



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 13 February, 2024

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1. The House met at 11.06 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 Tuesday, 8 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) Inyang Emil Lemke (*Akamkpa/Biase Federal Constituency*);
    - (ii) Adamu Yakubu (*Birnin Kudu/Buji Federal Constituency*);
    - (iii) Saleh Gabriel Zock (*Kachia/Kagarko Federal Constituency*);
    - (iv) Fuad Kayode Laguda (*Surulere I Federal Constituency*).
  5. **Announcement**
    - (i) **Bereavement:**  
Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Ahmadu Usman Jaha (*Chibok/Dambo/Gwoza Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of Alhaji Ibrahim Bawa Tukura, the father of Hon. Kabiru Ibrahim Tukura, on Saturday, 10 February, 2024 after a brief illness.
    - (ii) **Visitors in the Gallery:**  
Mr Speaker recognised the presence of the following Commissioners of the National Assembly Service Commission:
      - (i) Hon. Commissioner, Olabode Akamo;

- (ii) Hon. Commissioner, Motunrayo Akintomide;
- (iii) Hon. Commissioner, (Engr) Bassey Etuk.

## 6. Petitions

- (i) A petition from occupants of Lugbe I Layout, Lugbe Metropolis, on alleged threat of demolition of their houses by Department of Development Control of Federal Capital Development Administration (FCDA), was presented and laid by Hon. Muktar Tolani Shagaya (*Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) The following petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Ojuawo Rufus Adeniyi (*Ekiti South West/Ikere/Ise Orun Federal Constituency*):
  - (a) F. O. Nwuzor (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Nwokpoko and 5 others of Ezza North and Ezza South Local Government Areas, Ebonyi State, on alleged non-payment of compensation for acquisition of their land by Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN);
  - (b) Malachy C. Nwaekpe Esq., on alleged hike in price of cement by Cement Manufacturers' Association of Nigeria (CMAN) and the inability of the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) to intervene;
- (i) A petition from Izzi Lawyer Forum, on behalf of Pius I. Awoke Esq., on his unlawful detention by Department of State Security and the Office of the National Security Adviser (NIA), was presented and laid by Hon. Uguru Emmanuel (*Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

*Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.*

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

- (i) ***Sack of Two Thousand and Fifty Four (2,054) Genuinely Recruited Staff of Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital (OAUTHC), Ile -Ife, Osun State:***  
Hon. Taofeek Ajilesoro (*Ife Central/Ife North/Ife South/Ife East 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.*

### **Sack of Two Thousand and Fifty Four (2,054) Genuinely Recruited Staff of Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital (OAUTHC), Ile -Ife, Osun State:**

The House:

*Notes* that in 2022, Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital Management, upon approval for recruitment, embarked on recruitment exercise, after the completion of the selection process, successful applicants totalling two thousand and fifty-four (2,054) which cut across the six (6) geopolitical zones were issued letters of appointments and posted to various departments and units of the institution by the management;

*Also notes* that acceptance letters were required from each of the employees and same were submitted to the management of the institution within the stipulated time and file numbers created for each of the employees;

*Aware* that between July 2023 and November 2023, the Federal Ministry of Health and the Management of the Institution conducted three (3) different levels of verification exercise for the staff in expectation of the capturing and enrolment into the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) platform for the payment of salaries and monthly emoluments;

*Also aware* that the issuance of appointment letters to these workers signifies a contract which is currently being negated and also represents grave injustices to the affected persons who have relocated their families and dependants to their present place of employment;

*Concerned* that while the staff were clamouring for the payment of their salaries and delay in capturing, the management made pronouncement of their sack, claiming that the number of the employees who have worked tirelessly for the institution for fourteen (14) months is higher than the waiver the institution secured in 2022;

*Also concerned* that these newly employed workers have made a lot of financial commitments during documentation process, as the workers were required to pay for medical certificate of fitness and some other levies which gulp in variations of about thirty five thousand Naira (₦35,000) to fifty thousand Naira (₦50,000) from the purse of the newly employed staff and the money paid directly to the account of the hospital management;

*Disturbed* that the affected workers have been exposed to occupational hazard within the hospital environment without the corresponding emoluments over the last fourteen (14) months that has led to the tragic loss of lives serve as a stark reminder of the gravity of the situation at hand, the tragic death of one Mrs Ajayi E. I., who was affected in the sack;

*Worried* that if urgent measures are not taken to rescue the helpless workers of Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital (OAUTHC), Ile Ife, it could lead to chaos and break down of law and order within the institution;

*Resolves to:*

Invite the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Minister of Health and Social Security, the Managers of (IPPIS), The Management of Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital, Representatives of the affected employees and other relevant stakeholders to appear before the committees on Health Institutions and Public Service Matters to investigate the matter and report within two (2) weeks (*Hon. Taofeek Abimbola Ajilesoro — Ife Central/Ife North/Ife South/Ife East Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that in 2022, Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital Management, upon approval for recruitment, embarked on recruitment exercise, after the completion of the selection process, successful applicants totalling two thousand and fifty-four (2,054) which cut across the six (6) geopolitical zones were issued letters of appointments and posted to various departments and units of the institution by the management;

*Also noted* that acceptance letters were required from each of the employees and same were submitted to the management of the institution within the stipulated time and file numbers created for each of the employees;

*Aware* that between July 2023 and November 2023, the Federal Ministry of Health and the Management of the Institution conducted three (3) different levels of verification exercise for the staff in expectation of the capturing and enrolment into the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) platform for the payment of salaries and monthly emoluments;

*Also aware* that the issuance of appointment letters to these workers signifies a contract which is currently being negated and also represents grave injustices to the affected persons who have relocated their families and dependants to their present place of employment;

*Concerned* that while the staff were clamouring for the payment of their salaries and delay in capturing, the management made pronouncement of their sack, claiming that the number of the employees who have worked tirelessly for the institution for fourteen (14) months is higher than the waiver the institution secured in 2022;

*Also concerned* that these newly employed workers have made a lot of financial commitments during documentation process, as the workers were required to pay for medical certificate of fitness and some other levies which gulp in variations of about thirty five thousand Naira (₦35,000) to fifty thousand Naira (₦50,000) from the purse of the newly employed staff and the money paid directly to the account of the hospital management;

*Disturbed* that the affected workers have been exposed to occupational hazard within the hospital environment without the corresponding emoluments over the last fourteen (14) months that has led to the tragic loss of lives serve as a stark reminder of the gravity of the situation at hand, the tragic death of one Mrs Ajayi E. I., who was affected in the sack;

*Worried* that if urgent measures are not taken to rescue the helpless workers of Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital (OAUTHC), Ile Ife, it could lead to chaos and break down of law and order within the institution;

*Resolved to:*

Invite the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Minister of Health and Social Security, the Managers of (IPPIS), The Management of Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital, Representatives of the affected employees and other relevant stakeholders to appear before the committees on Health Institutions and Public Service Matters to investigate the matter and report within two (2) weeks (**HR. 30/02/2024**).

**(ii) *Need to Re-examine the List of Proposed States to Fill the 12 Vacancies Created to the Disadvantage of Others in the High Courts of the Federal Capital Territory:***

Hon. Igariwey Iduma Enwo (*Afikpo North/Afikpo South Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
- (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

*Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance — Agreed to.*

*Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.*

**Need to Re-examine the List of Proposed States to Fill the 12 Vacancies Created to the Disadvantage of Others in the High Courts of the Federal Capital Territory:**

The House:

*Notes* that the High Court is one of the Judicial bodies in the Federal Capital Territory Judiciary established by Section 255 of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999;

*Also notes* that in the past few days, the media and the civil Society Community have expressed serious concerns and protestations over the proposed list of States to fill the 12 vacant positions in the High Courts of the Federal Capital Territory;

*Observes* that information in the public space is to the effect that the proposed list is expected to be sent to the National Judicial Council by 19 February, 2024, for vetting by the NJC, and subsequently to the Senate for confirmation;

*Cognizant* that under the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja (Number of Judges) Act, 2003, the principle of Federal character of Nigeria, shall be applied in the appointment of Judges of the Court; implying that the number of judges of the FCT High Court must always reflect the 36 states and the FCT;

*Concerned* that whereas every state of the federation has judges from their respective States appointed in the FCT High Court system, 4 States, namely, Ebonyi, Abia, Imo and Bayelsa, do not have a single indigene from their States appointed and sitting in the FCT High Court system;

*Worried* that Ebonyi State in particular is doubly discriminated against in that it has none of its judges appointed in the High Courts of the FCT, and yet was not listed as one of the states to apply for the vacant 12 positions sought to be filled;

*Aware* that according to the FCT website, at least 7 Magistrates from the four unrepresented States of Ebonyi, Abia, Imo and Bayelsa are currently qualified, and working in the FCT Court system as Magistrates, in addition to qualified private legal practitioners from these states who are willing and eager to apply to fill these vacant positions;

*Also concerned* that the non-representation of judges from 4 States in the High Court System of the FCT, when some others have as many as 3 judges representing them, is a gross violation of Section 14 (3) of the 1999 Constitution which requires staffing from the 36 States and the FCT;

*Also cognizant* of the fact that the underlying philosophy of the Federal Character Commission principle is to provide equality of access in public service representations, curb dominance by one or few sections of the country, promote inclusiveness and national unity. Violation of this principle of our constitution may not only be destabilising, but could open the flood gates to litigation;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court Abuja to immediately halt the recruitment process until there is compliance with the Federal Character principle and quota system;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on FCT Judiciary, and Judiciary for the purposes of investigating the Federal Character approval granted for the purpose and the extent

of compliance thereto (*Hon. Igariwey Iduma Enwo — Afikpo North/Afikpo South Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the High Court is one of the Judicial bodies in the Federal Capital Territory Judiciary established by Section 255 of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999;

*Also noted* that in the past few days, the media and the civil Society Community have expressed serious concerns and protestations over the proposed list of States to fill the 12 vacant positions in the High Courts of the Federal Capital Territory;

*Observed* that information in the public space is to the effect that the proposed list is expected to be sent to the National Judicial Council by 19 February, 2024, for vetting by the NJC, and subsequently to the Senate for confirmation;

*Cognizant* that under the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja (Number of Judges) Act, 2003, the principle of Federal character of Nigeria, shall be applied in the appointment of Judges of the Court; implying that the number of judges of the FCT High Court must always reflect the 36 states and the FCT;

*Concerned* that whereas every state of the federation has judges from their respective States appointed in the FCT High Court system, 4 States, namely, Ebonyi, Abia, Imo and Bayelsa, do not have a single indigene from their States appointed and sitting in the FCT High Court system;

*Worried* that Ebonyi State in particular is doubly discriminated against in that it has none of its judges appointed in the High Courts of the FCT, and yet was not listed as one of the states to apply for the vacant 12 positions sought to be filled;

*Aware* that according to the FCT website, at least 7 Magistrates from the four unrepresented States of Ebonyi, Abia, Imo and Bayelsa are currently qualified, and working in the FCT Court system as Magistrates, in addition to qualified private legal practitioners from these states who are willing and eager to apply to fill these vacant positions;

*Also concerned* that the non-representation of judges from 4 States in the High Court System of the FCT, when some others have as many as 3 judges representing them, is a gross violation of Section 14 (3) of the 1999 Constitution which requires staffing from the 36 States and the FCT;

*Also cognizant* of the fact that the underlying philosophy of the Federal Character Commission principle is to provide equality of access in public service representations, curb dominance by one or few sections of the country, promote inclusiveness and national unity. Violation of this principle of our constitution may not only be destabilising, but could open the flood gates to litigation;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court Abuja to immediately halt the recruitment process until there is compliance with the Federal Character principle and quota system;

(ii) mandate the Committees on FCT Judiciary, and Judiciary for the purposes of investigating the Federal Character approval granted for the purpose and the extent of compliance thereto (**HR. 31/02/2024**).

**(iii) *Need to Monitor Increased FAAC Allocations and Useage in Accordance with Enabling Laws in the Country to Reduce Poverty in Nigeria:***

Hon. Ademorin Kuye Aliu (*Somolu 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 Monitor Increased FAAC Allocations and Useage in Accordance with Enabling Laws in the Country to Reduce Poverty in Nigeria:**

The House:

*Aware* that amount shared by the Federal, States and Local Governments from the Federal Account allocation Committee (F AAC) has increased significantly, due to the withdrawal of fuel subsidy, floating of the naira and other economic policies unanimously introduced by the government;

*Also aware* that States and Local Governments got the most cash from FAAC in at least seven years after the subsidy removal took away its burden on public coffers and a currency reform delivered a 40% boost on Naira income;

*Informed* that States and local Governments received a total of N6.57 trillion in 2023, double the ₦3.16 trillion they received in 2022;

*Concerned* that despite the availability of more cash to the States, 14.2million more citizens continue to grapple with poverty even as Delta that received ₦217.74 billion; River — ₦179.81 billion, Akwa Ibom — ₦145.57, Bayelsa — ₦128 billion, have poverty rate of 13.1%, 7.3%, 22.9%, 24.3% respectively according to a World report;

*Also concerned* that most of these States with increase allocation faces significant challenge in payment of salaries, effective management of public institution, provision of public transportation and access to potable water as unemployment rate have increased to over 51% in some of them;

*Worried* that State Governors have brazenly refused to complement the federal government poverty amelioration efforts and are not driving the necessary economic transformation that will reduce citizen suffering in their respective States with the increased allocation at their disposal;

*Resolves to:*

Mandate the Committees on Special Duties, National Planning and Economic Development, and Inter-Governmental Affairs to look into State spending and utilization of the increased allocation from FAAC and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Ademorin Kuye Aliu — Shomolu Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Aware* that amount shared by the Federal, States and Local Governments from the Federal Account allocation Committee (F AAC) has increased significantly, due to the withdrawal of fuel subsidy, floating of the naira and other economic policies unanimously introduced by the government;

*Also aware* that States and Local Governments got the most cash from FAAC in at least seven years after the subsidy removal took away its burden on public coffers and a currency reform delivered a 40% boost on Naira income;

*Informed* that States and local Governments received a total of N6.57 trillion in 2023, double the ₦3.16 trillion they received in 2022;

*Concerned* that despite the availability of more cash to the States, 14.2million more citizens continue to grapple with poverty even as Delta that received ₦217.74 billion; River — ₦179.81 billion, Akwa Ibom — ₦145.57, Bayelsa — ₦128 billion, have poverty rate of 13.1%, 7.3%, 22.9%, 24.3% respectively according to a World report;

*Also concerned* that most of these States with increase allocation faces significant challenge in payment of salaries, effective management of public institution, provision of public transportation and access to potable water as unemployment rate have increased to over 51% in some of them;

*Worried* that State Governors have brazenly refused to complement the federal government poverty amelioration efforts and are not driving the necessary economic transformation that will reduce citizen suffering in their respective States with the increased allocation at their disposal;

*Resolved to:*

Mandate the Committees on Special Duties, National Planning and Economic Development, and Inter-Governmental Affairs to look into State spending and utilization of the increased allocation from FAAC and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 32/02/2024**).

