



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 21 November, 2023

1. The House met at 10.47 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 Thursday, 16 November, 2023.
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) Fom Dalyop Chollom (*Barkin Ladi/Ryom Federal Constituency*);
 - (ii) Ajang Alfred Iliya (*Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*);
 - (iii) Bulus Vincent (*Langtang North/Langtang South Federal Constituency*);
 - (iv) Martins George Oke (*Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).
4. **Admittance into the Chamber**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House, pursuant to Order Twenty-One, Rule 8 (2) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives, do admit into the Chamber, the Chief of Defence Staff, Chief of Army Staff, Chief of Naval Staff, Chief of Air Staff, Inspector General of Police and their entourage for the purpose of Sectoral Debate on issues of security" (Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader).

Agreed to.

5. Announcement***Bereavement:***

Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Abdullahi El-Rasheed (*Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*) announcing the demise of Alhaji Jibril Halilu Dukku, father of a former Member, Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku, on Friday, 17 November, 2023 at the age of 91.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

6. Petitions

- (i) A petition from Chisom Nduka Edede of African Centre for Justice and Human Right (ACJHR), on alleged abuse of office by the Management of Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), was presented and laid by Hon. Philip Agbese (*Ado/Okpokwu/Ogbadigbo Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) The following petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Jesse Okey-Joe Onuakalusi (*Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency*):
 - (a) Sam Bob-Manuel of Joismee Synergy Limited on alleged non-payment of contract executed by the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC),
 - (b) Sam Bob-Manuel of Orrion Trust International Limited on alleged non-payment of contract executed by the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC);
- (iii) A petition from Sam Bob-Manuel of Commonwealth Energy Limited on alleged non-payment of contract executed by the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), was presented and laid by Hon. Nnamdi Ezechi (*Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*);
- (iv) A petition from Ibrahim Sammako, on alleged non-payment of his entitlements by the Management of Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Zaria, Kaduna, was presented and laid by Hon. Muhammad Aminu Ibrahim (*Malumfashi/Kafur Federal Constituency*);

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

7. Matter of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)***Attack on the Convoy of the Executive Governor of Yobe State — Hon. Mai Mala Buni:***

Hon. Khadija Waziri-Bukar Ibrahim (*Damaturu/Tarmuwa/Gujba/Gulani 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 4 (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 4 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Attack on the Convoy of the Executive Governor of Yobe State — Hon. Mai Mala Buni:

The House:

Notes that on Saturday, 18 November, 2023, gunmen attacked the convoy of Yobe State Governor; Mai Mala Buni between Beneshiek and Mainok villages in Kaga Local Government Area of Borno State;

Worried that the attack resulted to the death of two (2) Policemen, while six (6) others sustained injuries including a Soldier;

Cognizant that the stretch has not known peace in the last couple of months due to incessant attack where lives and proportion of citizens are lost due to the destructive activities of bandits;

Concerned that despite the ongoing efforts by security agencies, the insurgents have re-strategized and there has been an alarming resurgent of attacks;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the security operatives to improve on their current operations in the area and the whole region to forestall such attacks in the future;
- (ii) urge the security operatives to liaise with traditional rulers to utilize local intelligence;
- (iii) mandate the Committees Defence, Army, National Security and Intelligence to ensure compliance (*Hon. Khadija Waziri-Bukar A. Ibrahim — Damaturu/Tarmuwa/Gujba/Gulani Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on Saturday, 18 November, 2023, gunmen attacked the convoy of Yobe State Governor; Mai Mala Buni between Beneshiek and Mainok villages in Kaga Local Government Area of Borno State;

Worried that the attack resulted to the death of two (2) Policemen, while six (6) others sustained injuries including a Soldier;

Cognizant that the stretch has not known peace in the last couple of months due to incessant attack where lives and proportion of citizens are lost due to the destructive activities of bandits;

Concerned that despite the ongoing efforts by security agencies, the insurgents have re-strategized and there has been an alarming resurgent of attacks;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the security operatives to improve on their current operations in the area and the whole region to forestall such attacks in the future;
- (ii) urge the security operatives to liaise with traditional rulers to utilize local intelligence;
- (iii) mandate the Committees Defence, Army, National Security and Intelligence to ensure compliance (**HR. 370/11/2023**).

