



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 7 March, 2024

1. The House met at 11.04 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 Wednesday, 6 March, 2024.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcement**
Bereavement:
Mr Deputy Speaker read a communication from Hon. Omirin Emmanuel Olusanya (*Atakunmosa East/Atakunmosa West/Ilesa East/Ilesa West Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise his mother, Mrs Emily Aderemi Omirin, which occurred on Saturday, 2 March, 2024.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

5. **Petitions**
 - (i) A petition from Ahmed Raji & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of the Omo-Dii family, Etieama community, on alleged neglect and oppression of the indigenes of the Etieama community, Nembe Kingdom, Bayelsa State, was presented and laid by Hon. Marie Ebikake (*Brass/Nembe Federal Constituency*);
 - (ii) A petition from Monday Igwe, on the termination of his appointment by the Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Enugu State by the Nigerian Agip Oil Company, was presented and laid by Hon. Jesse Okey-Joe Onuakalusi (*Oshodi Isolo II Federal Constituency*);

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

(i) **International Women's Day Celebration: "Invest in Women, Accelerate Progress":**
Hon. Isah Bello Ambarura (*Illela/Gwadabawa 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.

International Women's Day Celebration: "Invest in Women, Accelerate Progress":

The House:

Recalls that the United Nations has decided this year's theme is "Invest in Women, Accelerate Progress" aimed at tackling economic disempowerment, while the campaign theme is 'Inspire Inclusion';

Notes on Friday, 8 March, 2024, the International Women's Day, women gather to reaffirm commitment to gender equality, celebrate achievements of women and advocate for the empowerment of women worldwide;

Also notes that it is imperative to recognize the importance of this day as a catalyst for change, a call to action and a reminder of the work that still needs to be done to achieve true gender parity;

Aware that the International Theme of the 2024 commemoration, "Invest in Women, Accelerate Progress", emphasizes the significance of gender equality, investing in women, ending poverty, implementing gender-responsiveness in budgeting, shifting to a green economy and supporting women organization and groups;

Also aware that Government, Organizations, and individual need to take concrete steps to promote gender equality, eliminate gender-based violence, ensure equal access to opportunities available and inclusion in critical decision making in Nation building;

Observes that Women in Nigeria face numerous challenges ranging from poverty, lack of access to education and healthcare as well as limited representation in political and appointive positions;

Recognizes the contributions of Nigerian women towards Business, Education, Religion, Political and Family affairs both at home and abroad in fostering development;

Cognizant of the need to advocate for policies and practices that promotes inclusivity and diversity as we stand in solidarity with women all over the world;

Resolves to:

- (i) commemorate with Nigerian Women and women all over the World on the 2024 International Women's Day and recognize the achievements of women in various fields of societal Development; and

- (ii) revisit all the gender-based legislations of the 9th Assembly on women participation in politics and other sectorial matters (*Hon. Bello Ambarura Isah — Illela/Gwadabawa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Recalled that the United Nations has decided this year's theme is "Invest in Women, Accelerate Progress" aimed at tackling economic disempowerment, while the campaign theme is 'Inspire Inclusion';

Noted on Friday, 8 March, 2024, the International Women's Day, women gather to reaffirm commitment to gender equality, celebrate achievements of women and advocate for the empowerment of women worldwide;

Also noted that it is imperative to recognize the importance of this day as a catalyst for change, a call to action and a reminder of the work that still needs to be done to achieve true gender parity;

Aware that the International Theme of the 2024 commemoration, "Invest in Women, Accelerate Progress", emphasizes the significance of gender equality, investing in women, ending poverty, implementing gender-responsiveness in budgeting, shifting to a green economy and supporting women organization and groups;

Also aware that Government, Organizations, and individual need to take concrete steps to promote gender equality, eliminate gender-based violence, ensure equal access to opportunities available and inclusion in critical decision making in Nation building;

Observed that Women in Nigeria face numerous challenges ranging from poverty, lack of access to education and healthcare as well as limited representation in political and appointive positions;

Recognized the contributions of Nigerian women towards Business, Education, Religion, Political and Family affairs both at home and abroad in fostering development;

Cognizant of the need to advocate for policies and practices that promotes inclusivity and diversity as we stand in solidarity with women all over the world;

Resolved to:

- (i) commemorate with Nigerian Women and women all over the World on the 2024 International Women's Day and recognize the achievements of women in various fields of societal Development; and
- (ii) revisit all the gender-based legislations of the 9th Assembly on women participation in politics and other sectorial matters (**HR. 121/03/2024**).
- (ii) ***Implications of the Current Exchange Rates on the 2024 National Budget Implementation to Ensure a Balanced Budget and Increase in the Standard of Living of Nigerians:***
Hon. Kafilat Ogbara (*Kosofe 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.

