



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 8 February, 2024

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1. The House met at 11.01 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**  
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Wednesday, 7 February, 2024.

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

4. **Oaths of Allegiance and Membership**  
The following Members-elect, took and subscribed the Oaths of Allegiance and Membership as prescribed by law:
  - (i) Atigwe Simon Chukwuemeka (*Igbo-Eze North/Udenu Federal Constituency*);
  - (ii) Hussaini Mohammed Jallo (*Igabi Federal Constituency*);
  - (iii) Umar Yusuf Yabo (*Yabo/Shagari Federal Constituency*);
  - (iv) Nnabuike Chinwe Clara (*Orumba North/Orumba South Federal Constituency*);
  - (v) Shehu Dalhatu (*Faskari/Kankara/Sabuwa Federal Constituency*);
  - (vi) Rabiu Garba Kamba (*Arewa/Dandi Federal Constituency*);
  - (vii) Garba Umar Uba (*Ngaski/Shanga/Yauri Federal Constituency*);
  - (viii) Uzokwe Peter Ifeanyi (*Nnewi North/Nnewi South/Ekwusigo Federal Constituency*);
  - (ix) Ukpong-Udo Emmanuel Effiong (*Ikono/Ini Federal Constituency*);
  - (x) Muhammed Buba Jajere (*Fika/Fune Federal Constituency*);

- (xi) Daniel Asama Ago (*Jos North/Bassa Federal Constituency*);
- (xii) Ehindero Ifeoluwa Babajide (*Akoko North East/Akoko North West Federal Constituency*);

## 5. Admittance into the Chamber

*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That the House, pursuant to Order Six, Rule 4 of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives, do admit into the Chamber, Senator Ifeanyi Uba" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

## 6. Announcement

### (i) *Bereavement:*

Mr Speaker read the following communications from:

- (a) Hon. Martin Oke (*Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*) announcing the demise of a former member, Hon. Paul Okwudili Eze (*Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency, 2015 - 2019*), on Thursday, 4 January, 2024;
- (b) Hon. Sessoo Ikpagher (*Konshisha/Vandeikya Federal Constituency*) announcing the demise of his mother, late Mrs Susan Ahon Ikpagher on Wednesday, 7 February, 2024;
- (c) Hon. Victor Nwokolo (*Ika North East/Ika South Federal Constituency*) announcing the demise of a former Member, Hon. Cairo Ojoughoh (*Ika North East/Ika South Federal Constituency, 2003 - 2007*), on Wednesday, 24 January, 2024;

*A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.*

### (ii) *Committee Deputy Chairmen:*

Mr Speaker announced the following Committee Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen:

- (1) Hon. Mukhtar Chawai Zakari — *Deputy Chairman, Committee on Water Resources.*
- (2) Hon. Yusuf Baraje — *Deputy Chairman, Committee on Lake Chad.*
- (3) Hon. Peter Aniekwe — *Deputy Chairman, Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity.*
- (4) Hon. Muhammad Isa Anka — *Deputy Chairman, Committee on Cooperation and Integration in Africa.*
- (5) Hon. Salisu Yusuf Majigiri — *Deputy Chairman, Committee on Public Service Matters.*

## 7. Petitions

- (i) A petition from Aiyamen Khue Edokpolo and 1 other, on behalf of Edo South Senatorial District, on the alleged exclusion from allocation of projects in the 2024 budget by the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs, was presented and laid by Hon. Murphy Osaro Omoruyi (*Egor/Ikpoba/Okha Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) A petition from Sylvester and 2 others, on the non-release of Ten (10) appointment letters of Imootel Youths by Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and 2 others, was presented and laid by Hon. Obordor Mitema (*Ogbia Federal Constituency*);
- (iii) A petition from Maureen Nwadike, on behalf of Trans-Amadi Environs, Akpor Local

Government Area, River State, on environmental pollution caused by Pabod Breweries and 7 other Companies, was presented and laid by Hon. Chris Nkwonta (*Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency*).

*Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.*

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

**(i) *Life Threaten Gully Erosion and Power Infrastructure Hazard in Okofia Village, Otolu Nnewi, Anambra State:***

Hon. Nnamdi Ezechi (*Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani 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.*

**Life Threaten Gully Erosion and Power Infrastructure Hazard in Okofia Village, Otolu Nnewi, Anambra State:**

The House:

*Notes* that the gully erosion site in Okofia Village, Otolu Nnewi, Anambra State, poses an imminent and avoidable environmental threat to the region, becoming a potential death trap for residents;

*Also notes* that the erosion has already severed road infrastructure, rendering several areas inaccessible to the residents, thereby hampering essential services and endangering lives;

*Further notes* the critical proximity of the gully erosion site to the transmission tower, recognizing that if not addressed promptly, it poses a significant risk to power transmission infrastructure, potentially leading to the destruction of critical power components and exacerbating power outages;

*Concerned* about the escalating impact on the community, the economy, and public safety, as well as the potential for broader consequences on power supply reliability in the region;

*Worried* that delays in addressing this issue may lead to irreversible environmental damage and exacerbate the already challenging power supply situation in the country;

*Cognizant* of the urgent need for the Federal Government's intervention to mitigate the present and future consequences of the gully erosion in Okofia Village, Otolu Nnewi, Anambra State.

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Government, through the Ecological Fund Office, to immediately deploy resources and expertise to address the gully erosion site in Okofia Village, Otolu Nnewi, Anambra State, and take necessary measures to prevent further environmental degradation;

- (ii) calls on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to collaborate with local authorities to provide immediate relief and assistance to residents affected by the severed road infrastructure caused by the gully erosion;
- (iii) encourage the Federal Ministry of Power to expedite efforts in safeguarding the transmission tower near the gully erosion site to prevent potential disruptions to power transmission and protect critical power infrastructure;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Environment, Power, Emergency and Disaster Management, and Ecological Fund to ensure compliance (*Hon. Nnamdi Ezechi — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the gully erosion site in Okofia Village, Otolo Nnewi, Anambra State, poses an imminent and avoidable environmental threat to the region, becoming a potential death trap for residents;

*Also noted* that the erosion has already severed road infrastructure, rendering several areas inaccessible to the residents, thereby hampering essential services and endangering lives;

*Further noted* the critical proximity of the gully erosion site to the transmission tower, recognizing that if not addressed promptly, it poses a significant risk to power transmission infrastructure, potentially leading to the destruction of critical power components and exacerbating power outages;

*Concerned* about the escalating impact on the community, the economy, and public safety, as well as the potential for broader consequences on power supply reliability in the region;

*Worried* that delays in addressing this issue may lead to irreversible environmental damage and exacerbate the already challenging power supply situation in the country;

*Cognizant* of the urgent need for the Federal Government's intervention to mitigate the present and future consequences of the gully erosion in Okofia Village, Otolo Nnewi, Anambra State;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Government, through the Ecological Fund Office, to immediately deploy resources and expertise to address the gully erosion site in Okofia Village, Otolo Nnewi, Anambra State, and take necessary measures to prevent further environmental degradation;
- (ii) calls on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to collaborate with local authorities to provide immediate relief and assistance to residents affected by the severed road infrastructure caused by the gully erosion;
- (iii) encourage the Federal Ministry of Power to expedite efforts in safeguarding the transmission tower near the gully erosion site to prevent potential disruptions to power transmission and protect critical power infrastructure;

- (iv) mandate the Committees on Environment, Power, Emergency and Disaster Management, and Ecological Fund to ensure compliance (**HR. 20/02/2024**).
- (ii) ***Call on Law Enforcement Agencies to Stop Harassment of Lawyers, and Afford Lawyers Requisite Assistance in the Discharge of Their Statutory Responsibilities:***  
Hon. Patrick Umoh (*Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara 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.*

**Call on Law Enforcement Agencies to Stop Harassment of Lawyers, and Afford Lawyers Requisite Assistance in the Discharge of Their Statutory Responsibilities**

The House:

*Notes* section 17 (1) (a) of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015 ("ACJA") permits lawyers to be present during the interview of a suspect by law enforcement agencies, and section 6 (6) (c) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 ("the Constitution") empowers lawyers to defend defendants charge with crime;

*Also notes* that the basis and intendment of section 179(1)(a) of the ACJA and section 6 (6) (c) of the Constitution for the presence of lawyers during interview and prosecution of suspects/defendants is to guarantee the constitutional and criminal rights of such persons against abuse by ensuring that they are processed, proceeded against and prosecuted in accordance with the law;

*Further notes* that these requirements of the law are central to our constitutional democracy, principles of rule of law, and criminal justice system, and it is in the public interest that they are upheld;

*Worried* that lawyers have been subjected to harassment in forms of physical abuse, arrest and detention by law enforcement agencies in the course of discharging their constitutional and statutory functions;

*Recalls* that just recently a lawyer, Douglas Ogbankwa, was allegedly beaten and detained by the State Security Service (SSS) in Benin, Edo State, for objecting against the recording of his client statement without his presence; and another lawyer, Olumide Sonupe, was allegedly arrested, stripped and detained for two nights at Moshalashi Police Station in Lagos State while seeking bail for his client, a development that led to his hospitalization and protest by all the branches of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) in Lagos State;

*Concerned* that if harassment of lawyers is not contained and stopped, it will hinder lawyers from discharging their statutory responsibilities, restrict access to lawyers by citizens and residents, encourage human rights abuse, and in general, stalls Nigeria's constitutional democracy;

*Conscious* of the 10th House Agenda 1 on Strengthening Good Governance, and its sub-theme of Judicial Reforms, Rule of Law and Human Rights;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) condemn the harassment of lawyers by law enforcement agencies in the course of the discharge of their statutory functions;
- (ii) urge the Inspector-General of Police, the Director of the State Security Service, the Chairman of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, the Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission, the Chairman of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, the Commandant General of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, the Controller-General of Correctional Service, the Corps Marshall of the Federal Road Safety Commission, the Chief of Army Staff, the Chief of Naval Staff, the Chief of Air Staff, and heads of other law enforcement agencies to direct their officers and officials under their command and authority to accord lawyers requisite assistance in the performance of their statutory responsibilities and observe section 17(1)(a) of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act;
- (iii) also urge the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, as the Chief Law Officer of the Federal, to stipulate operational standard and procedure for law enforcement agencies in their engagements with lawyers; and
- (iv) further urge the Committees on Human Rights, Justice, Police Affairs, Financial Crimes, Interior, Drugs and Narcotics, Federal Road Safety Commission, Army, Navy, and Airforce, to follow through the implementation of the resolutions (*Hon. Patrick Umoh — Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency*)

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* section 17 (1) (a) of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015 ("ACJA") permits lawyers to be present during the interview of a suspect by law enforcement agencies, and section 6 (6) (c) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 ("the Constitution") empowers lawyers to defend defendants charge with crime;

*Also noted* that the basis and intendment of section 179 (1) (a) of the ACJA and section 6(6)(c) of the Constitution for the presence of lawyers during interview and prosecution of suspects/ defendants is to guarantee the constitutional and criminal rights of such persons against abuse by ensuring that they are processed, proceeded against and prosecuted in accordance with the law;

*Further noted* that these requirements of the law are central to our constitutional democracy, principles of rule of law, and criminal justice system, and it is in the public interest that they are upheld;

*Worried* that lawyers have been subjected to harassment in forms of physical abuse, arrest and detention by law enforcement agencies in the course of discharging their constitutional and statutory functions;

*Recalled* that just recently a lawyer, Douglas Ogbankwa, was allegedly beaten and detained by the State Security Service (SSS) in Benin, Edo State, for objecting against the recording of his client statement without his presence; and another lawyer, Olumide Sonupe, was allegedly arrested, stripped and detained for two nights at Moshalashi Police Station in Lagos State while seeking bail for his client, a development that led to his hospitalization and protest by all the branches of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) in Lagos State;

*Concerned* that if harassment of lawyers is not contained and stopped, it will hinder lawyers from discharging their statutory responsibilities, restrict access to lawyers by citizens and residents, encourage human rights abuse, and in general, stalls Nigeria's constitutional democracy;

*Conscious* of the 10th House Agenda 1 on Strengthening Good Governance, and its sub-theme of Judicial Reforms, Rule of Law and Human Rights;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) condemn the harassment of lawyers by law enforcement agencies in the course of the discharge of their statutory functions;
  - (ii) urge the Inspector-General of Police, the Director of the State Security Service, the Chairman of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, the Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission, the Chairman of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, the Commandant General of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, the Controller-General of Correctional Service, the Corps Marshall of the Federal Road Safety Commission, the Chief of Army Staff, the Chief of Naval Staff, the Chief of Air Staff, and heads of other law enforcement agencies to direct their officers and officials under their command and authority to accord lawyers requisite assistance in the performance of their statutory responsibilities and observe section 17 (1) (a) of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act;
  - (iii) urge the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, as the Chief Law Officer of the Federal, to stipulate operational standard and procedure for law enforcement agencies in their engagements with lawyers; and
  - (iv) urge the Committees on Human Rights, Justice, Police Affairs, Financial Crimes, Interior, Drugs and Narcotics, Federal Road Safety Commission, Army, Navy, and Air Force, to follow through the implementation of the resolutions (**HR. 21/02/2024**).
- (iii) ***Recall of all Heads of Chancery from Nigeria's Foreign Missions Abroad:***  
Hon. Umar Shehu Ajilo (*Makarfi/Kudan 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 halt the move to recall all Nigerian Heads of Chancery from Nigeria's Foreign Missions abroad**

The House:

*Notes* that the core functions of the Nigeria's heads of diplomatic missions abroad are the representation of the government of Nigeria in the receiving countries, presenting the policies of the Nigerian government to the host countries, safeguarding the interests of Nigeria nationals in the host countries whether visiting or residing and the provision of public

services for their Nigerians in the host countries including assisting with documentation and citizens evacuation from dangerous locations;

*Also notes* that in a worrisome development sometime in 2023, Nigeria recalled all her Ambassadors in a major diplomatic shakeup that affected both career, and non-career Ambassadors; a development that was met with mixed reactions by Nigerians, particularly scholars of international affairs as many viewed it as a sign of instability;

*Aware* of a current plot or move to recall all heads of chancery from all Nigerian foreign missions abroad;

*Also aware* that the heads of chancery are responsible to the High Commissioners/Ambassadors whose major functions include the general administration of the Mission which entails ensuring effective communication link between the headquarters and the rest of the world, preparation of the Mission's budget and secretary to the Mission's Tender Board amongst others;

*Considering* the important roles of the heads of Chancery to Nigerian Foreign Missions as highlighted above, the recall of all Nigerian heads of chancery at a time when Nigeria has no Ambassadors, having earlier withdrawn all her ambassadors in her foreign Missions will give credence to the dangerous assertion of political instability back home and that will be hazardous to Nigerian diplomatic relations with other countries and a huge disservice to Nigerians abroad who may need their services;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to put on hold any proposed plan to recall the heads of chancery from Nigeria's foreign Missions abroad;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Foreign Affairs to liaise with the Minister of Foreign Affairs with a view to resolve all issues in respect of Nigeria's foreign Missions and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Umar Shehu Ajilo — Makarfi/Kudan Federal Constituency*) .

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the core functions of the Nigeria's heads of diplomatic missions abroad are the representation of the government of Nigeria in the receiving countries, presenting the policies of the Nigerian government to the host countries, safeguarding the interests of Nigeria nationals in the host countries whether visiting or residing and the provision of public services for their Nigerians in the host countries including assisting with documentation and citizens evacuation from dangerous locations;

*Also noted* that in a worrisome development sometime in 2023, Nigeria recalled all her Ambassadors in a major diplomatic shakeup that affected both career, and non-career Ambassadors; a development that was met with mixed reactions by Nigerians, particularly scholars of international affairs as many viewed it as a sign of instability;

*Aware* of a current plot or move to recall all heads of chancery from all Nigerian foreign missions abroad;

*Also aware* that the heads of chancery are responsible to the High



Commissioners/Ambassadors whose major functions include the general administration of the Mission which entails ensuring effective communication link between the headquarters and the rest of the world, preparation of the Mission's budget and secretary to the Mission's Tender Board amongst others;

*Considering* the important roles of the heads of Chancery to Nigerian Foreign Missions as highlighted above, the recall of all Nigerian heads of chancery at a time when Nigeria has no Ambassadors, having earlier withdrawn all her ambassadors in her foreign Missions will give credence to the dangerous assertion of political instability back home and that will be hazardous to Nigerian diplomatic relations with other countries and a huge disservice to Nigerians abroad who may need their services;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to put on hold any proposed plan to recall the heads of chancery from Nigeria's foreign Missions abroad;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Foreign Affairs to liaise with the Minister of Foreign Affairs with a view to resolve all issues in respect of Nigeria's foreign Missions and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 22/02/2024**).

**9. Personal Explanation (Order Eight, Rule Six)**

Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere (*Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*), drew the attention of the House to a petition from Aiyeman Khue Edokpolo which was presented and laid by Hon. Murphy Osaro Omoruyi on alleged exclusion of Edo South Senatorial District in the allocation of budget in the 2024 Appropriation Act by the Ministry of the Niger Delta Affairs. He noted that the Minister of Niger Delta Affairs was not biased against any part of Edo State and explained that projects under the Ministry were mainly Constituency projects of Members of the National Assembly. He added that the Ministry is for the entire Niger Delta and not for certain Local Government Areas even if preference would be given to oil producing Local Government Areas. He noted that the budget of Niger Delta Ministry had been discussed previously with the Minister who explained appropriately at the caucus meeting of Edo State Law Makers.

*Mr Speaker noted his explanation.*

**10. Presentation of Bills**

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Social Security Bill, 2024 (HB.1077).
- (2) National Primary Education Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1078).
- (3) National Environmental Health and Sanitation Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1079).
- (4) Federal University of Technology, Kaduna (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1080).
- (5) Federal University of Technology, Lagos (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1081).
- (6) Nigerian National Honours and Merit Award Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1082).
- (7) Harmonised Retirement Age for Officers of the Nigeria Police Force Bill, 2024 (HB.1083).
- (8) Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (SB.188).
- (9) Fiscal Responsibility Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1097).

- (10) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1098).
- (11) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 Bill, 2024 (HB.1084).

## 11. Presentation of Reports

(i) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

**Report on the petition by Dr Hilary Ibe against the Veterinary Council of Nigeria:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Joseph Andrew A. against the Nigeria National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL): An Appeal for reinstatement back to Service” (*Hon. Irom Mike Etaba — Obubra/Etung Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

(ii) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

**Report on the Petition by Joseph Andrew A. against Nigeria National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL):**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Joseph Andrew A. Against the Nigeria National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL): An Appeal for reinstatement back to Service” (*Hon. Irom Mike Etaba — Obubra/Etung Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

(iii) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

**Report on the petition by M. C. Chambers against Multi-Choice Nigeria Limited, the National Broadcasting Commission and the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by M. C. Chambers against Multi-Choice Nigeria Limited, the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) and the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) over the persistent and unjustified increase in the Tariffs; a request to stop same and implement the Pay -As -You View -Scheme” (*Hon. Irom Mike Etaba — Obubra/Etung Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

(iv) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

**Report on the petition by Engr Adamu Suleiman against Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC):**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Engr. Adamu Suleiman against the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC) over none power supply for over seven (7) months despite being on prepaid meter” (*Hon. Irom Mike Etaba — Obubra/Etung Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

- (v) **Committee on Public Petitions:**  
**Report on the petition by Dr Moemeke George Onyekanjinke against Benin-Owena River Basin Development Authority:**  
*motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Dr Moemeke George Onyekanjinke against the Benin-Owena River Basin Development Authority on a Complaint of Unfair Treatment and Handling of Service conditions, an appeal for Investigation and consideration of his petition brought before the 9th Assembly but was not concluded before the end of the 9th Assembly” (*Hon. Irom Mike Etaba — Obubra/Etung Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

7. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organizations Agency for the Promotion of Social Development Activities in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 941) — Second Reading**

*Order read; deferred by leave of the House.*

8. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act and Establish Federal Medical Centre, Toro, Bauchi State and for Related Matters (HB.746) — 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, Toro, Bauchi State and for Related Matters (HB.746) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Dabo Ismaila Haruna — Toro 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.*

9. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Act, 2010 and Enact the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Act to Establish Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board and provide for Legal Framework, Structures and Programmes for the Strengthening of Nigerian Content in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry and for Related Matters (HB. 1039) — Second Reading**  
*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Act, 2010 and Enact the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Act to Establish Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board and provide for Legal Framework, Structures and Programmes for the Strengthening of Nigerian Content in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry and for Related Matters (HB. 1039) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Olatunji Akinosi Akanni — Ado-Odo/Ota Federal Constituency and Thirty-Five 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 Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring.*

10. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act and Establish Federal Medical Centre, Enugu, Enugu State and for Related Matters (HB.348) — 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, Enugu, Enugu State and for Related Matters (HB.348) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Mark Obetta Chidi — Nsukka/Igbo-Eze South Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

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

*Bill read the Second Time.*

*Bill referred to the Committee on Health Institutions.*

## 11. Outstanding Bills from Preceding Assembly

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that pursuant to Order Twelve, Rule 17 of the Standing Orders of the House may, upon being re-gazetted and circulated, reconsider in the Committee of the Whole, without commencing denovo, the Bill(s):

- (a) whose report was presented by the Committee before consideration,
- (b) passed by the House and forwarded to the Senate for concurrence for which no concurrence was made or negative,
- (c) passed by the Senate and forwarded to the House for which no concurrence was made or negative, or
- (d) passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but for which assent or withholding therefore was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the preceding Assembly;

*Also notes* that the under-listed Bills were passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but for which assent or withholding thereof was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the last Assembly:

- (i) Nigerian Institute of Chartered Foresters (HB. 896),
- (ii) Chartered Institute of Auctioneers (HB. 1046),
- (iii) Federal College of Agriculture Technology, Ekiti State (HB. 875),
- (iv) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 834),
- (v) FCT Customary Court (Amendment) Bill 2024 (HB. 361),
- (vi) FCT Area Court Bill (HB. 378),
- (vii) National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 472), and
- (viii) Nigeria Police Force Pensions Board (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 979);

*Aware* that the Bills were read for the first time as 896, 1046, 875, 834, 361, 378, 472 and 979 respectively;

*Resolves to:*

Re-commit the Bills to the Committee of the Whole for consideration. (*Hon. Bello Isah Ambarura — Illela/Gwadabawa Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**12. Need to Immortalize Former Speaker, Late Hon. Ghali Umar Na'Abba**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the late Ghali Umar Na'Abba was born on September 27, 1958, to the family of Alhaji Umar Na'Abba, a businessman in Tudun Nufawa, Kano City, Kano Municipal Local Government, and died on December 27, 2023;

*Recalls* that the late Ghali Umar Na'Abba had his early education at Jakara Primary School, Kano, his secondary education at Rumfa College, Kano, and studied Political Science at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria;

*Aware* that the late Ghali Umar Na'Abba started his political career as a student of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, where he was elected as an Executive Committee Member of the ABU Chapter of the revolutionary People's Redemption Party (PRP) established in the 2nd Republic by Mallam Aminu Kano;

*Also aware* that at the beginning of the Fourth Republic in 1999, the late Ghali Umar Na'Abba was elected as a member of the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and subsequently elected as Speaker, House of Representatives;

*Also notes* that the late Na'Abba was praised as an influential Speaker of the House of Representatives between 1999 and 2003 on account of his courageous, dynamic, outspoken pursuit of legislative independence and revolutionary approach to running the House as Speaker within the period;

*Further notes* note that the late Na'Abba, as Speaker, embarked on a number of measures to ensure the independence of the legislature, which included but were not limited to:

- (a) profound scrutiny of the budget framework, making robust adjustments where necessary,
- (b) strengthen House Committees,
- (c) Fashioned out a cohesive, inclusive, mutual, thinking and participatory house, and
- (d) regulate debate on the state of the nation;

*Appreciates* all the foregoing good works of late Na'Abba, and therefore the need to immortalize him by naming one of the public infrastructure in the National Assembly “the National Assembly Service Commission” building after him;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) observe a minute of silence in honour of the late Hon. Ghali Umar Na'abba;
- (ii) commemorate former Speaker, the late Hon. Ghali Umar Na'Abba, by naming the National Assembly Service Commission Building after him to honour his legacy (*Hon. Aliyu Sani Madaki — Dala Federal Constituency and Eight Others*).

*Debate.*

**Amendments Proposed:**

(i) *Leave out Prayer (i) (Hon. Salisu Yusuf Majigiri — Mashi/Dutsi Federal Constituency).*

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

(ii) *Insert a new Prayer (ii), as follows:  
“Transmit the Resolution to the Senate for concurrence” (Hon. Kelechi Nwogu — Etche/Omuma Federal Constituency).*

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

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

The House:

*Noted* that the late Ghali Umar Na'Abba was born on September 27, 1958, to the family of Alhaji Umar Na'Abba, a businessman in Tudun Nufawa, Kano City, Kano Municipal Local Government, and died on December 27, 2023;

*Recalled* that the late Ghali Umar Na'Abba had his early education at Jakara Primary School, Kano, his secondary education at Rumfa College, Kano, and studied Political Science at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria;

*Aware* that the late Ghali Umar Na'Abba started his political career as a student of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, where he was elected as an Executive Committee Member of the ABU Chapter of the revolutionary People's Redemption Party (PRP) established in the 2nd Republic by Mallam Aminu Kano;

*Also aware* that at the beginning of the Fourth Republic in 1999, the late Ghali Umar Na'Abba was elected as a member of the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and subsequently elected as Speaker, House of Representatives;

*Also noted* that the late Na'Abba was praised as an influential Speaker of the House of Representatives between 1999 and 2003 on account of his courageous, dynamic, outspoken pursuit of legislative independence and revolutionary approach to running the House as Speaker within the period;

*Further noted* note that the late Na'Abba, as Speaker, embarked on a number of measures to ensure the independence of the legislature, which included but were not limited to:

- (a) profound scrutiny of the budget framework, making robust adjustments where necessary,
- (b) strengthen House Committees,
- (c) Fashioned out a cohesive, inclusive, mutual, thinking and participatory house, and
- (d) regulate debate on the state of the nation;

*Appreciated* all the foregoing good works of late Na'Abba, and therefore the need to immortalize him by naming one of the public infrastructure in the National Assembly “the National Assembly Service Commission” building after him;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) commemorate former Speaker, the late Hon. Ghali Umar Na'Abba, by naming the National Assembly Service Commission Building after him to honour his legacy;
- (ii) transmit the Resolution to the Senate for concurrence (**HR. 23/02/2024**).

**13. Need to Rehabilitate Bakolori Dam at Talata-Mafara and Maradun Local Government Areas of Zamfara State**

*Order read; deferred by leave of the House.*

**14. Need to Reconstruct the Mmam Bridge in Umunneochi Local Government Area of Abia State**  
*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the Mmam Bridge in Abia State was destroyed by national troops during the Nigerian Civil War on September 15, 1968, to aid their advance towards Okigwe;

*Also notes* that the Mmam Bridge was abandoned for 51 years without rehabilitation, disrupting smooth inter-community trading between the Isuochi and Oji Rivers and other parts of the country;

*Further notes* that the Mmam Bridge, a 10 by 50-meter abandoned structure, serves as a reminder of the negative impacts of the 51-year civil war and needs to be completely erased from public consciousness;

*Disturbed* that the Mmam Bridge, despite its economic and social significance, has been neglected by previous governments, highlighting the negative impacts of the civil war on the community and its potential for social activity;

*Aware* that the Bridge served as a vital gateway for motorists and commuters traveling to Enugu, Onitsha, and the Northern Parts of the country, promoting free market trading between large communities and social economic activities;

*Also aware* that Isuochi residents in cities like Enugu, Onitsha, Lagos, Kano, Kaduna, Jos, Zaria, and other parts of the western and northern parts of the country frequently ply the Achi-Awlaw-Mmam Bridge route;

*Worried* that the isolation of Mbala people from neighbouring states and access to their agricultural land has disrupted economic activity in the town;

*Cognizant* that the Mbala Cashew plantation in Abia State produces about 45,000 metric tons annually, which contributes to the region's economic development and job creation. However, the bridge to this vital agricultural "cash cow" has been neglected;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to rehabilitate the Mmam Bridge in Umunneochi Local Government Area of Abia State; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Amobi Godwin Ogah — Isuikwato/Umunneochi Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**(HR. 24/02/2024).**

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

**15. Need to Compel Uniformed Government Organisations to Patronise Indigenous Textile Manufacturers**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the textile sector represents a major hub of economic activity in most developing societies and has always been a major player in the manufacturing sector of Nigeria's economy;

*Also notes* that the Nigerian textile industry used to be the largest employer of labour after government, with companies like Kaduna Textile Ltd (KTL), United Nigerian Textile Plc, Supertex, Nortex Nigerian Ltd, Aswani Textiles, Gaskiya Textiles Mill, Kano Textile Ltd, Aba Textiles, Zamfara Textiles Ltd, Asaba Textiles Ltd., and several others that most countries in the east and west African sub-region depended on for their clothing needs;

*Concerned* that when the Federal Government lifted the ban on textile importation in 1997, the textile sector took a massive nosedive as companies began to close down one after the other, and even after efforts by subsequent governments to mitigate the adverse effects, the industry has continued to suffer due to low patronage from Nigerians as well as inadequate support from the government through effective policies to address the situation;

*Recalls* that in 2017, via Executive Order 003, the Federal Government compelled all Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) of government to grant preference to local manufacturers and service providers in their procurement of goods and services;

*Worried* that the non-compliance with 2017 Executive Order 003 and the low patronage of local textiles by Nigerians in favor of cheap imported fabrics will continue to under-price the textile products made in Nigeria, cripple Nigeria's textile industry, and consequently hamper the country's economic growth;

*Cognizant* that the economy of any nation grows rapidly when locally made goods are promoted through patronage, first by its people, then through export, as such patronage will stimulate the economy and provide several employment opportunities, thus the future of the Nigeria Textile Industry depends on the willpower of the government to protect it;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to ensure implementation of and enforce compliance with Executive Order 003 of 2017 as well as embark on awareness campaigns to sensitize Nigerians on the benefits of patronizing indigenous textile manufacturers;
- (ii) also urge the Nigerian Armed Forces, Nigeria Police Force, the Federal Road Safety Commission, the National Security and Civil Defence Corps, the Nigeria Immigration Service, the Nigeria Customs Service, the Federal Fire Service, and other uniformed government organizations to patronize indigenous textile manufacturers to purchase their fabrics;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment to revive the textile industry in Nigeria and provide a conducive environment that will attract both indigenous and foreign investments in the sector for sustainable economic development; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Industry, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Esosa Iyawe — Oredo Federal Constituency*).



*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the textile sector represents a major hub of economic activity in most developing societies and has always been a major player in the manufacturing sector of Nigeria's economy;

*Also noted* that the Nigerian textile industry used to be the largest employer of labour after government, with companies like Kaduna Textile Ltd (KTL), United Nigerian Textile Plc, Supertex, Nortex Nigerian Ltd, Aswani Textiles, Gaskiya Textiles Mill, Kano Textile Ltd, Aba Textiles, Zamfara Textiles Ltd, Asaba Textiles Ltd, and several others that most countries in the east and west African sub-region depended on for their clothing needs;

*Concerned* that when the Federal Government lifted the ban on textile importation in 1997, the textile sector took a massive nosedive as companies began to close down one after the other, and even after efforts by subsequent governments to mitigate the adverse effects, the industry has continued to suffer due to low patronage from Nigerians as well as inadequate support from the government through effective policies to address the situation;

*Recalled* that in 2017, via Executive Order 003, the Federal Government compelled all Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) of government to grant preference to local manufacturers and service providers in their procurement of goods and services;

*Worried* that the non-compliance with 2017 Executive Order 003 and the low patronage of local textiles by Nigerians in favor of cheap imported fabrics will continue to under-price the textile products made in Nigeria, cripple Nigeria's textile industry, and consequently hamper the country's economic growth;

*Cognizant* that the economy of any nation grows rapidly when locally made goods are promoted through patronage, first by its people, then through export, as such patronage will stimulate the economy and provide several employment opportunities, thus the future of the Nigeria Textile Industry depends on the willpower of the government to protect it;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to ensure implementation of and enforce compliance with Executive Order 003 of 2017 as well as embark on awareness campaigns to sensitize Nigerians on the benefits of patronizing indigenous textile manufacturers;
- (ii) also urge the Nigerian Armed Forces, Nigeria Police Force, the Federal Road Safety Commission, the National Security and Civil Defence Corps, the Nigeria Immigration Service, the Nigeria Customs Service, the Federal Fire Service, and other uniformed government organizations to patronize indigenous textile manufacturers to purchase their fabrics;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment to revive the textile industry in Nigeria and provide a conducive environment that will attract both indigenous and foreign investments in the sector for sustainable economic development; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Industry, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 25/02/2024**).

**16. Need to Ensure Standardization of the Uniform of the Nigerian Police Force**

*Order read; deferred by leave of the House.*

**17. Need to Beef up Security in Oron Local Government Area and its Environs**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

*Notes* that the primary responsibility of government in a democratic society is to safeguard the lives and property of its citizens;

*Also notes* that Section 20 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that it is the duty of the government to protect and improve the environment and safeguard the water, air, land, forest, and wildlife of the country;

*Further notes* that Oron Local Government Area and other parts of the Federal Constituency are bordered by the Atlantic Ocean, which provides a gateway to the Republic of Cameroun, but the porosity of the national border has paved the way for hardened criminals operating from the high sea to carry out unabated violence in Oron town and the neighbouring areas in Oron/Mbo/Okobo/Udung Uko/Urue Offong Oruko Federal Constituency;

*Alarmed* by the recent abduction of a High Court judge, Joy Unwana, and her driver who was later killed along Uyo-Okobo Road after the court sitting on December 18, 2023;

*Concerned* that the activities of Sea pirates and armed kidnappers who persistently steal and demand ransoms from residents in Oron/Mbo/Okobo/Udung Uko/UrueoffongOruko Federal Constituency causing economic hardship and underdevelopment in the area;

*Worried* that these criminal operations have continued unabated owing to the minimal presence of Nigerian security agencies and the lack of adequate equipment and morale among law enforcement agents in Oron and its environs in deterring the activities of the criminals who are emboldened by their recent successes in perpetuating heinous crimes;

*Cognizant* of the need to beef up security surveillance in Oron by establishing a military formation to mitigate kidnappings, sea piracy, armed robbery and wanton killings of innocent citizens;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Chief of Army Staff to establish a Military formation in Oron to checkmate the activities of the Armed Robbery in the area;
- (ii) also urge the Inspector General of Police (IGP) and the National Security Adviser (NSA) to expedite the presence of security personnel in Oron/Mbo/Okobo/Udung Uko/Urue Offong Oruko Federal Constituency and its environs by increasing surveillance and manpower; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Army, and Police Affairs to ensure compliance (*Hon. Martins Esin Etim — Mbo/Okobo/Oron/Udung Uko/Urue Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the primary responsibility of government in a democratic society is to safeguard the lives and property of its citizens;

*Also noted* that Section 20 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that it is the duty of the government to protect and improve the environment and safeguard the water, air, land, forest, and wildlife of the country;

*Further noted* that Oron Local Government Area and other parts of the Federal Constituency are bordered by the Atlantic Ocean, which provides a gateway to the Republic of Cameroun, but the porosity of the national border has paved the way for hardened criminals operating from the high sea to carry out unabated violence in Oron town and the neighbouring areas in Oron/Mbo/Okobo/Udung Uko/Urue Offong/Oruko Federal Constituency;

*Alarmed* by the recent abduction of a High Court judge, Joy Unwana, and her driver who was later killed along Uyo-Okobo Road after the court sitting on December 18, 2023;

*Concerned* that the activities of Sea pirates and armed kidnappers who persistently steal and demand ransoms from residents in Oron/Mbo/Okobo/Udung Uko/Urue Offong/Oruko Federal Constituency causing economic hardship and underdevelopment in the area;

*Worried* that these criminal operations have continued unabated owing to the minimal presence of Nigerian security agencies and the lack of adequate equipment and morale among law enforcement agents in Oron and its environs in deterring the activities of the criminals who are emboldened by their recent successes in perpetuating heinous crimes;

*Cognizant* of the need to beef up security surveillance in Oron by establishing a military formation to mitigate kidnappings, sea piracy, armed robbery and wanton killings of innocent citizens;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Chief of Army Staff to establish a Military formation in Oron to checkmate the activities of the Armed Robbery in the area;
- (ii) urge the Inspector General of Police (IGP) and the National Security Adviser (NSA) to expedite the presence of security personnel in Oron/Mbo/Okobo/Udung Uko/Urue Offong/Oruko Federal Constituency and its environs by increasing surveillance and manpower; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Army, and Police Affairs to ensure compliance (**HR. 26/02/2024**).

## **18. Need for Commodification and Diversification of Nigeria's Economy through Agriculture**

*Order read; deferred by leave of the House.*

## **19. Need to Commence the Construction of the Approved Naval Base in Essene, Ikot Abasi Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the Federal Government of Nigeria has approved the establishment of a Naval Barrack in Essene Clan, Ikot Abasi Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, in December 2009, following expert consultation to advance development and ensure the security of lives and property;

*Also notes* that the Federal Government and Akwa Ibom State Government, through the Akwa Ibom State Ministry of Lands and Town Planning, initiated land acquisition for a Naval Barracks project, with reference number MLTP/TCP/S/274/VOL.1/19, addressed to the Clan Head of Essene on December 23, 2009, outlining the proposed construction of a Naval Base, Primary and Secondary Schools, as well as Quarters for Senior and Junior Officers;

*Aware* that the people of Essene in Ikot Abasi Local Government Area voluntarily donated 105 hectares of their private lands for the project, with documentation completed between 2010 and 2011;

*Cognizant* that the donated 105 hectares of land were utilized by the people for agricultural purposes with the aim to attract development and increase the community's sources of income;

*Also cognizant* of the need for the government to fulfill its part of the bargain by constructing the approved Naval Base, primary and secondary schools, having acquired the necessary land from the community;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Chief of Naval Staff to commence the construction of the approved Essene Naval Base, primary and secondary schools in Akwa Ibom State, and include the project in the 2025 budget estimates; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Navy, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Uduak Alphonsus Odudoh — Ikot Abasi/Mkpat Enin/Eastern Obolo Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**(HR. 27/02/2024).**

*Motion referred to the Committees on Navy, and Legislative Compliance , pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 10 (5).*

## **20. Need to Implement Global Standards on National Policy on Education**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that Special Education, also known as Special-Needs Education, aided education, alternative provision and exceptional student education, is the practice of educating students to cater for individual differences, disabilities, and special needs;

*Also notes* that the National Policy on Education (NPE) requires adhering to global standards for improving education for children with special needs, promoting inclusive access and less restrictive learning environment;

*Aware* that Section 18(1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that “Government shall direct its policy towards ensuring that there are equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels”;

*Concerned* that the present practice of the NPE in public schools remains not consistent with existing global standards due to inadequacy of qualified staff, learning materials, software and equipment such as braille devices, audiometers, Auditory Steady State Response (ASSR), mobility devices, as well as specialised facilities for students with special needs, among others;

*Worried* that many individuals, including educators and parents, are unaware of special education laws and policies, leading to gaps in implementation and ineffective support for special needs students;

*Cognizant* of the need to ensure that all persons with special needs develop at a pace commensurate with their abilities and to contribute to the socio-economic and technological development of the nation;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Education to commence full implementation of the National Policy on Education with regards to Special Needs Education and ensure that adequate resources are made available to provide a conducive learning environment in public schools for pupils and students with special needs; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Disabilities to investigate the non-implementation of the National Policy on Special Needs Education to ensure speedy implementation and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Moshood Olarewaju Oshun — Lagos Island Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that Special Education, also known as Special-Needs Education, aided education, alternative provision and exceptional student education, is the practice of educating students to cater for individual differences, disabilities, and special needs;

*Also noted* that the National Policy on Education (NPE) requires adhering to global standards for improving education for children with special needs, promoting inclusive access and less restrictive learning environment;

*Aware* that Section 18(1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that “Government shall direct its policy towards ensuring that there are equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels”;

*Concerned* that the present practice of the NPE in public schools remains not consistent with existing global standards due to inadequacy of qualified staff, learning materials, software and equipment such as braille devices, audiometers, Auditory Steady State Response (ASSR), mobility devices, as well as specialised facilities for students with special needs, among others;

*Worried* that many individuals, including educators and parents, are unaware of special education laws and policies, leading to gaps in implementation and ineffective support for special needs students;

*Cognizant* of the need to ensure that all persons with special needs develop at a pace commensurate with their abilities and to contribute to the socio-economic and technological development of the nation;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Education to commence full implementation of the National Policy on Education with regards to Special Needs Education and ensure that adequate resources are made available to provide a conducive learning environment in public schools for pupils and students with special needs; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Disabilities to investigate the non-implementation of the National Policy on Special Needs Education to ensure speedy implementation and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 28/02/2024**).

**21. Need to Investigate the Decline of Infrastructure in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT)**  
*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that Abuja, the capital city of Nigeria, is located in the Federal Capital Territory in central Nigeria. The territory's legislative powers are vested in the National Assembly, ensuring that its budget is presented to both chambers for consideration;

*Also notes* that the Federal Capital Territory was created in 1976, comprising of six Area Councils namely: Abaji, Abuja Municipal, Bwari, Gwagwalada, Kuje, and Kwali, encompassing parts of old Kaduna, Kwara, Niger, and Plateaus States;

*Aware* that the Federal Capital Minister administers the entire FCT, while the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) focuses on construction and infrastructure development of the region;

*Also aware* that over 60% of FCT residents live outside Abuja Municipal Area Council, however, infrastructural development is poor in Abaji, Bwari, Gwagwalada, Kuje, and Kwali Area Councils, with Lugbe and Kubwa being popular for civil servants and businessmen;

*Worried* about the poor states of infrastructure such as bad roads, poor electricity supply, inadequate health centers, ill equipped hospitals, fire stations, poor water supply, insecurity, and inadequate commuter vehicles in certain regions;

*Saddened* that the sorry state of infrastructure in these areas affects productivity, as Civil Servants are regularly held in traffic gridlock hence getting to work late, the insecurity in these places cannot be over emphasized. This is evident by recurring incidences of armed robberies and kidnappings.

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Inspector General of Police and the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory to rejig the Security Architecture of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Federal Capital Territory to investigate the budgetary allocation of the FCT from 2021-2023 and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Oboku Abonsizibe Oforji — Yenogoa/Kolokuma Opokuma Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that Abuja, the capital city of Nigeria, is located in the Federal Capital Territory in central Nigeria. The territory's legislative powers are vested in the National Assembly, ensuring that its budget is presented to both chambers for consideration;

*Also noted* that the Federal Capital Territory was created in 1976, comprising of six Area Councils namely: Abaji, Abuja Municipal, Bwari, Gwagwalada, Kuje, and Kwali, encompassing parts of old Kaduna, Kwara, Niger, and Plateaus States;

*Aware* that the Federal Capital Minister administers the entire FCT, while the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) focuses on construction and infrastructure development of the region;

*Also aware* that over 60% of FCT residents live outside Abuja Municipal Area Council, however, infrastructural development is poor in Abaji, Bwari, Gwagwalada, Kuje, and Kwali Area Councils, with Lugbe and Kubwa being popular for civil servants and businessmen;

*Worried* about the poor states of infrastructure such as bad roads, poor electricity supply, inadequate health centers, ill equipped hospitals, fire stations, poor water supply, insecurity, and inadequate commuter vehicles in certain regions;

*Saddened* that the sorry state of infrastructure in these areas affects productivity, as Civil Servants are regularly held in traffic gridlock hence getting to work late, the insecurity in these places cannot be over emphasized. This is evident by recurring incidences of armed robberies and kidnappings.

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Inspector General of Police and the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory to rejig the Security Architecture of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Federal Capital Territory to investigate the budgetary allocation of the FCT from 2021-2023 and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 29/02/2024**).

**22. Adjournment**

*That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 13 February, 2024 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader).*

*The House adjourned accordingly at 1.51 p.m.*

**Abbas Tajudeen**  
*Speaker*