8. Presentation of Reports

- (i) ***Committees on Finance, National Planning and Economic Development, and Aid, Loans and Debt Management:***
motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committees on Finance, National Planning and Economic Development, and Aids, Loans and Debt Management on the 2024 - 2026 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF)

and Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP)” (Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

- (ii) **Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Gruesome Murder of Some Nigerians by Soldiers in Enugu:**
motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Gruesome Murder of Some Nigerians by Soldiers in Enugu” (Hon. Abdulrahman Sanni Egidi — Ajaokuta Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

9. Sectoral Debate on Security

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do commence Sectoral Debate on Security, Pursuant to Order Seventeen, Rules 1 (3) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives” (Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader).

Agreed to.

10. Speaker’s Introductory Remarks

The Hon. Speaker addressed the House as follows:

Protocols:

Today marks a significant milestone in the implementation of our Legislative Agenda as we commence the Sectoral Debates of the 10th House of Representatives. This is the maiden edition of the Debates, and I am pleased we are commencing with the security sector. Our focus on security is immediately clear, given the unprecedented challenges of the past decade. Over the last few years, we have made significant progress in tackling insecurity through improved investment by the Federal Government and the gallantry and professionalism of our service men and women. I salute the courage of our armed forces and law enforcement personnel.

2. *May I ask all of us to stand and observe a minute in silence for the gallant men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice to defend our nation and those who have fallen victim to the pervasive insecurity in our land [1-minute silence]. May their souls rest in peace. Amen.*

3. *Let me emphasize from the onset, that appearance in person for all invited heads of MDAs are required throughout this sectoral briefing. As such, the House shall not accept proxy representation for any reason whatsoever. Notices are sent well in advance to forestall any excuses.*

4. *Dear Colleagues, only a few days ago, I had the honour of unveiling and presenting the Legislative Agenda of the House to the public. An important component of the Agenda is improving the quality of debates on the floor and engagement with the Executive on critical issues of national interest. As representatives of the Nigerian people, it is our duty to ensure that the policies and programmes implemented by the Executive are in line with the aspirations and needs of the citizens we all represent here in the People’s House.*

5. *The commencement of the Sectoral Debates with Ministries, Departments, and Agencies once again demonstrates our determination to ensure that legislative measures and decisions are evidence-based and people-oriented. The Sectoral briefs will provide us with an opportunity to*

scrutinize the policies, activities and plans of each MDA. It will also allow the House and Members to understand better the challenges facing government agencies, their programmes and areas for legislative interventions.

6. *Accordingly, we have developed a Calendar for our planned engagement with the Executive covering several thematic areas, including the economy, education, health, agriculture, infrastructure, and many others. This will be undertaken regularly throughout the life of the Tenth Assembly. The Debates are in line with our constitutionally assigned powers to make laws for the good governance of the Federation and to ensure that government programmes and expenditures are in line with legislative intent. Therefore, the legislature must engage in constructive dialogue with senior government officials from all sectors to understand their operations, challenges and legislative needs.*

7. *Honourable Colleagues, we made a conscious decision to commence the Sectoral Debates with the security Sector given that it is prioritized in our Legislative Agenda. Section 14 (2) (b) of the 1999 Constitution (as altered) declares that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government. In this declaration, the security and welfare of the people are conjunctively presented as a sole purpose.*

8. *This session with the Heads of Security Agencies is an important opportunity to brief the House on the progress made so far and other lingering challenges. Members will be able to ask questions on context-specific issues, and you will be given ample time to respond to the issues raised. Through this interaction, we aim to foster collaboration in tackling the multiple security challenges that confront us.*