Implications of the Current Exchange Rates on the 2024 National Budget Implementation to Ensure a Balanced Budget and Increase in the Standard of Living of Nigerians:

The House:

Notes the initial proposal of the Federal Government on the 2024 budget Foreign Exchange rate to be based on ₦750 per dollar, while the national assembly increased it to ₦800 in order to avoid unforeseen events due to global dynamics;

Also notes a causal relationship between the exchange rate movements and macroeconomic aggregates such as inflation, fiscal deficits and economic growth. Evidently, the persistent fluctuation of the exchange rate trended with major economic variables such as inflation, GDP growth, and fiscal deficit/GDP ratio in Nigeria, presently;

Aware that when exchange rates change, the prices of imported goods will change in value, including domestic products that rely on imported parts and raw materials. Exchange rates also impact investment performance, interest rates, and inflation-and can even extend to influence the job market and real estate sector;

Worried that the weighted Average Rate- Nigerian Foreign Exchange Market (NFEM) hovers average of US Dollar at ₦1,488.896, Pounds Sterling at ₦1,880.1779, Euro at ₦1,609.3477and Swiss Franc at ₦1,691.3507 respectively;

Also worried about the major snag that stemmed from the distortionary impact of the foreign exchange regime and the 2024 Appropriation Act would be difficult to implement due to foreign exchange volatility. Definitely, the exchange rates have already caused a major wide variances in Personnel Cost, Recurrent Expenditures and Capital Costs appropriated to the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies;

Cognizant of the market fluctuations, it becomes imperative for the National Assembly to review and amend all the items that make up the 2024 Appropriation Act, MTEF/FSP, External Borrowing Plan, FX market, and role of bureaucracy in budget implementation;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on National Planning and Economic Development, Appropriations, and Finance to:

- (i) carry out a comprehensive assessment of the implications of the foreign exchange on the 2024 appropriation act and determine the method of alignment of the current foreign exchange with the approved national budget;
- (ii) evaluate the prevailing exchange rates to understand the value of the foreign exchange in the local currency and how fluctuations impact the purchasing power and overall 2024 budgetary effectiveness;

- (iii) examine the expected revenue the government anticipates from various sources, including taxes and other income streams and how these can help to gauge the financial resources available to meet budgetary demands;
- (iv) review the outlined government spending plans across different sectors, adjust where necessary to ensure the budget remains realistic and achievable within the economic context considering priorities and essential areas and report within six (6) weeks (*Hon. Kafilat Adetola Ogbara — Kosofe Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the initial proposal of the Federal Government on the 2024 budget Foreign Exchange rate to be based on ₦750 per dollar, while the national assembly increased it to ₦800 in order to avoid unforeseen events due to global dynamics;

Also noted a causal relationship between the exchange rate movements and macroeconomic aggregates such as inflation, fiscal deficits and economic growth. Evidently, the persistent fluctuation of the exchange rate trended with major economic variables such as inflation, GDP growth, and fiscal deficit/GDP ratio in Nigeria, presently;

Aware that when exchange rates change, the prices of imported goods will change in value, including domestic products that rely on imported parts and raw materials. Exchange rates also impact investment performance, interest rates, and inflation-and can even extend to influence the job market and real estate sector;

Worried that the weighted Average Rate- Nigerian Foreign Exchange Market (NFEM) hovers average of US Dollar at ₦1,488.896, Pounds Sterling at ₦1,880.1779, Euro at ₦1,609.3477 and Swiss Franc at ₦1,691.3507 respectively;

Also worried about the major snag that stemmed from the distortionary impact of the foreign exchange regime and the 2024 Appropriation Act would be difficult to implement due to foreign exchange volatility. Definitely, the exchange rates have already caused a major wide variances in Personnel Cost, Recurrent Expenditures and Capital Costs appropriated to the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies;

Cognizant of the market fluctuations, it becomes imperative for the National Assembly to review and amend all the items that make up the 2024 Appropriation Act, MTEF/FSP, External Borrowing Plan, FX market, and role of bureaucracy in budget implementation;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on National Planning and Economic Development, Appropriations, and Finance to:

- (i) carry out a comprehensive assessment of the implications of the foreign exchange on the 2024 appropriation act and determine the method of alignment of the current foreign exchange with the approved national budget;
- (ii) evaluate the prevailing exchange rates to understand the value of the foreign exchange in the local currency and how fluctuations impact the purchasing power and overall 2024 budgetary effectiveness;

- (iii) examine the expected revenue the government anticipates from various sources, including taxes and other income streams and how these can help to gauge the financial resources available to meet budgetary demands;
- (iv) review the outlined government spending plans across different sectors, adjust where necessary to ensure the budget remains realistic and achievable within the economic context considering priorities and essential areas and report within six (6) weeks (HR. 122/03/2024).

(iii) ***Abduction of Dozens of Women and Children in IDPS Camp in Ngala, Borno State:***
Hon. Zainab Gimba (*Bama/Ngala/Kala-Balge 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.

Abduction of Dozens of Females in IDPs Camp in Ngala, Borno State:

The House:

Notes the recent abduction of dozens of women and children in IDPs Camps in Ngala, Borno State by the Boko Haram insurgents;

Also notes that the abduction took place last Sunday when the women went to fetch firewood in the Bush for domestic and commercial purposes;

Further notes that while the women were fetching the firewood, they were surrounded by the insurgents in Bula Butuye village in the western part of Ngala town;

Still notes that the insurgents freed the old aged but abducted about 319 able young girls and boys:

Aware that most of the abducted women were from "Babban Sansani" and some from Zulum and Arabic Camps;

Worried that lack of enough food in the camps has forced the women to go in search of firewood to sell so as to compliment the food being given in the Camps;

Again notes that three girls who escaped from the den of the insurgents reported that they were taken to a bush close to Bunkar-Mairam village along the shores of Lake Chad bordering the Republic of Chad;

Also worried that the women were made to search for firewood to sell in view of the cost of living in the Camps where a small measure of corn flour is sold at ₦2,200 and this has made life very unbearable to them;

Recalls that this is one of the major abductions that took place in Borno State since the abduction of 276 girls of Government Girls Secondary School, Chibok, on night of 14 April, 2014;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the security personnel deployed to the Camps to intensify vigilance in and around the Camps,
- (ii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to take necessary measures to ensure that residents of the Camps are adequately fed;
- (iii) task all security agencies to rescue all abducted victims;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, and Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees to ensure compliance (*Hon. Zainab Gimba — Bama/Ngala/Kala-Balge Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the recent abduction of dozens of women and children in IDPs Camps in Ngala, Born State by the Boko Haram insurgents;

Also noted that the abduction took place last Sunday when the women went to fetch firewood in the Bush for domestic and commercial purposes;

Further noted that while the women were fetching the firewood, they were surrounded by the insurgents in Bula Butuye village in the western part of Ngala town;

Still noted that the insurgents freed the old aged but abducted about 319 able young girls and boys:

Aware that most of the abducted women were from "Babban Sansani" and some from Zulum and Arabic Camps;

Worried that lack of enough food in the camps has forced the women to go in search of firewood to sell so as to compliment the food being given in the Camps;

Again noted that three girls who escaped from the den of the insurgents reported that they were taken to a bush close to Bunkar-Mairam village along the shores of Lake Chad bordering the Republic of Chad;

Also worried that the women were made to search for firewood to sell in view of the cost of living in the Camps where a small measure of corn flour is sold at ₦2,200 and this has made life very unbearable to them;

Recalled that this is one of the major abductions that took place in Borno State since the abduction of 276 girls of Government Girls Secondary School, Chibok, on night of 14 April, 2014;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the security personnel deployed to the Camps to intensify vigilance in and around the Camps,

- (ii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to take necessary measures to ensure that residents of the Camps are adequately fed;
- (iii) task all security agencies to rescue all abducted victims;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, and Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees to ensure compliance (HR. 123/03/2024).

8. A Bill for an Act to Introduce Preventive Measure and Teaching of Breast and Cervical Cancers into the Curriculum of a Compulsory Subject (Civic Education) for Senior Secondary Schools in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 501) — Third Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Introduce Preventive Measure and Teaching of Breast and Cervical Cancers into the Curriculum of a Compulsory Subject (Civic Education) for Senior Secondary Schools in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 501) be now read the Third Time” (Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

9. A Bill for an Act to Introduce Preventive Measures and Teachings of Sexual Gender Based Violence into the Curriculum of a Compulsory Subject (Civil Education) for all Secondary Schools in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 502) — Third Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Introduce Preventive Measures and Teachings of Sexual Gender Based Violence into the Curriculum of a Compulsory Subject (Civil Education) for all Secondary Schools in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 502) be now read the Third Time” (Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

10. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act and Establish Federal Medical Centre Alkaleri, Bauchi State and for Related Matters (HB. 550) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act and Establish Federal Medical Centre Alkaleri, Bauchi State and for Related Matters (HB. 550) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Kabiru Yusuf Alhaji — Alkaleri/Kirfi Federal Constituency and One other).

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.

11. A Bill for an Act to Establish Gifted and Talented Centre in Trans -Ekulu, Enugu State and for Related Matters (HB. 1086) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Gifted and Talented Centre in Trans-Ekulu, Enugu State and for Related Matters (HB. 1086) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Paul Nnamchi Sunday — Enugu North/Enugu 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 Basic Education and Services.

12. Deplorable State of Ulkwo-Imerienwe Umuekwune-Etche and Ulakwo-Umuneke Ngor-Eziama-Igiirita, Road Rivers States

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

13. Acute Water shortage in Fika and Ngelzarma Community of Fika and Fune Local Government Areas, Yobe State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Fika and Ngelzarma Towns, which are part of the Fika/Fune Federal Constituency, are densely populated;

Also notes that the topography of Fika and Ngelzarma Towns, which consists of mountainous terrain, has led to water scarcity, making life extremely difficult for inhabitants;

Aware that the Sustainable Development Goals emphasize the importance of providing and managing clean water and sanitation for all, thus requiring government policies that ensure accessible access;

Observes that drastic measures must be implemented in collaboration with the Local, State and Federal Governments to address water scarcity in the Towns and prevent the spread of disease in these areas;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to make provisions for boreholes, boosting stations and reticulation distribution channels in Fika and Ngelzarma towns;
- (ii) also urge the North East Development Commission (NEDC) to participate in providing water to these towns and also to collaborate with the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation, in finding a lasting solution to this menace in both towns;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Water Resources, and the North East Development Commission (NEDC) to monitor compliance (*Hon. Muhammed Buba Jajere — Fika/Fune Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 124/03/2024).

Motion referred to the Committees on Water Resources, and the North East Development Commission (NEDC), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 10 (5).

14. Reconstruction of Roads Linking Imo and Anambra State via Umuowa Junction Orlu to Akwa Ihedi in Nnewi South Local Government Areas

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

15. Suspicious Practices of the Federal Government Ministries, Departments, Agencies (MDAS) Parastatals and Institutions in the Execution of Capital Projects in the Appropriation Act

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Section 81 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that "the President shall cause to be prepared and laid before each Houses of the National Assembly at any time in each financial year estimates of the revenue and expenditure of the Federation for the next following financial year."

Also notes that Section 81 (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that "the heads of expenditures contained in the estimates (other than expenditure charged upon the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation by this Constitution) shall be included in a Bill, to be known as Appropriation Bill, providing for the issue from the Consolidated Revenue of the sums necessary to meet that expenditure and the appropriation of those sums for the purposes specified therein";

Aware that Heads of all Federal Government Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Parastatal and Institutions are summoned to the National Assembly for Examination and Validation of their budgetary proposals before passage and Presidential Assent;

Also aware that no adjustment to the estimates contained in the Appropriation Act shall be made without recourse to the National Assembly, according to the law;

Observes that a majority of government ministries, Departments, Agencies (MDAs), Parastatal and Institutions allegedly award contracts that are below the amount provided for the execution of the Capital component of the Appropriation Act;

Disturbed that the National Assembly has not been provided with information on withheld funds from Federal Government Agencies, causing project procurement reductions to negatively impact on project completion and Contractors abandonment or requests for variation of the initial cost;

Alarmed that the National Assembly's powers, as provided in Sections 88 and 89 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), are being undermined by the actions of the Federal Government's Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Parastatals and Institutions;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Financial Crimes, Public Service Matters and Public Procurements to investigate the procurement of Capital Projects by Ministries, Departments, Agencies (MDAs), Parastatal and Institutions of the Federal Governments to recover withheld sums from the execution and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Kelechi Nwogu — Etche/Omuma Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Section 81 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that "the President shall cause to be prepared and laid before each Houses of the National Assembly at any time in each financial year estimates of the revenue and expenditure of the Federation for the next following financial year."

Also noted that Section 81 (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that "the heads of expenditures contained in the estimates (other than expenditure charged upon the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation by this Constitution) shall be included in a Bill, to be known as Appropriation Bill, providing for the issue from the Consolidated Revenue of the sums necessary to meet that expenditure and the appropriation of those sums for the purposes specified therein";

Aware that Heads of all Federal Government Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Parastatal and Institutions are summoned to the National Assembly for Examination and Validation of their budgetary proposals before passage and Presidential Assent;

Also aware that no adjustment to the estimates contained in the Appropriation Act shall be made without recourse to the National Assembly, according to the law;

Observed that a majority of government ministries, Departments, Agencies (MDAs), Parastatal and Institutions allegedly award contracts that are below the amount provided for the execution of the Capital component of the Appropriation Act;

Disturbed that the National Assembly has not been provided with information on withheld funds from Federal Government Agencies, causing project procurement reductions to negatively impact on project completion and Contractors abandonment or requests for variation of the initial cost;

Alarmed that the National Assembly's powers, as provided in Sections 88 and 89 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), are being undermined by the actions of the Federal Government's Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Parastatals and Institutions;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Financial Crimes, Public Service Matters and Public Procurements to investigate the procurement of Capital Projects by Ministries, Departments, Agencies (MDAs), Parastatal and Institutions of the Federal Governments to recover withheld sums from the execution and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 125/03/2024**).

16. Call for Deployment of Additional Security Personnel to Kauru Local Government Area, Kaduna State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the presence and the remarkable efforts of Military Personnel (Operation Safe Haven), currently stationed at Chawai;

Also notes high rates of insecurity in Kumana Chiefdom and Kauru Emirate, ranging from banditry, terrorism and kidnapping;

Observes that the Insecurity in Kumana Chiefdom and Kauru Emirate has escalated, necessitating the swift deployment of additional personnel from Operation Safe Haven to address these issues;

Aware the host communities' vigilantes are willing to collaborate with security officers in curbing the security situation in the Emirate;

Recognises that a detachment of these personnel to a location in Kumana Chiefdom and Kauru Emirate can aid in providing security to the troubled areas of Geshere, Bital, Kwassam, Dokan Karji, Kunkurai, and other areas within the radius;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Chief of Defence Staff to direct the deployment of personnel to these locations (Kumana Chiefdom and Kauru Emirate); and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Defence to ensure compliance (*Hon. Mukhtar Zakari Chawai — Kauru Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the presence and the remarkable efforts of Military Personnel (Operation Safe Haven), currently stationed at Chawai;

Also noted high rates of insecurity in Kumana Chiefdom and Kauru Emirate, ranging from banditry, terrorism and kidnapping;

Observed that the Insecurity in Kumana Chiefdom and Kauru Emirate has escalated, necessitating the swift deployment of additional personnel from Operation Safe Haven to address these issues;

Aware the host communities' vigilantes are willing to collaborate with security officers in curbing the security situation in the Emirate;

Recognised that a detachment of these personnel to a location in Kumana Chiefdom and Kauru Emirate can aid in providing security to the troubled areas of Geshere, Bital, Kwassam, Dokan Karji, Kunkurai, and other areas within the radius;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Chief of Defence Staff to direct the deployment of personnel to these locations (Kumana Chiefdom and Kauru Emirate); and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Defence to ensure compliance (**HR. 126/03/2024**).

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

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that taxation is a veritable tool used by governments to regulate economic and commercial activities and ensure availability of funds for sustainable national development;

Also notes that the Federal Inland Revenue Service Act, 2004 established the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) for the core purpose of assessing, collecting, remitting and accounting for the Federation's taxes;

Concerned that in 2021, the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) revealed that the sum of (₦17,690,341,565) seventeen billion, six hundred and ninety million, three hundred and forty-one thousand, five hundred and sixty-five Naira, was owed in tax by some Companies, whose addresses were untraced till date, but no action was taken to locate or recover the funds;

Also concerned about audit reports from 2015 to 2019 which revealed government agencies owing hundreds of billions in FIRS taxes comprising underpayments and under recoveries and over 5,000 Companies and Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of the Federal Government owing (₦5.2 Trillion) (five trillion, two hundred billion Naira in withholding taxes);

Disturbed that under-remittance and non-remittance of tax deprive the Federal Government of much needed funds to drive its policies for national development, and if the situation is not urgently addressed, the effect could be crippling on the country's already dwindling economy;

Worried that while small-scale businesses in Nigeria are frustrated by multiple taxation by the Federal Inland Revenue Service, States and Local Government Authorities, multinational Companies and other corporate organisations are getting the kid-glove treatment;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Inland Revenue Service to, as a matter of urgency, embark on immediate recovery of all taxes owed the Federal Government by Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), oil companies, as well as other corporate organisations and individuals; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Public Accounts, and Finance to investigate the non-compliance on tax remittance by Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of Government, Oil Companies and other organisations, with a view to ensuring that all debts in taxes owed the Federal Government are duly recovered, and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Esosa Iyawe — Oredo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that taxation is a veritable tool used by governments to regulate economic and commercial activities and ensure availability of funds for sustainable national development;

Also noted that the Federal Inland Revenue Service Act, 2004 established the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) for the core purpose of assessing, collecting, remitting and accounting for the Federation's taxes;

Concerned that in 2021, the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) revealed that the sum of (₦17,690,341,565) seventeen billion, six hundred and ninety million, three hundred and forty-one thousand, five hundred and sixty-five Naira, was owed in tax by some Companies, whose addresses were untraced till date, but no action was taken to locate or recover the funds;

Also concerned about audit reports from 2015 to 2019 which revealed government agencies owing hundreds of billions in FIRS taxes comprising underpayments and under recoveries and over 5,000 Companies and Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of the Federal Government owing (₦5.2 Trillion) (five trillion, two hundred billion Naira in withholding taxes;

Disturbed that under-remittance and non-remittance of tax deprive the Federal Government of much needed funds to drive its policies for national development, and if the situation is not urgently addressed, the effect could be crippling on the country's already dwindling economy;

Worried that while small-scale businesses in Nigeria are frustrated by multiple taxation by the Federal Inland Revenue Service, States and Local Government Authorities, multinational Companies and other corporate organisations are getting the kid-glove treatment;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Inland Revenue Service to, as a matter of urgency, embark on immediate recovery of all taxes owed the Federal Government by Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), oil companies, as well as other corporate organisations and individuals; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Public Accounts, and Finance to investigate the non-compliance on tax remittance by Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of Government, Oil Companies and other organisations, with a view to ensuring that all debts in taxes owed the

Federal Government are duly recovered, and report within four (4) weeks (HR. 127/03/2024).

18. Utilization and Management of ₦200 Billion Meant for the Suspended 2023 Population and Housing Census

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that census is a process of systematically collecting, compiling, and analyzing demographic, social, and economic data of a population within a specific region;

Also notes that Censuses are conducted by governments to gather accurate and comprehensive information such as age, sex, marital status, education, occupation, housing, and other relevant demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of a country;

Further notes that data collected are used for a wide range of purposes, including policy-making, resource allocation, urban planning, public health, education, and more;

Aware that the last census, that was conducted in 2006 by the National Population Commission, gave a population figure of 140 million;

Also aware that the immediate-past administration of former President, Muhammadu Buhari, planned to conduct another census in 2022, but the programme was later postponed to 2023;

Recalls that earlier in March, 2023 the former Minister of State for Budget and National Planning, Clem Agba, said a total of ₦869 Billion would be required for the exercise, this figure according to the Minister, includes Post-Census-Activities;

Also recalls that the National Population Commission (NPC) says, it has spent about ₦200 billion to prepare for the 2023 population and housing census;

Disturbed that the exercise was, however, suspended indefinitely by former President Muhammadu Buhari a few days before leaving office;

Concerned that the need to provide the Nation with accurate and reliable demographic data for policy formulation and planning for sustainable development could not be overemphasized;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Population to invite the Director- General, National Population Commission to explain how the ₦200 billion meant for the suspended 2023 Population and Housing Census was utilized and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon Clement Akanni Ademola — Boluwaduro/Ifedayo/Ila Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words in the Prayer, and *insert* as follows:

“Mandate the Committee on Population to investigate the use and management of the ₦200 billion meant for the suspended 2023 Population and Housing Census and report within four (4) weeks” (*Hon. Chinda Kingsley - Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that census is a process of systematically collecting, compiling, and analyzing demographic, social, and economic data of a population within a specific region;

Also noted that Censuses are conducted by governments to gather accurate and comprehensive information such as age, sex, marital status, education, occupation, housing, and other relevant demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of a country;

Further noted that data collected are used for a wide range of purposes, including policy-making, resource allocation, urban planning, public health, education, and more;

Aware that the last census, that was conducted in 2006 by the National Population Commission, gave a population figure of 140 million;

Also aware that the immediate-past administration of former President, Muhammadu Buhari, planned to conduct another census in 2022, but the programme was later postponed to 2023;

Recalled that earlier in March, 2023 the former Minister of State for Budget and National Planning, Clem Agba, said a total of ₦869 Billion would be required for the exercise, this figure according to the Minister, includes Post-Census-Activities;

Also recalled that the National Population Commission (NPC) says, it has spent about ₦200 billion to prepare for the 2023 population and housing census;

Disturbed that the exercise was, however, suspended indefinitely by former President Muhammadu Buhari a few days before leaving office;

Concerned that the need to provide the Nation with accurate and reliable demographic data for policy formulation and planning for sustainable development could not be overemphasized;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Population to investigate the use and management of the ₦200 billion meant for the suspended 2023 Population and Housing Census and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 128/03/2024**).

19. Need to Incorporate Security Education as Core Subject in Nigeria's Primary and Secondary School Curriculum

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Security Education is crucial for fostering knowledge and preparedness, enabling Individuals to understand potential threats and take appropriate measures to protect themselves and their assets;

Also notes that security education prepares students for contemporary challenges in security; Ranging from economic, political, social and environmental threats;

Aware that Security Education equips students with the necessary skills to direct the various contemporary security challenges, including economic, political, social, and environmental threats;

Also aware of the United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF) report that since 2018, over 30 Schools have been attacked, resulting in at least 2,295 teacher deaths and over 1,000 child abductions;

Worried about the recurrent attacks and threats against Nigerian educational institutions, teachers, and pupils are causing a negative impact on educational quality, teacher turnover, and perpetuating a culture of impunity;

Further aware that due to the escalating insecurity in the country, it has become imperative, for children to learn defence mechanisms, master first-aid-principles and emergency handling skills;

Cognizant that in an increasingly volatile society like Nigeria, investing in security education is essential to safeguard students, knowledge, skills and awareness in security education empowers them to take preventive action;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Education to ensure that Security Education is incorporated as a core subject in the Primary and Secondary Schools Curriculum; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Basic Education and Services to ensure compliance (*Hon. Omirin Emmanuel Olusanya — Atakunmosa East/Atakunmosa West/Ilesa East/Ilesa West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words in Prayer (i), and *insert* as follows:

“urge the Federal Ministry of Education to ensure that Security Education is incorporated as a core subject in the Secondary Schools Curriculum” (*Hon. Obodor Mitema — Ogbia Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Security Education is crucial for fostering knowledge and preparedness, enabling Individuals to understand potential threats and take appropriate measures to protect themselves and their assets;

Also noted that security education prepares students for contemporary challenges in security; Ranging from economic, political, social and environmental threats;

Aware that Security Education equips students with the necessary skills to direct the various contemporary security challenges, including economic, political, social, and environmental threats;

Also aware of the United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF) report that since 2018, over 30 Schools have been attacked, resulting in at least 2,295 teacher deaths and over 1,000 child abductions;

Worried about the recurrent attacks and threats against Nigerian educational institutions, teachers, and pupils are causing a negative impact on educational quality, teacher turnover, and perpetuating a culture of impunity;

Further aware that due to the escalating insecurity in the country, it has become imperative, for children to learn defence mechanisms, master first-aid-principles and emergency handling skills;

Cognizant that in an increasingly volatile society like Nigeria, investing in security education is essential to safeguard students, knowledge, skills and awareness in security education empowers them to take preventive action;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Education to ensure that Security Education is incorporated as a core subject in the Secondary Schools Curriculum; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Basic Education and Services to ensure compliance (**HR. 129/03/2024**).

20. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 12 March, 2024 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.43 p.m.

Benjamin Okezie Kalu
Deputy Speaker