## 8. Presentation of Reports

(i) ***Ad-hoc Committee on Dispute Between the Super Falcons and the Nigeria Football Federation:***

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on Dispute between the Super Falcons and the Nigeria Football Federation (**HR. 69/07/2023**)” (*Hon. Blessing Onuh Onyeche — Otukpo/Ohimini Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

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

**Report on the petition by Rev. Dr Johnson O. Odii on behalf of Mgbom Na. Achara Development Union in Ohaozara Local Government Area:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Rev. Dr Johnson O. Odii on behalf of Mgbom Na. Achara Development Union in Ohaozara Local Government Area of Ebonyi



State, a cry for government intervention to save their souls” (*Hon. Irom Mike Etaba — Obubra/Etung Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

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

**Report on the petition by Bolaji Yunus, the CEO Bolaful Solution Ventures against Access Bank Plc:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Bolaji Yunus, the CEO Bolaful Solution Ventures against Access Bank Plc, 14/15 Prince Alaba Abiodun Oniru Road, Victoria Island Lagos, whose signage fell on him while on the process of work and the bank refused to treat him” (*Hon. Irom Mike Etaba — Obubra/Etung Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

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

**Report on the petition by Aruya O. Davidson against Legal Aid 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 Aruya O. Davidson against Legal Aid Council of Nigeria on Illegal Employment and Elevation of Mrs Oghenekume” (*Hon. Irom Mike Etaba — Obubra/Etung Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

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

**Report on the petition by Raymond Asada against Management of Bank of Agriculture:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by Raymond Asada against Management of the Bank of Agriculture for unfair treatment in matter of Promotion by Management of Bank of Industry” (*Hon. Irom Mike Etaba — Obubra/Etung Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

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

**Report on the petition by A. E. Adole & Co. against Julius Berger Nigeria Plc, Ijora-Lagos:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the petition by A. E. Adole & Co. against Julius Berger Nigeria Plc, Ijora-Lagos: A Case of Conspiracy to Vendetta, Criminal Defamation and Conduct likely to cause Breach of Peace” (*Hon. Irom Mike Etaba — Obubra/Etung Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

9. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act, 2015 and for Related Matters (SB.188) — Second Reading**  
*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act, 2015 and for Related Matters be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Debate.*

*Debate adjourned to enable the Committee on Rules and Business circulate the compendium of the Bill.*

10. **A Bill for an Act to Alter the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) to change the Educational Qualification for Elections into Certain Political Offices and for Related Matters — Second Reading**  
*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Alter the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) to change the Educational Qualification for Elections into Certain Political Offices and for Related Matters be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Adewunmi Oriyomi Onanuga — Ikenne/Shagamu/Remo North Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*By leave of the House, debate adjourned for further consultation.*

11. **A Bill for an act to Amend the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015 to Increase the Penalty for the Offence of Female Genital Mutilation under Act and for Related Matters (HB. 897) — Second Reading**  
*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an act to Amend the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015 to Increase the Penalty for the Offence of Female Genital Mutilation under Act and for Related Matters (HB. 897) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Kafilat Adetola Ogbara — Kosofe 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 Women Affairs.*

12. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act, Cap. A12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make provision for Establishment of Federal Institute of Fisheries Research, Tafawa Balewa, Bauchi State and for Related Matters (HB. 285) — Second Reading**  
*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act, Cap. A12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make provision for Establishment of Federal Institute of Fisheries Research, Tafawa Balewa, Bauchi State and for Related Matters (HB. 285) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Jafaru Gambo Leko — Bogoro/Dass/Tafawa Balewa Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

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

*Bill read the Second Time.*

*Bill referred to the Committee on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions.*

**13. A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Ikosu, Moba Local Government Area, Ekiti State and for Related Matters (HB.782) — *Second Reading***

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Ikosu, Moba Local Government Area, Ekiti State and for Related Matters (HB.782) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Kolawole D. Akinlayo — Ido/Osi/Moba/Ilejemeje 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.*

**14. Rescission on Consolidated Bills (HB. 87 and HB. 154)**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, two Bills, (HB. 87 and HB. 154) seeking to amend the Niger Delta Development Commission Act were consolidated;

*Aware* that HB. 154 seeks to include Anambra State as one of the Oil Producing States, whereas HB. 87 seeks to amend the Niger Delta Development Commission Act to provide for anticipated and sustainable budget process, a matter different from that of HB. 154;

*Cognizant* that although the two Bills are amending the same Act, they are addressing different subject matters, hence the need to rescind the decision taken on December 20, 2023;

*Resolves to:*

Rescind its decision and allow the Bills to be read separately (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**15. Need to Investigate the Regulatory Implementation and Compliance of the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018 was established to fully integrate persons with disabilities into society and establishes the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, vests it with power to ensure their education, health care, social, economic, and civil rights;

*Also notes* that Part II, Sections (iii), (iv), and (v) of the Discrimination of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2018 provides that a person with disability has the right to access the physical environment and buildings on an equal basis with others, that a public building shall be constructed with the necessary accessibility aids, such as lifts (where necessary), ramps, and any other facility that shall make it accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities. That roadside walks, pedestrian crossings, and all other special facilities as set out in the First Schedule of the Act made for public use shall be made accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities, including those in wheelchairs and the visually impaired;

*Further notes* that Part II, Section (vi): provides for transitory period which was to commenced in 2018 and lapsed in 2023, provides that there shall be a transitory period of five years within which all public buildings and structures, whether movable, immovable, or automobiles, that were inaccessible to persons with disabilities shall be modified to be accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities, including those on wheelchairs;

*Also aware* that the National Assembly is saddled with the responsibility of making laws for the peace, order, good governance, and wellbeing of all citizens of the Federation or any part thereof as enshrines in Section 4 (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999, as amended);

*Disturbed* that since the bill was signed into Law by the former President Muhammadu Buhari there has been minimal adherence and compliance to the Act by Government's Ministries, Departments, and Agencies, Private Firms and bodies;

*Worried* that new building plans are not scrutinized by the relevant authorities to ensure they meet the stated accessibility standards, thus making persons with disabilities go about their daily activities with fear of being injured, neglected, and discriminated against;

*Cognizant* of the fact that integrating persons with disabilities, particularly in urban and modern buildings, will go a long way in forestalling and propagating the plan of the government to integrate all of its citizens without any form of discrimination;

*Convinced* that setting up a working committee to address these issues will go a long way in ensuring that the provisions of the Act are strictly adhered to in promoting equality among the citizenry;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Executive Secretary of the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities to revive compliance activities of the Commission, look into the affected gray areas and actively operationalize the working framework of the Act accordingly;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Health and the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation to provide and make available relief materials, equipment's to aid free mobility of persons with disabilities across the federation;
- (iii) further urge the Commission to encourage constant advocacy and outreach to enlighten legislators and other decision makers on issues affecting persons with disabilities; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Disabilities, Safety Standards, Specialty Healthcare, Human Rights, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure legislative compliance (*Hon. Ibrahim Mohammed — Bunza/Birnin Kebbi/Kalgo Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018 was established to fully integrate persons with disabilities into society and establishes the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, vests it with power to ensure their education, health care, social, economic, and civil rights;

*Also noted* that Part II, Sections (iii), (iv), and (v) of the Discrimination of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2018 provides that a person with disability has the right to access the physical environment and

buildings on an equal basis with others, that a public building shall be constructed with the necessary accessibility aids, such as lifts (where necessary), ramps, and any other facility that shall make it accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities. That roadside walks, pedestrian crossings, and all other special facilities as set out in the First Schedule of the Act made for public use shall be made accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities, including those in wheelchairs and the visually impaired;

*Further noted* that Part II, Section (vi): provides for transitory period which was to commenced in 2018 and lapsed in 2023, provides that there shall be a transitory period of five years within which all public buildings and structures, whether movable, immovable, or automobiles, that were inaccessible to persons with disabilities shall be modified to be accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities, including those on wheelchairs;

*Also aware* that the National Assembly is saddled with the responsibility of making laws for the peace, order, good governance, and wellbeing of all citizens of the Federation or any part thereof as enshrines in Section 4 (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999, as amended);

*Disturbed* that since the bill was signed into Law by the former President Muhammadu Buhari there has been minimal adherence and compliance to the Act by Government's Ministries, Departments, and Agencies, Private Firms and bodies;

*Worried* that new building plans are not scrutinized by the relevant authorities to ensure they meet the stated accessibility standards, thus making persons with disabilities go about their daily activities with fear of being injured, neglected, and discriminated against;

*Cognizant* of the fact that integrating persons with disabilities, particularly in urban and modern buildings, will go a long way in forestalling and propagating the plan of the government to integrate all of its citizens without any form of discrimination;

*Convinced* that setting up a working committee to address these issues will go a long way in ensuring that the provisions of the Act are strictly adhered to in promoting equality among the citizenry;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Executive Secretary of the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities to revive compliance activities of the Commission, look into the affected gray areas and actively operationalize the working framework of the Act accordingly;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Health and the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation to provide and make available relief materials, equipment's to aid free mobility of persons with disabilities across the federation;
- (iii) further urge the Commission to encourage constant advocacy and outreach to enlighten legislators and other decision makers on issues affecting persons with disabilities; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Disabilities, Safety Standards, Specialty Health Care, Human Rights, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure legislative compliance (**HR. 33/02/2024**).

**16. Need for Drastic action against Health Facilities that Refuse Treatment of Accident or Gunshot Patients without Police Reports**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the provisions of Section 1 of the Compulsory Treatment and Care for Victims of Gunshot

Act, 2017 provides that every hospital is to receive and treat victims of gunshot wounds with or without police clearance and/or payment of an initial deposit, but are duty bound to report to the nearest police station within hours of commencing treatment on the victim;

*Also notes* that Section 7 of the Act states that "any authority or person whose omission results in the unnecessary death of a gunshot victim shall be liable to imprisonment for 5 years or a fine in the sum of ₦500,000.00 or both";

*Aware* that immediate medical attention is crucial for survival and quality of life for accident or gunshot victims, and hospitals and healthcare facilities have an ethical and legal obligation to preserve human life regardless of the circumstances;

*Observes* that despite the Act providing for the compulsory treatment and care for victims of gunshots by hospitals in the country, there are rising cases of medical personnel refusing to treat victims due to absence of doctors' reports;

*Also aware* that patients requiring emergency medical treatment due to accidents or gunshot injuries usually face denial or delayed access to healthcare services if they fail to present a police report;

*Concerned* that many victims of accidents or gunshots are unable to obtain a police report promptly, given the severity of their injuries, the absence of law enforcement at the scene, or other relevant factors beyond their control;

*Worried* that the refusal of hospitals to treat patients without a police report is a direct violation of the principles of medical ethics, professional conduct, and the universal right of individuals to access healthcare, and this discriminatory practice disproportionately impacts vulnerable populations, such as minorities and the poor, who are more likely to experience higher rates of accidents or gun-related incidents;

*Aware* that existing laws and regulations do not explicitly prohibit hospitals from refusing treatment to accident or gunshot victims without a police report, thereby perpetuating unjust practices;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health and its regulatory authorities to take immediate and decisive action to address the issue of hospitals and healthcare facilities refusing to treat accident or gunshot patients without a police report;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Health to enforce regulations prohibiting hospitals from denying or delaying emergency medical care to victims of accidents or gunshot wounds without a police report and impose appropriate sanctions and penalties;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Information, through the National Orientation Agency to organize an awareness campaign to educate the public, hospitals, and healthcare professionals about the necessity of immediate medical assistance for accident or gunshot victims;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Odianosen Henry Okojie — Esan North East/Esan South East Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the provisions of Section 1 of the Compulsory Treatment and Care for Victims of Gunshot

Act, 2017 provides that every hospital is to receive and treat victims of gunshot wounds with or without police clearance and/or payment of an initial deposit, but are duty bound to report to the nearest police station within hours of commencing treatment on the victim;

*Also noted* that Section 7 of the Act states that "any authority or person whose omission results in the unnecessary death of a gunshot victim shall be liable to imprisonment for 5 years or a fine in the sum of ₦500,000.00 or both";

*Aware* that immediate medical attention is crucial for survival and quality of life for accident or gunshot victims, and hospitals and healthcare facilities have an ethical and legal obligation to preserve human life regardless of the circumstances;

*Observed* that despite the Act providing for the compulsory treatment and care for victims of gunshots by hospitals in the country, there are rising cases of medical personnel refusing to treat victims due to absence of doctors' reports;

*Also aware* that patients requiring emergency medical treatment due to accidents or gunshot injuries usually face denial or delayed access to healthcare services if they fail to present a police report;

*Concerned* that many victims of accidents or gunshots are unable to obtain a police report promptly, given the severity of their injuries, the absence of law enforcement at the scene, or other relevant factors beyond their control;

*Worried* that the refusal of hospitals to treat patients without a police report is a direct violation of the principles of medical ethics, professional conduct, and the universal right of individuals to access healthcare, and this discriminatory practice disproportionately impacts vulnerable populations, such as minorities and the poor, who are more likely to experience higher rates of accidents or gun-related incidents;

*Aware* that existing laws and regulations do not explicitly prohibit hospitals from refusing treatment to accident or gunshot victims without a police report, thereby perpetuating unjust practices;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health and its regulatory authorities to take immediate and decisive action to address the issue of hospitals and healthcare facilities refusing to treat accident or gunshot patients without a police report;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Health to enforce regulations prohibiting hospitals from denying or delaying emergency medical care to victims of accidents or gunshot wounds without a police report and impose appropriate sanctions and penalties;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Information, through the National Orientation Agency to organize an awareness campaign to educate the public, hospitals, and healthcare professionals about the necessity of immediate medical assistance for accident or gunshot victims;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 34/92/2024**).

## **17. Menace of Erosion in Mashi/Dutsi Federal Constituency**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* the devastating erosion in Mashi/Dutsi Federal Constituency, Katsina State Affected farming

activities and source of livelihoods of the people resulting in loss of developmental infrastructure and damaged communities;

*Also notes* that public infrastructure like the police station, Independent National electoral Commission (INEC) office, Mashi market, schools, and township roads experienced gully erosions annually and pose a grave danger as daily activities are hampered;

*Recalls* that the threat of gully erosion affected the major road from Kastina-Tsintsiya-Mashi-Garo-Doka-Shargalle-Kayawa-Daura-Kazaure-Dabatt-Kano city;

*Cognizant* of the need to build efficient drainage system in Mashi town and environs to address the gully erosion in the town;

*Worried* that if the erosion menace is not addressed, most villages and houses within the Mashi/Dutsi Federal Constituency may have their farmlands and houses destroyed by the erosion;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Ecological Fund Office to immediately commence remediation work to arrest the erosion problem by building drainage in the affected areas in Mushi/Dutsi Federal Constituency;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministries of Finance, and Budget and National Planning to release funds for the control of erosion in the Mashi/Dutsi Federal Constituency; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Ecological Funds, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Salisu Yusuf Majigiri —Mushi/Dutsi Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**(HR. 35/02/2024).**

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

**18. Deployment of Armoured Personnel Carrier Vehicle to Mopol 64 Base, Obioha, Ideato South Local Government Area, Imo State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that Section 4 (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) empowers the National Assembly to make laws for the order and good governance of the Federation or any part thereof;

*Also notes* that Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that the security and welfare of the people of Nigeria shall be the primary purpose of government;

*Aware* that MOPOL 64 Base located in Obioha in Ideato South Local Government Area of Ideato North/South Federal Constituency serves as the Operational Base for the Mobile Police in the Federal Constituency and its environs;

*Also aware* that Ideato North and South Local Government Areas have witnessed increased attacks by armed bandits, unknown gunmen and kidnappers in recent times, thus endangering the lives and properties of the residents;



*Saddened* that the Mobile Police Base in Obiohia community in Ideato South Local Government Area lacks adequate Armoured Personnel Carrier vehicles to effectively respond to distress calls and dislodge the heavily armed criminal elements;

*Concerned* that the Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) vehicles deployed to the Mobile Police Force Base was taken to Owerri and are yet to be returned, thereby hindering the Police Command's efforts from tackling the security situation in Ideato North/South Federal Constituency;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) to immediately deploy an Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) Vehicle to MOPOL 64 Base in Obiohia, Ideato South Local Government Area, Imo State; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Ikeagwuonu Onyinye Ugochinyere — Ideato North/Ideato South Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that Section 4 (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) empowers the National Assembly to make laws for the order and good governance of the Federation or any part thereof;

*Also noted* that Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that the security and welfare of the people of Nigeria shall be the primary purpose of government;

*Aware* that MOPOL 64 Base located in Obiohia in Ideato South Local Government Area of Ideato North/South Federal Constituency serves as the Operational Base for the Mobile Police in the Federal Constituency and its environs;

*Also aware* that Ideato North and South Local Government Areas have witnessed increased attacks by armed bandits, unknown gunmen and kidnapers in recent times, thus endangering the lives and properties of the residents;

*Saddened* that the Mobile Police Base in Obiohia community in Ideato South Local Government Area lacks adequate Armoured Personnel Carrier vehicles to effectively respond to distress calls and dislodge the heavily armed criminal elements;

*Concerned* that the Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) vehicles deployed to the Mobile Police Force Base was taken to Owerri and are yet to be returned, thereby hindering the Police Command's efforts from tackling the security situation in Ideato North/South Federal Constituency;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to immediately deploy an Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) Vehicle to MOPOL 64 Base in Obiohia, Ideato South Local Government Area, Imo State; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 36/02/2024**).

**19. Call to Reconstruct the Rabah-Bakura Junction Road**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that Rabah-Bakura Junction Road is an expressway of approximately 81 km and a crucial transportation route for people and agricultural produce across the country;

*Worried* that the road is in a dreadful state, making the movement of goods and people extremely tedious, particularly sections 3 and 4 of the roads which are nearly impassable during rainy season;

*Aware* that the survey, design and bill of engineering measurements for the reconstruction of the Road were conducted by the Ministry Long ago but the project was conspicuously missing in the 2024 budget proposal of the Ministry;

*Cognizant* that in October 2019, a motion was moved in the House of Representatives on the rehabilitation of Rabah-Bakura Junction Road, wherein the House resolved to mandate the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to ensure speedy rehabilitation of the road, however, the road has remained untended to;

*Also worried* that the poor condition of the expressway reduces the economic potential of Sokoto State, particularly for the 32 farming communities that have to pay more for the transportation of produce, thereby threatening food security in the country;

*Further worried* that the inability of the federal government to reconstruct and rehabilitate the road encourages criminal elements to attack commuters, making the road unsustainable for mobility for Sokoto State citizens and Nigerians;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works to cause emergency repairs of the road, particularly sections 3, and 4, from Tukuyum to Kurya junction and Subhana Bridge near Gandhi Town, respectively, in 2025 budget estimates;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Works to provide for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Rabah-Bakura Junction Road in the 2025 budget estimate; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Works, Appropriations, and Legislative Compliance, to ensure compliance (*Hon. Ibrahim Almustapha Aliyu — Wurno/Rabbah Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**(HR. 37/02/2024).**

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

**20. Need to End Gas Flaring and Convert same to Electricity and Build Cottage Hospital to Host Communities in Eleme, Tai Oyibo**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that Nigeria has abundant reserves of natural gas, estimated at over 100 trillion cubic meters, qualifying the country to be one of the countries with proven gas reserves and having significant waste flared around its environs;

*Also notes* that Oyigbo, Eleme, and Tai Local Government Areas in Rivers State contributes greatly to the nation's oil and gas, hosting over ten (10) flow stations in Oyigbo and two (2) flow stations in Tai and Eleme, thus, housing over two refineries out of the four refineries in Nigeria;

*Further notes* that flared gas is a major cheap source of electricity capable of taking care of the power needs of host communities and even beyond, that may turn the economic growth of the country through small and medium-scale businesses;

*Aware* that the large volume of gas flared has an enormously devastating effect on the populace in the host communities, ranging from various health issues, soil fertility loss, corrosion of roofing sheets, agricultural decline, and biodiversity depletion;

*Concerned* that the deliberate refusal by the oil and gas companies to tackle the menace could generate protests and agitations that may sometimes cripple the economy and cause the loss of precious human lives;

*Cognizant* that with the environmental hazards of gas flaring resulting in humongous revenue losses, there is a need to compel the oil and gas companies to activate their corporate social responsibilities (CSR) and build quality Cottage Hospital at Oyigbo and provide electricity to Eleme and Tai Communities, taking advantage of the new Electricity Act, 2023;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministries of Power, Petroleum Resources, and other relevant agencies of government to compel the oil and gas producing companies engaged in gas flaring to immediately build cottage hospitals, as well as convert flared gases to electricity for the benefit of Oyigbo, Tai, and Eleme Federal Constituencies; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Legislative Compliance, and Host Communities to ensure implementation (*Hon. Felix Uche Nwaeke — Eleme/Oyigbo/Tai Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

In Prayer (i), immediately after the word “Federal Constituencies”, *insert* the words “all other Host Communities” (*Hon. Nnolim Nnaji John —Nkanu East/Nkanu West Federal Constituency*).

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

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

The House:

*Noted* that Nigeria has abundant reserves of natural gas, estimated at over 100 trillion cubic meters, qualifying the country to be one of the countries with proven gas reserves and having significant waste flared around its environs;

*Also noted* that Oyigbo, Eleme, and Tai Local Government Areas in Rivers State contributes greatly to the nation's oil and gas, hosting over ten (10) flow stations in Oyigbo and two (2) flow stations in Tai and Eleme, thus, housing over two refineries out of the four refineries in Nigeria;

*Further noted* that flared gas is a major cheap source of electricity capable of taking care of the power needs of host communities and even beyond, that may turn the economic growth of the country through small and medium-scale businesses;

*Aware* that the large volume of gas flared has an enormously devastating effect on the populace in

the host communities, ranging from various health issues, soil fertility loss, corrosion of roofing sheets, agricultural decline, and biodiversity depletion;

*Concerned* that the deliberate refusal by the oil and gas companies to tackle the menace could generate protests and agitations that may sometimes cripple the economy and cause the loss of precious human lives;

*Cognizant* that with the environmental hazards of gas flaring resulting in humongous revenue losses, there is a need to compel the oil and gas companies to activate their corporate social responsibilities (CSR) and build quality Cottage Hospital at Oyigbo and provide electricity to Eleme and Tai Communities, taking advantage of the new Electricity Act, 2023;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministries of Power, Petroleum Resources, and other relevant agencies of government to compel the oil and gas producing companies engaged in gas flaring to immediately build cottage hospitals, as well as convert flared gases to electricity for the benefit of Oyigbo, Tai, and Eleme Federal Constituencies, and all other Host Communities; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Legislative Compliance, and Host Communities to ensure implementation (**HR. 38/02/2024**).

## **21. Incessant Occurrence of Domestic Gas Explosions in Nigeria**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* the frequent domestic gas explosions that have caused immense pain, suffering, and loss of lives and destruction of most communities;

*Also notes* that the recent surge in domestic gas explosions has left a trail of devastation across the nation, with over 50 reported incidents in 2022 alone, resulting in avoidable deaths of innocent citizens, county injuries, and the destruction of properties worth millions of Naira;

*Aware* that the pain inflicted by domestic gas explosions is not limited to the physical injuries sustained by the victims, as the psychological trauma is immense, leaving survivors in fear, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorders and leading to a high rate of suicidality;

*Cognizant* of the roles of regulatory agencies like the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON), etc. and their inability to checkmate this trend, as well as the proliferation of G2S retail outlets situated even in residential areas across the country;

*Also cognizant* of the urgent need to address domestic gas explosions and unsafe trinitities through a multi-pronged implementation strategy including public education, stricter safety regulations and effective enforcement mechanisms;

*Resolves to:*

Mandate the Committee on Gas Resources to:

- (a) investigate the immediate and remote cause of the recent domestic gas explosions and identify potential safety hazards in the gas industry;
- (b) review existing safety regulations and make recommendations for strengthening them;

- (c) monitor the implementation of safety regulations by the NUPRC as well as other related state and non-state organizations and ensure that it is effectively enforcing them; and
- (d) engage stakeholders in the Gas Industry to develop strategies for preventing future gas explosions and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Abdulhakeem Kamilu Ado — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency and one other*).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

In the Prayer, immediately after the words “Gas Resources”, *insert* the words “Safety Standard and Regulations” (*Hon. Nnolim Nnaji John —Nkanu East/Nkanu West Federal Constituency*).

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

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

The House:

*Noted* the frequent domestic gas explosions that have caused immense pain, suffering, and loss of lives and destruction of most communities;

*Also noted* that the recent surge in domestic gas explosions has left a trail of devastation across the nation, with over 50 reported incidents in 2022 alone, resulting in avoidable deaths of innocent citizens, county injuries, and the destruction of properties worth millions of Naira;

*Aware* that the pain inflicted by domestic gas explosions is not limited to the physical injuries sustained by the victims, as the psychological trauma is immense, leaving survivors in fear, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorders and leading to a high rate of suicidality;

*Cognizant* of the roles of regulatory agencies like the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON), etc., and their inability to checkmate this trend, as well as the proliferation of G2S retail outlets situated even in residential areas across the country;

*Also cognizant* of the urgent need to address domestic gas explosions and unsafe trinitities through a multi-pronged implementation strategy including public education, stricter safety regulations and effective enforcement mechanisms;

*Resolved to:*

Mandate the Committees on Gas Resources, and Safety Standard and Regulations to:

- (a) investigate the immediate and remote cause of the recent domestic gas explosions and identify potential safety hazards in the gas industry;
- (b) review existing safety regulations and make recommendations for strengthening them;
- (c) monitor the implementation of safety regulations by the NUPRC as well as other related state and non-state organizations and ensure that it is effectively enforcing them; and
- (d) engage stakeholders in the Gas Industry to develop strategies for preventing future gas explosions and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 39/02/2024**).

**22. Order of the Day**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do set down items 14 - 16 on the Order Paper

till another legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 7 (3)” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

**23. Adjournment**

*That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 14 February, 2024 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).*

*The House adjourned accordingly at 2.41 p.m.*

**Abbas Tajudeen**  
*Speaker*