9. *I urge all members of this esteemed House to approach these briefings with an open mind and a commitment to serving our constituents and our country. Let us ask probing questions that seek clarity on legislations, policies, programmes, and implementation strategies. Dear Colleagues, let us approach these sectoral debates with a sense of purpose and responsibility. We must remember that our actions can potentially shape the future of our great nation. Together, we can build a prosperous, inclusive, and just Nigeria.*

10. *I encourage our Security Chiefs to be transparent and forthcoming in their presentations. You are encouraged to provide us with accurate and up-to-date information, share your successes, and acknowledge your challenges. We are here not to reprimand but to understand better and, by so doing, find long-lasting solutions.*

11. *I thank our Security Chiefs for their willingness to participate in this first phase of the Sectoral Debates. Your presence here today demonstrates your commitment to democracy and good governance. I assure you that the House of Representatives will provide a conducive environment for fruitful discussions and deliberations.*

12. *Each of you will be given an initial ten minutes to give an overview of your agency, its work, successes, challenges and requests to the House. Subsequently, the floor will be opened for Members to ask questions. Each Member asking a question has two minutes for their question, while five minutes is allocated for response. This is to allow for more Members to participate. Members have an additional three minutes to ask follow-up questions.*

13. *I now invite the Chief of Defense Staff to introduce the team and guide the process.*

14. *Thank you once again.*

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

11. Presentations by Invited Speakers

On the invitation of Mr Speaker, the following persons made oral presentations:

- (i) General Christopher Gwabin Musa — (*Chief of Defence Staff*);
- (ii) Lieutenant General Taoreed Abiodun Lagbaja — (*Chief of Army Staff*);
- (iii) Rear Admiral A. Emmanuel Ogalla — (*Chief of Naval Staff*);
- (iv) Air Vice Marshal Hassan Bala Abubakar — (*Chief of Air Staff*);
- (v) IGP Kayode Egbetokun — (*Inspector-General of Police*)

(See details from the Official Report)

12. Executive Session

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do resolve into a Closed Session” (Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader).

Closed Session — 2.50 p.m.

Open Session — 4.05 p.m.

13. Consideration of Report

Committees on Finance, National Planning and Economic Development and Aid, Loans and Debt Management:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report of the Committees on Finance, National Planning and Economic Development, and Aids, Loans and Debt Management on the 2024-2026 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP)” (Committee of Supply) (Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of Supply to consider the Report — Agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY)

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

Recommendation (i):

“That the benchmark oil price of US\$73.96, \$73.76 and \$69.90 per barrel be approved for 2024, 2025, and 2026 respectively” (Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (ii):

“That the daily crude oil production of 1.78 Mbps, 1.80 Mbps, and 1.81 Mbps, for 2024, 2025, and 2026 respectively be approved subject to NNPC confirmation of actual and verifiable deliveries” (Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (iii):

“That the Exchange Rate of ₦700, ₦665.61 and ₦669.79 to US\$1 proposed by the Executive for the periods 2024-2026 be considered for approval with the Federal Government's vigorous drive to enhance local production (both oil and non-oil) for increased foreign reserve growth” (Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (iv):

“That all items locally produced should be out rightly banned from importation and customs tariffs amended accordingly” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (v):

“That the CBN should ensure that Banks have access to FOREX to provide funds to importers and other users to prevent patronage of the parallel market” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (vi):

“That in light of the Federal Government's response of fiscal measures to stimulate the economy through significant investment in infrastructure, SMEs, and the agricultural sector, the GDP growth rates of 3.76%, 4.22%, and 4.78% during the years 2024, 2025, and 2026 be approved” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (vii):

“That the inflation rate of 21.40% in 2024, 20.30% in 2025, and 18.60% in 2026 be approved” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (viii):

“That the Federal Government's target-setting approach and its determination to enhance the major revenue-generating agencies' collection efficiency will support the Fiscal deficit estimate of ₦9 trillion (including GOEs) is noted and hereby approved” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (ix):

“That the Federal Government should continue to enforce the implementation of the Performance Management Framework for GOEs by ensuring that they operate in a more fiscally responsible manner while reviewing their operational efficiencies and declared costs-to-income ratios” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (x):

