



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 30 January, 2024

1. The House met at 11.20 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 *Second Votes and Proceedings* of Saturday, 30 December, 2023.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Oaths of Allegiance and Membership**
A Member-elect, Harrison Anozie Nwadike (*Isu/Njaba/Nkwere/Nwangele Federal Constituency*), took and subscribed the Oaths of Allegiance and Membership as prescribed by law.
5. **Mr Speaker's Remark**
Mr Speaker made the following remarks:

Honourable Colleagues, Happy New Year, and welcome back to the People's House!

As we reconvene in this hallowed chamber after a well-deserved break, it is my esteemed privilege to welcome you back to the diligent task of nation-building. The festive season was a period of reflection, rest, and rejuvenation. Now, we are gathered again with renewed vigour and commitment to serve our beloved country, Nigeria and our constituents.

2. *This new year, 2024, holds great significance in our democratic journey as a nation. It marks 25 years of unbroken democratic governance since 1999. This milestone represents the longest period of uninterrupted democratic governance in our nation's history. In these past two and half decades, the legislature has developed remarkably, asserting its independence and progressively holding the Executive to account. The National Assembly has also enacted high-impact laws for the order and good governance of Nigeria, represented the interests of our constituencies by ensuring that their voices are heard in this hallowed chamber, and brought their travails and difficulties to the attention of the government.*

3. *Dear Colleagues, I once again appreciate and commend each and every one of you for the remarkable work we accomplished in the first six months of this House. This was only possible through our collective commitment, dedication, unity of purpose, and patriotic zeal. I am delighted by the positive feedback from our constituents and Nigerians. However, as we commend ourselves for the progress made thus far, it is imperative that we do not become complacent or lower our standards. Instead, we must raise the bar even higher in the coming weeks and months.*

4. *Honourable colleagues, I address you today not just as the Speaker of the House of Representatives but as a concerned citizen, deeply troubled by the widespread insecurity that grips our country. Indeed, Nigeria stands at a crucial juncture, facing formidable challenges that test our resolve, unity, and spirit. The threats of insurgency are severely testing the peace and stability of our country, the rise in kidnapping for ransom and the unsettling unrest and crises across all the six geopolitical zones. Families and communities have endured immense hardships, and our hearts go out to all those affected by these tumultuous events. We are particularly saddened by the tragic and senseless murder of our daughters, Nabeeha Al-Kadriyar and Folorunsho Ariyo, the heinous murder of over 30 people in Plateau State, as well as many others who have fallen victim to the mindless acts of terror in the last few weeks. We also remember those who lost their lives in the blast in Ibadan triggered by explosives stored by illegal miners. May we rise and observe a minute of silence in their honour.*

5. *Dear Colleagues, for too long, our nation has been caught in the vicious grip of insecurity, a malaise that spreads its tentacles far and wide, sparing no one in its wake. Despite numerous security measures, this menace continues to thrive, mocking our efforts and challenging our resolve to build a cohesive, peaceful and prosperous nation. It is a stark reminder that the conventional approaches to security we have espoused for so long are no longer sufficient. The time has come to think out of the box and adopt new and contemporary strategies that better respond to the complexities of our current challenges. To our patriotic and brave security forces, while commending your heroism and sacrifice, the time has come for you to review your approaches and strategies, innovate and adapt. The enemy evolves, and so must we. I challenge you to rise to this occasion, to demonstrate the indomitable spirit for which you are known, and to do more in safeguarding the lives and properties of our people.*

6. *In these trying times, President Bola Ahmad Tinubu, GCFR, has exhibited exemplary leadership and a proactive approach. His recent interventions and directives for more action by security agencies are timely and reflective of his deep-seated resolve to restore peace and order. Indeed, the time has come for the President to demand greater performance and accountability from our service chiefs and all security and enforcement agencies. I implore the President not to shy away from making the tough decisions. If necessary, we must not hesitate to enact changes within our security apparatus, for the cost of inaction is far too great to bear.*

7. *In light of these challenges, I propose convening a National Legislative Security Summit. This Summit will serve as a crucible for ideas, where stakeholders from diverse sectors - security, traditional and religious institutions, academia, civil society, and more - will forge enduring solutions to our security woes. It is time to harness our collective expertise, to break the silos that have hindered our progress, and to chart a new course towards peace and stability. This aligns with our constitutional mandate as parliament to enact laws that strengthen our security framework, allocate resources wisely, and provide the oversight necessary to ensure our strategies are well-intentioned, effective, and accountable. In addition, as a matter of urgent national importance, I charge all the relevant security-based Committees of this House to engage with the security chiefs on some of the most immediate measures and resources needed to improve security across the country.*

8. *Honourable Colleagues, on the economic front, our country continues to grapple with numerous hurdles that impede our growth trajectory. Inflation, unemployment, and infrastructural deficits are issues that touch the core of our people's daily lives. The continuous depreciation of the Naira has far-reaching consequences, given that Nigeria relies heavily on imports for many essential*

items, including food, fuel and machinery. Yet, amidst these challenges, there are signs of resilience and potential. The President's economic policies, aimed at revitalising key sectors, promoting sustainable growth, and fostering inclusive development, are steps in the right direction. We in the legislative arm must align our efforts with the Executive to ensure that these initiatives are effectively implemented and yield tangible results for every Nigerian.

9. I would like to thank all Members for their dedication and commitment during the deliberations on the 2024 Budget of 'Renewed Hope'. The expeditious consideration and passage of this budget speaks to our collective resolve to address our nation's pressing economic challenges. We must shift our focus towards ensuring the judicious and meticulous implementation of the budget, which is intended to be catalytic in lifting our economy from its current state of stagnation. Every Committee is tasked with engaging the Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) to oversee the effective execution of the budgetary allocations and ensure that every Naira allocated in the budget is utilised efficiently and transparently. Our goal is to provide our people with much-needed relief from the current harsh economic realities.

10. The recent move by the President to track and review the annual performance of federal ministries, departments and agencies is indeed commendable and should be supported by all Nigerians. The lack of a proper performance assessment framework is a significant shortfall in government and public sector systems and processes. This has often resulted in insufficient alignment of organisational strategic priorities and budgets with national priorities as contained in the 8-point Agenda of Mr President. We hope that the result of the government-wide performance report will be tabled before the National Assembly to provide lawmakers and the people of Nigeria an insight into the performance of government officials. Those whose performance falls below the minimum benchmark set by the President should be immediately replaced by more competent substitutes. I wish also to note and commend the President's firm stance on public sector corruption. This steadfast commitment to uprooting the malaise of corruption from our public institutions is not just about preserving resources but is fundamentally about restoring the sanctity of governance and public service.

11. As we proceed with our legislative duties, our priorities are clear. With our Legislative Agenda set for ourselves, we intend to achieve significant mileage towards actualising the targets across the eight thematic areas. In the area of security, the most important challenge before us is to overhaul and strengthen the security architecture to improve overall effectiveness. The proposed Security Summit is expected to make far-reaching recommendations and concrete areas for legislative intervention. Some priority legislative actions in our Agenda include improving oversight of the sector, legislating the establishment of a Security Sector Reform Commission to oversee reforms within the sector, introducing stricter penalties for misappropriation, misallocation or any form of financial malpractice within the security sector and passing the whistle-blower protection bill. On the counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency, we shall work with the Office of the National Security Adviser to strengthen the Anti-terrorism Act to provide guidelines for the prosecution of suspects. Other areas for legislative action include finalising the domesticating of the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Ammunition to curb the proliferation of small arms in Nigeria and amend the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act, 2015 to tackle emerging threats and protect critical national infrastructure; adopt legislative measures that promote economic opportunities in the geopolitical zones most affected by insecurity. We are committed to strengthening inter-agency collaboration, improving intelligence sharing, and leading police reforms.

12. Honourable Colleagues, as noted earlier, the state of the economy is also of grave concern to us, and we must contribute to promoting sustainable economic growth. Our Agenda has identified concrete measures for economic restructuring, economic diversification, and agricultural development. All Committees are directed to streamline their activities towards the realisation of our strategic objectives. The Committee on the Implementation of Legislative Agenda and the Committee on Monitoring and Evaluation of the Activities of Standing and Ad-hoc Committees should ensure that committees and their outputs are in line with the Agenda of the House. In this regard, I am pleased

to announce that House Sectoral Briefs with MDAs will resume immediately. Accordingly, we shall engage with MDAs and principal actors in the finance sector on Tuesday, 6th February, 2024. This engagement will assess the nation's readiness to mobilise the necessary financial resources for implementing the budget.

13. *Dear Colleagues, other legislative priorities this year include speedy consideration of electoral reforms, alteration of the 1999 Constitution, improved citizens' engagement, enhanced oversight, institutional capacity strengthening, and greater collaboration with the Executive. Of immediate concern to us are electoral reforms to address grey areas in the 2022 Electoral Act. The purpose is to ensure that future elections are free, fair, and credible elections that truly reflect the people's will. Recent data shows that 75% of gubernatorial elections conducted by INEC in 2023 ended up in the Supreme Court. A significantly higher percentage of gubernatorial, State, and National Assembly elections was litigated to the appellate level. Like all Nigerians, we are worried about the varying and conflicting judicial pronouncements which can disrupt our democratic process if not properly and swiftly addressed. For this reason, the House will constitute a special technical committee with Members drawn from the Committee on Electoral Matters, experts, academics and other stakeholders. The mandate of the Committee will be to review the Electoral Act, 2022 and submit a proposal to the House on areas for amendment. The report of the Committee will be subjected to a public hearing to aggregate concrete suggestions for amendment.*

14. *In the area of constitutional alteration, our Agenda identifies key areas of interest for the House, including streamlining the procedure for constitutional alteration by enacting a Constitutional Alteration Procedure law to provide a timeline for the passage of the Constitution alteration Bills by the National Assembly and adoption by State Houses of Assembly. We remain committed to continuing consultation towards assigning constitutional roles for traditional institutions, local government reform and statutory measures that promote women's representation in elective and appointive positions.*

15. *Honourable Colleagues, the 10th House is aptly called the "people's House". As such, we recognise that improved citizens' engagement is vital for fostering a participatory democracy. Therefore, we will enhance avenues for citizens to engage with the legislative process actively, provide input on policy decisions, and hold their representatives accountable. In line with item 5 of our Legislative Agenda, the House will conduct a 'Legislative Open Week' to enable Nigerians to engage us in the work that we do.*

16. *Lastly, greater collaboration with the executive branch is essential for effective governance. While recognising the independence of our respective arms of government, we must continue to foster constructive engagement and cooperation in advancing national development goals.*

17. *Honourable colleagues, as your Speaker, I am fully aware of the profound responsibility of this title. Our nation, Nigeria, is a tapestry of diverse cultures, opinions, and aspirations. It is the embodiment of potential and promise. And it is our sacred duty to nurture this potential into progress, unity, and prosperity. Leadership, especially in such a dynamic and diverse country, demands wisdom, strength, fairness, and impartiality. I want to assure each of you, my esteemed colleagues, that my commitment to leadership is anchored in these principles. My decisions, actions, and guidance will be driven not by personal bias or preference but by an unwavering commitment to what is just and right for every Nigerian.*

18. *This House is the bedrock of our democracy, and the decisions we make within these walls echo beyond them, shaping the lives of millions. We are, therefore, tasked with a noble and daunting responsibility. As your Speaker, I promise to navigate this journey with a compass that points unwaveringly towards justice, equity, and the collective good. The challenges we face as a nation are neither few nor trivial. But I am resolute in my belief that we can confront these challenges head-on, with clear minds and unshakeable resolve. We will deliberate, not just with the intent to argue, but with the determination to understand and to find common ground. We will legislate, not for the*

moment, but for the future, crafting laws that will build a stronger, more inclusive, and prosperous Nigeria.

19. *In this endeavour, I seek not just your cooperation but your partnership. Together, let us be architects of a future that generations will look back upon with pride. Let us be the bearers of hope, the purveyors of justice, and the guardians of democracy. Let us work together, not as individuals or members of different political parties, but as a united entity, with a shared vision and a common goal - a stronger, more united Nigeria. Our people expect this from us, and history will judge us by how well we meet these expectations.*

20. *Welcome back, colleagues, as I wish us every success in this service to the Fatherland.*

21. *Thank you, and may God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.*

6. Executive Session

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do resolve into a Closed Session" (Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Closed Session — 11.56 a.m.

Open Session — 1.13 p.m.

7. Announcement

(i) *Bereavement:*

Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Adegboyega Adeyemi Adefarati (*Akoko South East/Akoko South West Federal Constituency*) announcing the death of a former Member, Hon. Peter Sakari Orimoloye (*Akoko South East/Akoko South West Federal Constituency, 1999 - 2007*) on 14 December, 2023 at the age of 90.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(ii) *Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Gruesome Killings on Christmas Eve in Bokkos, Barkin Ladi and Mangu, Plateau State:*

Mr Speaker announced the membership of the *Ad-hoc* Committee as follows:

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|-----|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| (1) | Hon. Sada Soli | — | <i>Chairman</i> |
| (2) | Hon. Billy Osawaru Famous | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (3) | Hon. Abdulmaleek Abdulraeem Danga | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (4) | Hon. Kuye Ademorin | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (5) | Hon. Obiageli Lilian Orugbo | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (6) | Hon. Ahmad Jaha Usman | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (7) | Hon. Akintunde Rotimi | — | <i>Member</i> |

Mr speaker directed that all Chairmen of Security Related Committees be co-opted into the Ad-hoc Committee.

8. Petitions

(i) A petition from Omotoso Mariam Dupe, on non-payment of her retirement benefits by the Federal Ministry of Education, was presented and laid by Hon. Akintunde Rotimi (*Ikole/Oye Federal Constituency*);

(ii) The following petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Jesse Okey- Joe Onuakalusi (*Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency*):

- (a) Melka West Africa, on the non-compliance with their court judgment/orders by the Nigeria Navy and Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC);

- (b) Lex-Luvera Partners (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Messrs Rockdoor Nigeria Limited, on non-payment of contract sum of ₦79,114,125.00 (Seventy Nine Million, One Hundred and Fourteen Thousand and One hundred and Twenty five Naira);
- (iii) The following petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Chinedu Ogah (*Ezza South/Ikwo Federal Constituency*):
- (a) F. O. Nwuzor Esq (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Nwokpoku Nwite, on non-payment of compensation on acquisition of their family by the Transmission Company of Nigeria;
- (b) O.C.O Emmanuel Chambers (Legal Practitioners), on alleged unlawful diversion of Federal Government Funds to a private account by Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) Transport Department;
- (c) O.C.O Emmanuel Chambers (Legal Practitioners), on alleged breach of contract, humiliation, and assault of passengers by Ibom Air;
- (iv) A petition from N. O. Ochilogor Ochibe & Co., on behalf of Bernard Egba, on termination of his appointment from the service of Bauchi State Government, was presented and laid by Hon. Nnamdi Ezechi (*Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*);
- (v) A petition from Halima Adetola Abdulazeez, on alleged breach of her human rights by the Nigeria Police Force, was presented and laid by Hon. Mudashiru Lukman Alani (*Ayedire/Iwo/Ola-Oluwa Federal Constituency*);
- (vi) A petition from Imo-Owo Okpokpo & Associates, on behalf of CPL Ime Afawole, on alleged inhumane treatment and unlawful suspension by the Nigeria Police Force, was presented and laid by Hon. Patrick Umoh (*Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency*);
- (vii) A petition from FRULAW Chambers, on behalf of some Professors of Nigerian Universities and Refugees, on their alleged abduction, illegal deportation and imprisonment to the Republic of Cameroon by the Nigerian Security Services, was presented and laid by Hon. Ikengwuonu Onyinye Ugochinyere (*Ideato North/Ideato South Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

9. Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)

- (i) ***Need for Security Agencies to Urgently Stem the Tide of Criminality Ravaging Ekiti State:*** Hon. Rotimi Akintunde Oluwaseun (*Ikole/Oye 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.

Need for Security Agencies to Urgently Stem the Tide of Criminality Ravaging Ekiti State

The House:

Notes that there has been an increase in criminal activities in Ekiti North 1 (Ikole / Oye) Federal Constituency in recent times resulting in the lost lives and properties;

Also notes that the constituency is exposed to peculiar security challenges due to the nature of the forests and topography, and more painfully because Ekiti Federal roads are some of the most dilapidated in the entire country;

Further notes that on Monday, January 29, 2024, these criminals carried out a dastardly attack in the Oke-Ako area in Ikole Local Government Area resulting in the death of two traditional rulers: the Onimojo of Imojo Ekiti Oba Olatunji Samuel Olusola, and the Elesun of Esun Ekiti, Oba David Babatunde Ogunsola and leaving a host of others with life-threatening injuries;

Shocked that this is not an isolated event, as in the past few days alone, a commercial driver was killed between Ayedun and Ayebode by armed bandits, and just yesterday, a school bus load of students were abducted in Emure Ekiti and their whereabouts is still unknown;

Aware that the late Onimojo was an intellectual and highly intelligent historian and orator who always spoke truth to power;

Also aware that the Late Elesun was a peace-loving King who was very hands-on in the development of Esun-Ayedun communities;

Further aware that because of the topography of the area, and the bad roads, there has been an incursion of murderous elements who parade themselves as herdsmen leading to heightened insecurity;

Recognizes that the entire people of Imojo in Oye Local Government and Esun in Ikole Local Government and the entire state have been thrown into mourning on account of the loss of our highly revered traditional rulers who were forces for community development, peace, and stability in the constituency and the entire state;

Cognizant that the Nigerian Army has a military outpost on the road, which has been non-functional, as they only patrol on Tuesdays, leaving the communities exposed for the rest of the days.

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the memory of the dearly departed monarchs.
- (ii) urge the Chief of Army Staff to redeploy the military to the outpost along the Oke-Ako area to enhance security and forestall a repeat of these beastly acts;
- (iii) also urge the Inspector-General of Police, the Commandant General of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corp, and other security agencies to deploy more men to Ekiti North I and ensure that those who carried out that dastardly acts are fished out and brought to justice;
- (iv) further urge the Ministry of Works and FERMA to immediately rehabilitate the Ayedun to Irele road, and other roads in Ikole/Oye Federal Constituency;
- (v) still urge the Security Agencies to put all measures in place to rescue the school children and teachers in Emure Ekiti;
- (vi) mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and report within two weeks (*Hon. Rotimi Akintunde Oluwaseun — Ikole/Oye Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that there has been an increase in criminal activities in Ekiti North 1 (Ikole / Oye) Federal Constituency in recent times resulting in the lost lives and properties;

Also noted that the constituency is exposed to peculiar security challenges due to the nature of the forests and topography, and more painfully because Ekiti Federal roads are some of the most dilapidated in the entire country;

Further noted that on Monday, January 29, 2024, these criminals carried out a dastardly attack in the Oke-Ako area in Ikole Local Government Area resulting in the death of two traditional rulers: the Onimojo of Imojo Ekiti Oba Olatunji Samuel Olusola, and the Elesun of Esun Ekiti, Oba David Babatunde Ogunsola and leaving a host of others with life-threatening injuries;

Shocked that this is not an isolated event, as in the past few days alone, a commercial driver was killed between Ayedun and Ayebode by armed bandits, and just yesterday, a school bus load of students were abducted in Emure Ekiti and their whereabouts is still unknown;

Aware that the late Onimojo was an intellectual and highly intelligent historian and orator who always spoke truth to power;

Also aware that the Late Elesun was a peace-loving King who was very hands-on in the development of Esun-Ayedun communities;

Further aware that because of the topography of the area, and the bad roads, there has been an incursion of murderous elements who parade themselves as herdsmen leading to heightened insecurity;

Recognized that the entire people of Imojo in Oye Local Government and Esun in Ikole Local Government and the entire state have been thrown into mourning on account of the loss of our highly revered traditional rulers who were forces for community development, peace, and stability in the constituency and the entire state;

Cognizant that the Nigerian Army has a military outpost on the road, which has been non-functional, as they only patrol on Tuesdays, leaving the communities exposed for the rest of the days.

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the memory of the dearly departed monarchs.
- (ii) urge the Chief of Army Staff to redeploy the military to the outpost along the Oke-Ako area to enhance security and forestall a repeat of these beastly acts;
- (iii) also urge the Inspector-General of Police, the Commandant General of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corp, and other security agencies to deploy more men to Ekiti North 1 and ensure that those who carried out that dastardly acts are fished out and brought to justice;
- (iv) further urge the Ministry of Works and FERMA to immediately rehabilitate the Ayedun to Irele road, and other roads in Ikole/Oye Federal Constituency;

- (v) still urge the Security Agencies to put all measures in place to rescue the school children and teachers in Emure Ekiti;
- (vi) mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and report within two weeks (**HR. 01/01/2024**).

A minute silence was observe in honour of the deceased.

(ii) *Devastating Effects of the Fire Outbreak that Ravaging Maya Market in Ibarapa East Local Government, Oyo State:*

Hon. Aderemi Abasi Oseni (*Ibarapa East/Ido 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.

Devastating Effects of the Fire Outbreak that Ravaged Maya market in Ibarapa East LGA, Oyo State

The House:

Notes that on 20 December, 2023, the good people of Ibarapa East were thrown into confusion and agony, due to ravaging fire outbreak that razed down the popular Maya Market in Ibarapa East area of Oyo State, and destroyed goods worth hundreds of millions of Naira;

Also notes that the ugly fire incident burnt the entire structures, goods and facilities in the market to ashes, with some people sustaining various degrees of injury. All efforts by the people to contain the fire proved abortive;

Further notes that the market is the major market that serves the people in the area, the fire incident resulted in the loss of the market, left a lot of casualties, and loss of livelihood as trading is their major source of income of the people;

Concerned that traders had restocked their shops for the Christmas sale before the outbreak of the fire and the effects of this incident on the affected persons and the community at large is unimaginable as the effected persons have been thrown into pain, unimaginable agony, depression and hopelessness;

Cognizant that no Nigerian should be allowed to wallow in hopelessness, there is the urgent need to bring succor to the affected persons.

Resolves to:

- (i) call on NEMA and other interventionist agencies to immediately send relief materials to the effected persons and work out modality to urgently rebuild the market;
- (ii) also call on Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) to provide grants and start-up capitals to the affected persons to enable them start afresh;

- (iii) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Commerce, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Oseni Aderemi Abasi — Ibarapa East/Ido Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on 20 December, 2023, the good people of Ibarapa East were thrown into confusion and agony, due to ravaging fire outbreak that razed down the popular Maya Market in Ibarapa East area of Oyo State, and destroyed goods worth hundreds of millions of Naira;

Also noted that the ugly fire incident burnt the entire structures, goods and facilities in the market to ashes, with some people sustaining various degrees of injury. All efforts by the people to contain the fire proved abortive;

Further noted that the market is the major market that serves the people in the area, the fire incident resulted in the loss of the market, left a lot of casualties, and loss of livelihood as trading is their major source of income of the people;

Concerned that traders had restocked their shops for the Christmas sale before the outbreak of the fire and the effects of this incident on the affected persons and the community at large is unimaginable as the effected persons have been thrown into pain, unimaginable agony, depression and hopelessness;

Cognizant that no Nigerian should be allowed to wallow in hopelessness, there is the urgent need to bring succor to the affected persons.

Resolved to:

- (i) call on NEMA and other interventionist agencies to immediately send relief materials to the effected persons and work out modality to urgently rebuild the market;
- (ii) also call on Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) to provide grants and start-up capitals to the affected persons to enable them start afresh;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Commerce, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 02/01/2024**).
- (iii) ***Need to Contain Oil Spillage from Offshore Facilities Around Southern Ijaw Coastal Communities to Forestall All Further Environmental Damages:***
Hon. Rodney Ebikebina Ambaiwei (*Southern Ijaw 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.

Need to Contain oil Spillage from Offshore Facilities around Southern Ijaw Coastal Communities to Forestall Further Environmental Damages:

The House:

Notes that Southern Ijaw Federal Constituency and several constituencies of the South-South Nigeria host Oil Installations, Facilities and companies in the Oil exploration, exploitation and production process in Nigeria. Several Oil companies like FIRST E & P, Connoil, NEPL, SPDC and NIGDEL UNITED OIL Company have pipelines and other facilities which traverses many coastal communities in Southern Ijaw;

Also notes that Petroleum Industry Act and the Oil Spill Recovery, Clean-Up, Remediation and Damage, Assessment Regulation, 2011 as well as the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency set out operational standards and guidelines dealing with Oil spillages to protect the environment, economic interest and health of Host Communities who bear the impact of Oil spillages and production;

Shocked that on 3 January, 2024, the people of Foropah, Ekeni and Ezetu Kingdoms woke up to a devastating Oil Spillage from the Atlantic which has destroyed their only source of livelihood, which is fishing and Farming: Findings reveal that the Oil Spillage is occasioned by the leakages from the facilities operated by either of the following companies; FIRST E & P, Connoil, NEPL, SPDC and NIGDEL UNITED OIL Company that owns Oil installations in and around BEINGHENTORU RIVER;

Disturbed that the referenced oilfield does not only constitute one of the largest deep water operations in Nigeria, it also covers a large swathe of Southern Ijaw coastal waters. The volume of the damage recorded since 3 of January 2024 and till date, if not quickly arrested, will cause further damage to the waters and their contents leading to a near-annihilation of aquatic lives which is the only of source of livelihood of the Middleton communities and Southern Ijaw Coastal communities;

Worried that despite the prompt reporting of this incident, the slow reaction of the companies who own these Facilities around these coastal line to take responsibility over the incident is disturbing. The lethargic attitude of the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) to promptly detect the area of leakage and contain the Spillage could lead to massive unrests among youths and other residents of the impacted Southern Ijaw coastal communities who are predominantly fishermen and women whose livelihood, health and right to clean and safe environment is being violated by the continuous spillage;

Desirous of intervening and/or taking a decisive steps towards ensuring protection of lives and livelihood of Coastal Communities in Southern Ijaw Federal Constituency and the riverine communities;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Management of all the Companies who own Oil Facilities along the Coastal Communities to urgently stop the Oil leakages from their Facilities at BEINGHENTORU RIVER affecting Foropah, Ekeni Ezetu Kingdoms and other Communities in Southern Ijaw;
- (ii) also call on National Emergency Management Agency to urgently supply relief materials to ameliorate the sufferings of the impacted communities who have lost source of livelihood;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream) to carry out an extensive investigation into the immediate and remote causes of the Spillage, to

ascertain which company's Facility is responsible for the Spill, assess the extent of devastation and impact to the Coastal Communities of Southern Ijaw Federal Constituency and Report to the House (*Hon. Rodney Ebikebina Ambaiowei — Southern Ijaw Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Southern Ijaw Federal Constituency and several constituencies of the South-South Nigeria host Oil Installations, Facilities and companies in the Oil exploration, exploitation and production process in Nigeria. Several Oil companies like FIRST E & P, Connoil, NEPL, SPDC and NIGDEL UNITED OIL Company have pipelines and other facilities which traverses many coastal communities in Southern Ijaw;

Also noted that Petroleum Industry Act and the Oil Spill Recovery, Clean-Up, Remediation and Damage, Assessment Regulation, 2011 as well as the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency set out operational standards and guidelines dealing with Oil spillages to protect the environment, economic interest and health of Host Communities who bear the impact of Oil spillages and production;

Shocked that on 3 January, 2024, the people of Foropah, Ekeni and Ezetu Kingdoms woke up to a devastating Oil Spillage from the Atlantic which has destroyed their only source of livelihood, which is fishing and Farming: Findings reveal that the Oil Spillage is occasioned by the leakages from the facilities operated by either of the following companies; FIRST E & P, Connoil, NEPL, SPDC and NIGDEL UNITED OIL Company that owns Oil installations in and around BEINGHENTORU RIVER;

Disturbed that the referenced oilfield does not only constitute one of the largest deep water operations in Nigeria, it also covers a large swathe of Southern Ijaw coastal waters. The volume of the damage recorded since 3 January, 2024 and till date, if not quickly arrested, will cause further damage to the waters and their contents leading to a near-annihilation of aquatic lives which is the only source of livelihood of the Middleton communities and Southern Ijaw Coastal communities;

Worried that despite the prompt reporting of this incident, the slow reaction of the companies who own these Facilities around these coastal line to take responsibility over the incident is disturbing. The lethargic attitude of the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) to promptly detect the area of leakage and contain the Spillage could lead to massive unrests among youths and other residents of the impacted Southern Ijaw coastal communities who are predominantly fishermen and women whose livelihood, health and right to clean and safe environment is being violated by the continuous spillage;

Desirous of intervening and/ or taking a decisive steps towards ensuring protection of lives and livelihood of Coastal Communities in Southern Ijaw Federal Constituency and the riverine communities.

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the Management of all the Companies who own Oil Facilities along the Coastal Communities to urgently stop the Oil leakages from their Facilities at BEINGHENTORU RIVER affecting Foropah, Ekeni Ezetu Kingdoms and other Communities in Southern Ijaw;

- (ii) also call on National Emergency Management Agency to urgently supply relief materials to ameliorate the sufferings of the impacted communities who have lost source of livelihood
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream) to carry out an extensive investigation into the immediate and remote causes of the Spillage, to ascertain which company's Facility is responsible for the Spill, assess the extent of devastation and impact to the Coastal Communities of Southern Ijaw Federal Constituency and Report to the House (**HR. 03/01/2024**).
- (iv) ***High Mortality Rate Occasioned by High Manganese Concentration in Borehole Water in Ugwulangwu, Ukawu and Onicha Communities of Ebonyi State:***
Hon. Kama Nkemkanma (*Ivo/Ohaozara/Onicha 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.

High Mortality Rate Occasioned by High Manganese Concentration in Borehole Water in Ugwulangwu, Ukawu and Onicha Communities of Ebonyi State

The House:

Notes with concern, the growing number of deaths in the above mentioned communities resulting from the consumption of contaminated water from boreholes with very high concentration of manganese;

Also notes that, high manganese concentration in Borehole water can result in a permanent neurological disorder known as manganism with symptoms that includes tremors, difficulty in walking and facial muscle spasms. These symptoms are often preceded by other lesser symptoms, including irritability, aggressiveness and hallucinations;

Further notes that, over the years, these communities have suffered from lack of clean water and have been bedeviled with the burden of guinea worm infestations for several decades before the intervention of UNICEF through the Imo State Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Project in early 1980s;

Observes that, seasonally, the surface water in these communities (ponds, streams, rivers, and lakes) are polluted by flood water during the rainy season, with biological contaminations emanating from human activities making the water unfit for domestic consumption;

Also observes that, the borehole drilling firms do not comply with the set down regulations/guidelines for drilling of borehole or are not properly certified by the Ministry of Water Resources occasioning this outbreak;

Aware that, recently with gradual improvement in the economic status of the people, individuals have augmented the efforts of the Ebonyi State government in drilling several boreholes within the communities. While these are commendable as it has greatly reduced the incidences of Guinea Worm and diarrhea, however, the situation has not changed much owing to the exposure of the people to even a greater problem of high concentration of

manganese in these boreholes owing to failure to ensure quality control measures in sinking the boreholes;

Worried that from data generated in 2023, these communities continue to record high numbers of death particularly amongst young persons. In the last ten years or more, similar deaths and several illnesses like kidney, liver and other organ failures had been registered and had become rampant in these communities. These are attributed to the consumption of this contaminated water.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, to investigate the impact of the high manganese on the people in the affected communities, and further liaise with development partners, individuals and government agencies to ensure compliance with the guideline/regulations for drilling of boreholes;
- (ii) urge the Ministries of Water Resources, and Agriculture and Rural Development to certify every borehole before it is made fit for human consumption;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, and Water Resources to undertake a holistic survey of these communities and also investigate the nature of the boreholes sunk in the affected communities to ascertain whether they meet standard procedures and guidelines (*Hon. Kama Nkemkanma — Ivo/Ohaozara/Ido Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with concern, the growing number of deaths in the above mentioned communities resulting from the consumption of contaminated water from boreholes with very high concentration of manganese;

Also noted that, high manganese concentration in Borehole water can result in a permanent neurological disorder known as manganism with symptoms that includes tremors, difficulty in walking and facial muscle spasms. These symptoms are often preceded by other lesser symptoms, including irritability, aggressiveness and hallucinations;

Further noted that, over the years, these communities have suffered from lack of clean water and have been bedeviled with the burden of guinea worm infestations for several decades before the intervention of UNICEF through the Imo State Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Project in early 1980s;

Observed that, seasonally, the surface water in these communities (ponds, streams, rivers, and lakes) are polluted by flood water during the rainy season, with biological contaminations emanating from human activities making the water unfit for domestic consumption;

Also observed that, the borehole drilling firms do not comply with the set down regulations/guidelines for drilling of borehole or are not properly certified by the Ministry of Water Resources occasioning this outbreak;

Aware that, recently with gradual improvement in the economic status of the people, individuals have augmented the efforts of the Ebonyi State government in drilling several boreholes within the communities. While these are commendable as it has greatly reduced

the incidences of Guinea Worm and diarrhea, however, the situation has not changed much owing to the exposure of the people to even a greater problem of high concentration of manganese in these boreholes owing to failure to ensure quality control measures in sinking the boreholes;

Worried that from data generated in 2023, these communities continue to record high numbers of death particularly amongst young persons. In the last ten years or more, similar deaths and several illnesses like kidney, liver and other organ failures had been registered and had become rampant in these communities. These are attributed to the consumption of this contaminated water.

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, to investigate the impact of the high manganese on the people in the affected communities, and further liaise with development partners, individuals and government agencies to ensure compliance with the guideline/regulations for drilling of boreholes;
 - (ii) also urge the Ministries of Water Resources, and Agriculture and Rural Development to certify every borehole before it is made fit for human consumption;
 - (iii) mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, and Water Resources to undertake a holistic survey of these communities and also investigate the nature of the boreholes sunk in the affected communities to ascertain whether they meet standard procedures and guidelines **(HR. 04/01/2024)**.
- (v) ***Terrorist Attacks on Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State:***
Hon. Ishaya David Lalu (*Bokkos/Mangu Federal Constituency and One other*) 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.

Terrorist Attacks on Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State:

The House:

Notes that on the 24 January, 2024, there was another attack on the People of Mangu Local Government Areas of Plateau State killing more than 50 persons, others seriously injured, with over 1,000 Houses and other properties worth Billions of Naira completely destroyed and over 20, 000 people displaced;

Also notes that most of the victims that sustained various degrees of injuries are currently receiving medical attention at different hospitals within the State;

Worried that the continuous attacks by the terrorist in Mangu Local Government Area need to be addressed immediately.

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence as a mark of respect to all those killed in the attack in Mangu Local Government Areas of Plateau State;
- (ii) urge the Chief of Defence Staff to establish civilian joint task force in Plateau State;
- (iii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the proximate cause of the incessant terrorist attacks in Mangu, Bokkos, Barkin Ladi and Riyom Local Areas of Plateau State and report within two (2) weeks;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Defence, Army, Police Affairs, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Ishaya David Lulu — Bokkos/Mangu Federal Constituency and one other*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on the 24 January, 2024, there was another attack on the People of Mangu Local Government Areas of Plateau State killing more than 50 persons, others seriously injured, with over 1,000 Houses and other properties worth Billions of Naira completely destroyed and over 20, 000 people displaced;

Also noted that most of the victims that sustained various degrees of injuries are currently receiving medical attention at different hospitals within the State;

Worried that the continuous attacks by the terrorist in Mangu Local Government Area need to be addressed immediately.

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence as a mark of respect to all those killed in the attack in Mangu Local Government Areas of Plateau State;
- (ii) urge the Chief of Defence Staff to establish civilian joint task force in Plateau State;
- (iii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the proximate cause of the incessant terrorist attacks in Mangu, Bokkos, Barkin Ladi and Riyom Local Areas of Plateau State and report within two (2) weeks;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Defence, Army, Police Affairs, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 05/01/2024**).

A minute silence was observe in honour of the deceased.

10. Order of the Day

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do set down items 1 - 9 on the Order Paper to another legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (3)” (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

11. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 6 February, 2024 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.08 p.m.

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker