihoods of the residents of Sabon Gari, Kelle, Dille, Lassa and Mussa, but also undermine the peace and stability of Borno State, the Northeast sub-region and Nigeria;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of those killed in the attacks;
- (ii) urge the Nigerian Army and other relevant security agencies to deploy, strengthen and intensify security measures in Sabon Gari, Kelle, Dille, Mussa, Lassa and the entire axis;
- (iii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government through the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation in collaboration with Borno State

Government to ensure rehabilitation, reconstruction and resettlement of affected communities in Askira-Uba LGA

- (iv) further urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide immediate relief materials and basic psychosocial support to the affected individuals/communities;
  - (v) mandate the Committees on Army, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance (**HR. 62/02/2024**).
- (v) ***The Destruction of Vital Vaccines and Medical Supplies Worth Billions of Naira Engulfed by Fire Outbreak in Gombe Medical Central Store:***  
Hon. Ali Isa JC (*Balanga/Billiri Federal Constituency and Three others*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
  - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 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.*

**The Destruction of Vital Vaccines and Medical Supplies Worth Billions of Naira Engulfed by Fire Outbreak in Gombe Medical Central Store:**

The House:

*Notes* that on Monday, 19 February, 2024, an inferno engulfed the Gombe Central Medical Store, a critical healthcare facility which houses over 2 million doses of polio vaccine and various essential medical consumables and equipment;

*Also notes* that the property destroyed is valued at over 5 billion Naira, poses a significant setback for Gombe State including the kick-off of the Polio Campaign scheduled between March and April 2024;

*Disturbed* that the obliteration of the facility is not just a setback to Government of Gombe State but affects the healthcare system across the entire Northeastern sub-region;

*Worried* that the consequences of this unfortunate incident is beyond the loss of crucial medical supplies but adversely affected the health care delivery, distort the vaccine campaign, thereby leading to potential outbreaks of preventable diseases and economic losses for the entire State as well as the healthcare system;

*Aware* that while the State Government has moved swiftly to ascertain the remote cause of the inferno and proffer recommendations, it is imperative for the Federal Government and other stakeholders to intervene towards revamping the over 60-year-old cold store, previously used to house COVID-19 Vaccines as a holding place for vaccines before distribution to other North Eastern States;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) call on the Federal Ministry of Health and its accompanying donor agencies to commence interventionist efforts towards revamping the center and replacing the lost vaccines, drugs and medical facilities;

- (ii) mandate the Committees on Health Institutions, and Healthcare Services to complement the efforts of the State Government in ascertaining the remote cause of the fire outbreak towards averting future incidences and ensure compliance of Resolution (i) (*Hon. Ali Isa J. C. — Balanga/Billiri Federal Constituency and Three Others*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that on Monday, 19 February, 2024, an inferno engulfed the Gombe Central Medical Store, a critical healthcare facility which houses over 2 million doses of polio vaccine and various essential medical consumables and equipment;

*Also noted* that the property destroyed is valued at over 5 billion Naira, poses a significant setback for Gombe State including the kick-off of the Polio Campaign scheduled between March and April 2024;

*Disturbed* that the obliteration of the facility is not just a setback to Government of Gombe State but affects the healthcare system across the entire Northeastern sub-region;

*Worried* that the consequences of this unfortunate incident is beyond the loss of crucial medical supplies but adversely affected the health care delivery, distort the vaccine campaign, thereby leading to potential outbreaks of preventable diseases and economic losses for the entire State as well as the healthcare system;

*Aware* that while the State Government has moved swiftly to ascertain the remote cause of the inferno and proffer recommendations, it is imperative for the Federal Government and other stakeholders to intervene towards revamping the over 60-year-old cold store, previously used to house COVID-19 Vaccines as a holding place for vaccines before distribution to other North Eastern States;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) call on the Federal Ministry of Health and its accompanying donor agencies to commence interventionist efforts towards revamping the center and replacing the lost vaccines, drugs and medical facilities;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Health Institutions, and Healthcare Services to complement the efforts of the State Government in ascertaining the remote cause of the fire outbreak towards averting future incidences and ensure compliance of Resolution (i) (**HR. 63/02/2024**).

8. **A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to Provide for Establishment of State Police and for Related Matters (HB.617) — Second Reading**  
*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to Provide for Establishment of State Police and for Related Matters (HB.617) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Muktar Tolani Shagaya — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency and Fourteen 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 Constitution Review.*

**9. A Bill for an Act to Establish National Polytechnic Commission to Supervise, Regulate and Co-ordinate Polytechnics and for Related Matters (HB.673) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish National Polytechnic Commission to Supervise, Regulate and Co-ordinate Polytechnics and for Related Matters (HB.673) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Iduma Igarwey Enwo — Afikpo North/Afikpo 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 Federal Polytechnics and Higher Technical Education.*

**10. A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Vocational and Entrepreneurship Institute, Okota/Oshodi, Lagos State and for Related Matters (HB. 226) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Vocational and Entrepreneurship Institute, Okota/Oshodi, Lagos State and for Related Matters (HB. 226) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Jesse Okey - Joe Onuakalusi — Oshodi Isolo II 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 Federal Polytechnics and Higher Technical Education.*

**11. A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Awa - Ijebu, Ogun State and for Related Matters (HB.552) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Awa - Ijebu, Ogun State and for Related Matters (HB.552) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Joseph Folorunsho Adegbesan — Ijebu North/Ijebu East/Ogun Waterside 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.*

**12. Rescission of the House Resolution (HR.32/02/2024)**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Recalls that on Tuesday, 13 February, 2024, it debated on a motion on Need to monitor increased FAAC allocation and usage in accordance with enabling laws in the country to reduce poverty in Nigeria;*

*Aware* that it resolved and mandated 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;

*Notes* that the subject matter of the motion is not within the powers of the National Assembly to legislate and hence the motion for the rescission;

*Resolves to:*

Rescind its resolution (**HR. 32/02/2024**) (*Hon. Isah Bello Ambarura — Illela/Gwadabawa Federal Constituency and One other*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

### 13. **Closure and Exodus of Multinational Companies in Nigeria**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that over the past seven years, several manufacturing Companies, particularly three in the fast-moving goods industry, have either left Nigeria or stopped production due to business challenges;

*Also notes* that companies such as Surest Foam Limited, Mufex, Framan Industries, MZM Continental, Nipol Industries, Moak Industries, Stone Industries, Procter and Gamble, Sanofi-Aventis, and Equinor have exited the country, with French pharmaceutical producer, Sanofi, planing to exit Nigeria, while Bolt Food discontinues food delivery due to economic challenges, Jubilee Syringe Manufacturing also declares temporary redundancy due to unforeseen business issues;

*Observes* that in 2006, Michelin and Dunlop, tire manufacturing companies, relocated from Nigeria to Ghana due to lack of electricity supply and insecurity, recently, Unilever and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) have announced plans to cease production of iconic products in Nigeria after 51 years and have appointed third-party distributors to sell prescription medicines and vaccines in the country;

*Also observes* a report by Cardinal Stone, a financial solutions firm which states that the Fast-Moving Consumer Goods subsector may exit the country this year if the operating environment does not improve;

*Aware* of a quarterly report of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) that showed a 33% decrease in investments to 1.03 billion Dollars in the second quarter of 2023 from 1.54 billion Dollars in the same period in 2022, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development reported that Nigeria experienced a negative (-187 million) foreign direct investment inflow last year for the first time in 33 years;

*Concerned* that the continuous departure of Multinational Companies is causing concern as it could significantly impact the country's GDP, hinder economic growth potential, and job losses, increased poverty, decrease government revenue and investor confidence in the Nigerian market;

*Worried* that Multinational Companies are exiting or closing operations in Nigeria due to economic uncertainties, challenging business environments, lack of electricity, constant naira devaluation, high taxes, insecurity, poor infrastructure, port congestion, and stringent government policies;

*Recognises* the Tenth House of Representatives' Agenda, particularly Agenda four (4) on "Economic Growth and Development," which, among others, aims at promoting sustainable economic growth and improving ease of doing business in Nigeria;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government:
  - (a) implement clearly defined measures to address the challenges confronting the nation, particularly in the manufacturing sector, and create a conducive environment for businesses to thrive,
  - (b) collaborate with the private sector to develop policies that will stimulate economic growth and create job opportunities in the country,
  - (c) prioritize investments in the infrastructure and power sectors; provide tax incentives to encourage businesses and investors to invest in Nigeria;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Industry, and Labour, Employment and Productivity to investigate the closure of local Companies and the departure of Multinational Companies from Nigeria and the factors militating against the ease of doing business in Nigeria with the aim of assisting the House in meeting its Agenda on Economic Growth and Development and forestalling the closure of Companies in Nigeria and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Patrick Umoh — Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency and Two others*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that over the past seven years, several manufacturing Companies, particularly three in the fast-moving goods industry, have either left Nigeria or stopped production due to business challenges;

*Also noted* that companies such as Surest Foam Limited, Mufex, Framan Industries, MZM Continental, Nipol Industries, Moak Industries, Stone Industries, Procter and Gamble, Sanofi-Aventis, and Equinor have exited the country, with French pharmaceutical producer, Sanofi, planing to exit Nigeria, while Bolt Food discontinues food delivery due to economic challenges, Jubilee Syringe Manufacturing also declares temporary redundancy due to unforeseen business issues;

*Observed* that in 2006, Michelin and Dunlop, tire manufacturing companies, relocated from Nigeria to Ghana due to lack of electricity supply and insecurity, recently, Unilever and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) have announced plans to cease production of iconic products in Nigeria after 51 years and have appointed third-party distributors to sell prescription medicines and vaccines in the country;

*Also observed* a report by Cardinal Stone, a financial solutions firm which states that the Fast-Moving Consumer Goods subsector may exit the country this year if the operating environment does not improve;

*Aware* of a quarterly report of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) that showed a 33% decrease in investments to 1.03 billion Dollars in the second quarter of 2023 from 1.54 billion Dollars in the same period in 2022, and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development reported that Nigeria experienced a negative (-187 million) foreign direct investment inflow last year for the first time in 33 years;

*Concerned* that the continuous departure of Multinational Companies is causing concern as it could significantly impact the country's GDP, hinder economic growth potential, and job losses, increased poverty, decrease government revenue and investor confidence in the Nigerian market;

*Worried* that Multinational Companies are exiting or closing operations in Nigeria due to economic uncertainties, challenging business environments, lack of electricity, constant naira devaluation, high taxes, insecurity, poor infrastructure, port congestion, and stringent government policies;

*Recognised* the Tenth House of Representatives' Agenda, particularly Agenda four (4) on "Economic Growth and Development," which, among others, aims at promoting sustainable economic growth and improving ease of doing business in Nigeria;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government:
  - (a) implement clearly defined measures to address the challenges confronting the nation, particularly in the manufacturing sector, and create a conducive environment for businesses to thrive,
  - (b) collaborate with the private sector to develop policies that will stimulate economic growth and create job opportunities in the country,
  - (c) prioritize investments in the infrastructure and power sectors; provide tax incentives to encourage businesses and investors to invest in Nigeria;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Industry, and Labour, Employment and Productivity to investigate the closure of local Companies and the departure of Multinational Companies from Nigeria and the factors militating against the ease of doing business in Nigeria with the aim of assisting the House in meeting its Agenda on Economic Growth and Development and forestalling the closure of Companies in Nigeria and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 64/02/2024**).

**14. Abandoned 38.7 Million Dollars Phase 2 of the NNPC - NAOC Joint Venture Okpai Independence Power Plant Project**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the Okpai Independent Power Plant project, a joint venture between the Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC) and the Federal Government, received approval from the National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) for the construction of phase 2;

*Also notes* that despite the substantial investment of 38.7 million Dollars and the commencement of Phase II construction in November 2017, the project ended up being abandoned, resulting in the dilapidation of the critical Federal infrastructure;

*Aware* that the Phase II project has reached approximately 90% completion prior to its abandonment by contractors Saipem Contracting Nigeria Limited (SCNL) and Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC);

*Further notes* that the project site is in a grave state of decay, with billions of Dollars' worth of equipment and turbines unused, covered by grass, and taken over by shrubs;

*Concerned* that the abandonment of the Phase II project jeopardizes significant investments and furthermore hampers increase in electricity generation for the nation;

*Also concerned* that there is ambiguity surrounding the project's contract amount, casting doubt on accountability and transparency in its execution;



*Recognises* the fact that the Nigeria Agip Oil Company (NAOC) and Saipem Contracting Nigeria Limited (SCNL) were involved in the award and execution of the project;

*Disturbed* about the lack of advancement of the project and the need for government action to preserve this essential national resource;

*Resolves to:*

Mandate the Committee on Power to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the funding and contractors, which includes the Nigerian Agip Oil Company and Saipem Contracting Nigeria Limited, ascertain the impediments leading to the abandonment of the project, and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Nnamdi Ezechi —Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the Okpai Independent Power Plant project, a joint venture between the Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC) and the Federal Government, received approval from the National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) for the construction of phase 2;

*Also noted* that despite the substantial investment of 38.7 million Dollars and the commencement of Phase II construction in November 2017, the project ended up being abandoned, resulting in the dilapidation of the critical Federal infrastructure;

*Aware* that the Phase II project has reached approximately 90% completion prior to its abandonment by contractors Saipem Contracting Nigeria Limited (SCNL) and Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC);

*Further noted* that the project site is in a grave state of decay, with billions of Dollars' worth of equipment and turbines unused, covered by grass, and taken over by shrubs;

*Concerned* that the abandonment of the Phase II project jeopardizes significant investments and furthermore hampers increase in electricity generation for the nation;

*Also concerned* that there is ambiguity surrounding the project's contract amount, casting doubt on accountability and transparency in its execution;

*Recognised* the fact that the Nigeria Agip Oil Company (NAOC) and Saipem Contracting Nigeria Limited (SCNL) were involved in the award and execution of the project;

*Disturbed* about the lack of advancement of the project and the need for government action to preserve this essential national resource;

*Resolved to:*

Mandate the Committee on Power to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the funding and contractors, which includes the Nigerian Agip Oil Company and Saipem Contracting Nigeria Limited, and ascertain the impediments leading to the abandonment of the project, and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 65/02/2024**).

**15. Plight of Retirees under the Contributory Pension Scheme**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the Pension Reform Act, 2014, was enacted to govern and regulate the administration of the uniform contributory pension scheme for both the public and private sectors in Nigeria;

*Also notes* that the objectives of the Pension Act, as spelt out in Section 1 of the Act, are to establish a uniform set of rules, regulations, and standards for the administration and payment of retirement benefits for the Public Service of the Federation, the Public Service of the Federal Capital Territory, the Public Service of the State Governments, the Public Service of the Local Government Councils, and the Private Sector;

*Further notes* that the Act was established to ensure that every person who worked in the public service and the private sector receives his or her retirement benefits as at when due, as well as assist improvident individuals to cater for their livelihood in old age;

*Observes* that the Act also establishes a Contributory Pensions Scheme (CPS) for payment of retirement benefits to employees to whom the Scheme applies under the Act;

*Aware* that the Act further establishes a Retirement Savings Account (RSA), which specifies that a holder of the account shall, upon retirement or attaining the age of 50 years, whichever is later, utilize the amount credited to its RSA for the benefits specified in Section 7 (1) (a)-(e) of the Act;

*Also aware* that where an employee voluntarily retires, disengages, or is disengaged from employment as provided for under Section 16 (2) and (5) of the Act, the employee may, with the approval of the National Pension Commission (NPC), withdraw an amount of money not exceeding 25% of the total amount credited to his RSA;

*Also observes* that most government retirees complained of rip-offs under the guise of managing their benefits and entitlements under the Contributory Pension Fund Scheme operated by the Pension Fund Administrators (PFAs);

*Concerned* that the retiree's complaint that the Contributory Pension Scheme denies them of having a greater share of the lump sum after retirement, 25% of the total amount credited to their RSAs is usually dispensed across board under the scheme, while the balance of 75% is retained by the PFA for investment in the capital market with high returns, which is never added to the retirees' monthly payments;

*Also concerned* that with the rising value of the dollar against the naira, removal of fuel subsidies and increase in the price of goods and services, such paltry monthly payments, which remain the same for years, cannot sustain the retirees who had served the country honourably for 35 years;

*Worried* that Pension Fund Administrators' 75% RSA investments have not yielded adequate returns to Nigerian workers post-retirement due to inflation and naira dwindling fortunes, causing further economic impoverishment;

*Also worried* that an investment of 5 million, Naira in Treasury bills at the current rate of 13.9% per annum should have yielded a return on investment to a retiree of ₦695,000.00, and when divided by the monthly payment, a retiree gets ₦57,900.00, but instead ₦26,000.00 is paid resulting in an assumed shortfall of ₦31,900.00 because retirees have no option to invest;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the National Pension Commission to:
  - (a) investigate the complaints of former employees who have been negatively impacted by the administration of pension funds,

- (b) ensure strict enforcement of the law and design a framework to guide against infractions of the Pension Act, 2014 in furtherance of the anti-corruption stance of the present government;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Pensions to invite the National Pension Commission and Chief Executives of the PFAs to brief it on the activities of the Pension Fund Administrators (PFAs) as it concerns the investment of the Retirement Savings Account, benefits accruing to the employees upon retirement and the investment portfolio of the Retirement Savings Funds and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Clement Ernest Jimbo — Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the Pension Reform Act, 2014, was enacted to govern and regulate the administration of the uniform contributory pension scheme for both the public and private sectors in Nigeria;

*Also noted* that the objectives of the Pension Act, as spelt out in Section 1 of the Act, are to establish a uniform set of rules, regulations, and standards for the administration and payment of retirement benefits for the Public Service of the Federation, the Public Service of the Federal Capital Territory, the Public Service of the State Governments, the Public Service of the Local Government Councils, and the Private Sector;

*Further noted* that the Act was established to ensure that every person who worked in the public service and the private sector receives his or her retirement benefits as at when due, as well as assist improvident individuals to cater for their livelihood in old age;

*Observed* that the Act also establishes a Contributory Pensions Scheme (CPS) for payment of retirement benefits to employees to whom the Scheme applies under the Act;

*Aware* that the Act further establishes a Retirement Savings Account (RSA), which specifies that a holder of the account shall, upon retirement or attaining the age of 50 years, whichever is later, utilize the amount credited to its RSA for the benefits specified in Section 7 (1) (a)-(e) of the Act;

*Also aware* that where an employee voluntarily retires, disengages, or is disengaged from employment as provided for under Section 16 (2) and (5) of the Act, the employee may, with the approval of the National Pension Commission (NPC), withdraw an amount of money not exceeding 25% of the total amount credited to his RSA;

*Also observed* that most government retirees complained of rip-offs under the guise of managing their benefits and entitlements under the Contributory Pension Fund Scheme operated by the Pension Fund Administrators (PFAs);

*Concerned* that the retiree's complaint that the Contributory Pension Scheme denies them of having a greater share of the lump sum after retirement, 25% of the total amount credited to their RSAs is usually dispensed across board under the scheme, while the balance of 75% is retained by the PFA for investment in the capital market with high returns, which is never added to the retirees' monthly payments;

*Also concerned* that with the rising value of the dollar against the naira, removal of fuel subsidies and increase in the price of goods and services, such paltry monthly payments, which remain the same for years, cannot sustain the retirees who had served the country honourably for 35 years;

*Worried* that Pension Fund Administrators' 75% RSA investments have not yielded adequate returns to Nigerian workers post-retirement due to inflation and naira dwindling fortunes, causing further economic impoverishment;

*Also worried* that an investment of 5 million, Naira in Treasury bills at the current rate of 13.9% per annum should have yielded a return on investment to a retiree of ₦695,000.00, and when divided by the monthly payment, a retiree gets ₦57,900.00, but instead ₦26,000.00 is paid resulting in an assumed shortfall of ₦31,900.00 because retirees have no option to invest;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the National Pension Commission to:
  - (a) investigate the complaints of former employees who have been negatively impacted by the administration of pension funds;
  - (b) ensure strict enforcement of the law and design a framework to guide against infractions of the Pension Act, 2014 in furtherance of the anti-corruption stance of the present government;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Pensions to invite the National Pension Commission and Chief Executives of the PFAs to brief it on the activities of the Pension Fund Administrators (PFAs) as it concerns the investment of the Retirement Savings Account, benefits accruing to the employees upon retirement and the investment portfolio of the Retirement Savings Funds and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 66/02/2024**).

**16. Need to Support the various Roads and Infrastructural Projects in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the Federal Capital Territory is the administrative headquarter of Nigeria, focusing on strategic, economic, and political objectives;

*Also notes* that various road initiatives underscore the commitment of the government to infrastructure development as a vital component in advancing the socio-economic wellbeing of residents, as well as creating employment and combatting insecurity;

*Aware* that the construction of quality roads would reduce the rate of accidents, ensure safety, promote efficient transport network, and improve the economy of Abuja;

*Also aware* that the current Minister of the Federal Capital Territory is working on constructing 30 kilometers of road projects across the six Area Councils, including Paikon Kore-Iibwa road in Gwagwalada and Gaba-Tokula road in Bwari; a garage junction to the LEA Secretariat road in Kuje, the Yangoji-Sukuku Ebo road in Kwali, an access road that includes a two-span river bridge over the Naharati river, Ukyia in Abaji; a temporary access road linking Saburi I and two communities from the ONEX to the old Keffi road near Dei Dei, upon completion the projects, are expected to enhance socio-economic activities across the six Area Councils and promote development in the FCT;

*Observes* that the Phase II rehabilitation plan and resurfacing of forty-nine roads in Abuja, which encompass Asokoro and its surroundings, is underway after commencing the Phase I project covering 135 roads in Garki against the background that the previous government granted it before it was abandoned due to financial constraints;

*Also observes* that the outer southern expressway, from A. A. Rano to Deeper Life Junction, and the N-20 expressway in Jahi, all abandoned, are currently under construction;

*Further observes* that other ongoing projects include the rehabilitation of the Federal Secretariat Complex and the completion of roads B6, BI2, and circle roads in the Abuja Central Area, the full-scope development of arterial road N-20 from the Northern Parkway to the Outer Northern Expressway (ONEX) with spurs, the rehabilitation and expansion of the outer Southern Expressway from Villa Roundabout to the Outer Southern Expressway (OSEX) ring road 1 junction with four interchanges; and the construction of Southern Parkway from Christian Centre (58/9) to Ring Road 1;

*Worried* about the inability of the immediate former Minister of the Federal Capital Territory to successfully complete key road projects and other infrastructure within the FCT;

*Cognizant* of the plan by the Minister of FCT to provide basic infrastructure for the proposed residential arena for judges and the effort by the Minister to complete specified abandoned projects such as the Vice President's residence awarded in 2010 and the residences of the Presiding Officers of the National Assembly Complex awarded in 2009;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Ministry of Finance and Budget Office to ensure the timely release of Federal Capital Territory budgetary allocations and funds;
- (ii) commend the Minister of the FCT, Nyesom Wike, for his determination in overseeing the construction of various road infrastructures and successfully concluding previously neglected projects within a relatively brief timeframe; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Federal Capital Territory to closely monitor the various infrastructural projects and ensure the removal of any obstacles to the completion of the various ongoing projects (*Hon. Chris Nkwonta — Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendments Proposed:**

- (i) *Leave out* Prayer (i) (*Han. Hussaini Mohammed Jallo — Igabi Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.*

- (ii) *In* Prayer (ii), *leave out* the word “commend” and *insert* the word “recognise” (*Hon. Isiaka Ayokunle Ibrahim — Ifo/Ewekoror Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.*

*Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the Federal Capital Territory is the administrative headquarter of Nigeria, focusing on strategic, economic, and political objectives;

*Also noted* that various road initiatives underscore the commitment of the government to infrastructure development as a vital component in advancing the socio-economic wellbeing of residents, as well as creating employment and combatting insecurity;

*Aware* that the construction of quality roads would reduce the rate of accidents, ensure safety, promote efficient transport network, and improve the economy of Abuja;

*Also aware* that the current Minister of the Federal Capital Territory is working on constructing 30 kilometers of road projects across the six Area Councils, including Paikon Kore-Iibwa road in Gwagwalada and Gaba-Tokula road in Bwari; a garage junction to the LEA Secretariat road in Kuje, the Yangoji-Sukuku Ebo road in Kwali, an access road that includes a two-span river bridge over the Naharati river, Ukyia in Abaji; a temporary access road linking Saburi I and two communities from the ONEX to the old Keffi road near Dei Dei, upon completion the projects, are expected to enhance socio-economic activities across the six Area Councils and promote development in the FCT;

*Observed* that the Phase II rehabilitation plan and resurfacing of forty-nine roads in Abuja, which encompass Asokoro and its surroundings, is underway after commencing the Phase 1 project covering 135 roads in Garki against the background that the previous government granted it before it was abandoned due to financial constraints;

*Also observed* that the outer southern expressway, from A. A. Rano to Deeper Life Junction, and the N-20 expressway in Jahi, all abandoned, are currently under construction;

*Further observed* that other ongoing projects include the rehabilitation of the Federal Secretariat Complex and the completion of roads B6, BI2, and circle roads in the Abuja Central Area, the full-scope development of arterial road N-20 from the Northern Parkway to the Outer Northern Expressway (ONEX) with spurs, the rehabilitation and expansion of the outer Southern Expressway from Villa Roundabout to the Outer Southern Expressway (OSEX) ring road 1 junction with four interchanges; and the construction of Southern Parkway from Christian Center (58/9) to Ring Road 1;

*Worried* about the inability of the immediate former Minister of the Federal Capital Territory to successfully complete key road projects and other infrastructure within the FCT;

*Cognizant* of the plan by the Minister of FCT to provide basic infrastructure for the proposed residential arena for judges and the effort by the Minister to complete specified abandoned projects such as the Vice President's residence awarded in 2010 and the residences of the Presiding Officers of the National Assembly complex awarded in 2009;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Ministry of Finance and Budget Office to ensure the timely release of Federal Capital Territory budgetary allocations and funds;
- (ii) recognise the Minister of the FCT, Nyesom Wike, for his determination in overseeing the construction of various road infrastructures and successfully concluding previously neglected projects within a relatively brief timeframe; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Federal Capital Territory to closely monitor the various infrastructural projects and ensure the removal of any obstacles to the completion of the various ongoing projects (**HR. 67/02/2024**).

**17. Need to Prioritize the Completion of the Amassoma Community Shoreline Protection Project in Southern Ijaw, Bayelsa State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that between August and November when water levels rise due to the opening of dams in the Republic of Cameroun and heavy rainfall in the country, Southern Ijaw and most parts of the country experienced flooding annually which posed significant challenges in riverine areas. This flood submerges communities, displaces others along the Niger and Benue rivers, and creates multiple internally displaced persons camps;

*Also notes* that Amassoma in Southern Ijaw Federal Constituency of Bayelsa State is one the Community that has persistently endured the devastating effects of these floods leading to the 2022 devastating flood which sacked Communities creating huge humanitarian crisis. The Flood situation is heightened by climatic changes which has elevated the flood levels, making the situation increasingly unbearable. Given the devastating consequences of the flood, experts have recommended the construction of a dyke to protect coastline and riverine communities;

*Concerned* that several contracts for the construction of Shoreline Protection in Amassoma have been awarded in the past with no useful results. The first was awarded to Dokkin Ventures Nigeria Limited by the now obsolete Oil Mineral Producing Areas Development Commission (OMPADEC) and was abandoned. It was again awarded to Bussdor & Company Limited by the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in 2003, only to be abandoned again in 2005 with disputable percentage of completion as physical assessment shows no significant job done. The contract was later transferred to Messer Ideki Services Ltd without clear details of the transfer and the valuation of the Project with no significant work done till date;

*Worried* that the rains have been coming thick and fast while the Federal Metrological Services has predicted that the 2023 flood levels will surpass those of 2022. The people of Amassoma and other areas within Southern Ijaw Federal Constituency are at risk of facing another devastating flood and displacement from their homes. It is only an immediate action that will assuage and give comfort to the Southern Ijaw constituents to avert the traumatic experiences of the past;

*Cognizant* of the need to protect lives and livelihoods in Southern Ijaw Federal Constituency and riverine communities and complete the Amassoma Community Shoreline Protection Project;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to re-mobilize the Contractor to site and engage competent Consultants to supervise the Project and ensure that the Project is executed diligently to completion before September 2024 when the next rainy season comes;
- (ii) also urge the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to assess the Amassoma community Shoreline Project to ascertain the extent of work done by the numerous contractors since the Project was first awarded till date; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to liaise with the NDDC and investigate the mismanagement and abandonment of the critical intervention project with a view to holding previous companies accountable for wastage of public funds (*Hon. Ambaiowei Rodney Ebikebina — Southern Ijaw Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**(HR. 68/02/2024).**

*Motion referred to the Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 10 (5).*

**18. Rehabilitation of Misau-Shira-Giade-Gwaram-Birnin Kudu Road in Bauchi and Jigawa States**  
*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that good road infrastructure facilitates efficient movement of goods and services between urban and rural communities, thereby promoting social and economic growth, particularly in rural areas;

*Also notes* that the Misau-Shira-Giade-Gwaram-Birnin Kudu Road is a Federal Road, which spans across several communities in Bauchi State and links the North East and the North West geopolitical zones of Nigeria;

*Further notes* that the road is significant to both social and economic development of Nigeria, as it is a major route for transporting trade and investment activities on the Kano/Maiduguri axis and parts of some West African countries, including the Niger Republic, Chad, Ghana, and Cameroon;

*Worried* that the road is in a dilapidated condition which poses a great risk to commuters, potentially leading to fatalities and destruction of property through accidents and frequent attacks by hoodlum thus, affecting motorists' valuables and the time spent on transportation;

*Also worried* that the road has been in a dilapidated state for years, causing untold suffering to the people who are predominantly farmers as socio-Economic activities in the affected communities have been hampered due to the attendant risks of transporting their produce to other markets via the dilapidated road;

*Cognizant* of the need to rehabilitate the road to ameliorate the hardship encountered by motorist roads users;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to commence rehabilitation work on Misau-Shira-Giade-Gwaram-Birnin Kudu Road in Bauchi and Jigawa States;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), and Works to ensure compliance (*Hon. Sani Ibrahim Tanko — Shira/Giade Federal Constituency and Three others*).

*Agreed to.*

**(HR. 69/02/2024).**

*Motion referred to the Committees on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), and Works, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 10 (5).*

**19. Need to Investigate the Privatization/Concession of Federal Government Silos in Nigeria**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that in September 2017, the Federal Government commenced the process of concessioning 22 out of its 33 silo complexes across the country to the private sector to ensure availability of affordable grains across the country;

*Cognizant* of the need to scrutinize circumstances surrounding the privatization or concession of Government Silos for Grains Storage in the country considering the vital role these silos play in ensuring food security across the country;

*Also cognizant* of the need to investigate the entire process of privatization or concession, including the criteria used for the selection of private entities, transparency in the bidding process to ensure accountability in public administration, and upholding the principles of fairness and equity;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Government to, as a matter of priority, consider subsidizing agriculture to revitalize the economy and improve food security in Nigeria; and



- (ii) mandate the Committees on Agricultural Production and Services, Privatization and Commercialization, Public Assets, to investigate the privatization/concession of 22 out of 33 Government Silos for grain storage and other critical national assets in Nigeria and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Inuwa Garba — Yamaltu/Deba Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

In Prayer (ii), immediately after the words “Public Assets” *insert* the words “and Special Duties” (*Hon. Okonkwo Uchenna Harris — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.*

*Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that in September 2017, the Federal Government commenced the process of concessioning 22 out of it 33 silo complexes across the country to the private sector to ensure availability of affordable grains across the country;

*Cognizant* of the need to scrutinize circumstances surrounding the privatization or concession of Government Silos for Grains Storage in the country considering the vital role these silos play in ensuring food security across the country;

*Also cognizant* of the need to investigate the entire process of privatization or concession, including the criteria used for the selection of private entities, transparency in the bidding process to ensure accountability in public administration, and upholding the principles of fairness and equity;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Government to, as a matter of priority, consider subsidizing agriculture to revitalize the economy and improve food security in Nigeria; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Agricultural Production and Services, Privatization and Commercialization, Public Assets, and Special Duties to investigate the privatization/concession of 22 out of 33 Government Silos for grain storage and other critical national assets in Nigeria and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 70/02/2024**).

**20. Order of the Day**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do set down items 13 - 16 on the Order Paper till another legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 7 (3)” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

**21. Adjournment**

*That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 21 February, 2024 at 11.00 a.m.* (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*The House adjourned accordingly at 2.40 p.m.*

**Benjamin Okezie Kalu**  
*Deputy Speaker*