“That the ₦7.8 trillion in new borrowings (both domestic and foreign) be supported as well, given the country's current effective debt management strategy, which has moderated borrowing costs and decreased the amount of short-term debt in the portfolio and refinancing risk” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xi):

“That the MTEF/FSP Document's ancillary parameters listed below for 2024-2026 be maintained

as well:

- (a) FGN recommended spending ₦26 trillion, with ₦16.9 trillion in retained revenue,
- (b) a ₦9 trillion budget deficit (including GOEs),
- (c) ₦7.8 trillion in new borrowings (including borrowing from foreign and domestic sources),
- (d) ₦1.3 trillion worth of Statutory transfers,
- (e) an estimated N8.2 trillion in debt service,
- (f) ₦243.6 billion in the Sinking Fund,
- (g) ₦1.27 trillion in pension, gratuity, and retiree benefits, and
- (h) total Recurrent (non-debt) of N10.2 trillion; Personnel Costs (MDAs) of ₦4.49 trillion; Capital Expenditure (exclusive of Transfers) of ₦5.9 trillion; Special Intervention (Recurrent) of ₦200 billion; and Special Intervention (Capital) of ₦7 billion comprise the aggregate FGN Expenditure of ₦26 trillion” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xii):

“That the National Assembly begin the process of amending the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA, 2007) to enhance the agencies' ability to enforce fiscal responsibility and impose sanctions on erring staff. Specifically, about Sections 21 (1) and 22 (1) - (2)” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xiii):

“That the National Assembly Standing Committees take prompt action to review the laws governing the activities of all revenue-generating agencies under their purview to identify specific sections or clauses that need to be amended to plug waste and increase the government's capacity to generate revenue” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xiv):

“That the Federal Government Agencies ensure deployment of ICT in the collection of all revenues by MDAs including stamp duty collection activities to block leakages” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xv):

“Having discovered that the subsidiaries of NIPOST so created are irregular and illegal, we, therefore, recommended that they be wound up and deregistered immediately” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xvi):

“That the sum of ₦10 billion released by the Ministry of Finance for the proposed NIPOST

restructuring and recapitalization be investigated and the funds fully recovered if established to be injudiciously utilized by the relevant committee of the Assembly charge with the responsibility of fiscal prudence” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xvii):

“That the Budget Office of the Federation and the Ministry of Finance, Budget, and National Planning re-evaluate the underlying assumptions for all Federal Government agencies' income targets to confirm the veracity of those assumptions and the effects” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xviii):

“That the Federal Government should continuously assess the qualifications and performance of agency heads to guarantee that the government's total income target as stated in the MTEF/FSP and the yearly budgets is consistently met with adequate sanctions necessary” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xix):

“That all Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) pay for services provided by other government agencies on time and in full unless it is determined that the beneficiary agencies are statutorily exempt from such payments” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xx):

“That the Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MOFI) examine the activities of all Government Agencies currently operating under the partial and full commercialization arrangement allowing them to compete with their peers in the private sector and thereby making a more meaningful contribution to the Federal Government's revenue generation drive” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xxi):

“That the Bureau of Public Enterprises Act be amended to remove the clause(s) that create conflict between it and MOFI where MOFI should be the authorized custodian of all Federal Government assets, both liquid and physical” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xxii):

“That the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation Limited (NNPCL) should work towards reducing its production and operational costs thereby increasing available government revenue” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xxiii):

“That all tax waivers not directly linked to non-governmental/non-profit organizations should not be granted” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xxiv):

“That all tax waivers from 2015 to date should be investigated by the relevant Committee of the House” (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report proceedings.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of Supply considered the Report of the Committees on Finance, National Planning and Economic Development and Aids, Loans and Debt Management on the 2024-2026 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP) and approved Recommendations (i) - (xxiv) of the Report.

Question that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of Supply — Agreed to.

14. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 22 November, 2023 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Onanuga Adewunmi Oriyomi — Deputy Whip).

The House adjourned accordingly at 4.45 p.m.

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker