



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 21 February, 2024

1. The House met at 11.02 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, 20 February, 2024.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Admittance into the Chamber**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House, do admit into the Chamber, the families of Late Ghali Umar Na'Abba, Former Speaker, House of Representatives (1999 - 2003), Former Speakers and Former Hon. Members (1999-2003) on Thursday 22, February, 2024, by 11.00 a.m. for the Valedictory Session in honour of Late Ghali Umar Na'Abba, pursuant to Order Six, Rule 4 (1) (viii) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives" (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

5. **Inauguration of the Standing Committee on Constitution Review**
Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu (Deputy Speaker), Chairman, Committee on Constitution Review, informing the House of the inauguration of the Committee on Monday, 26 February, 2024 at 10.00 a.m. at the Congress Hall, Transcorp Hilton, Abuja.
6. **Petitions**
 - (i) A petition from Fola O. Daniel and 6 others, on alleged encroachment, destruction of properties and intimidation by the Nigerian Army and 1 other, was presented and laid by Hon. Amos Gwamna Magaji (*Zango Kataf/Jaba Federal Constituency*);
 - (ii) A petition from Stephen Obiefule & Partners (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Chief Timipere Yaro, Head of the Aketewei family of Sianiubo compound in Angiama community, Southern Ijaw Local Government Area, Bayelsa State, on alleged environmental degradation,

and oil spillage, by Shell Petroleum Development Nigeria Limited, was presented and laid by Hon. Nwobase Joseph (*Ezza North/Ishielu Federal Constituency*);

- (iii) A petition from Fabian C. Okafor, on alleged appointment of an unqualified candidate as University Librarian by the Governing Council of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu State, was presented and laid by Hon. Dominic Okafor (*Aguata Federal Constituency*);
- (iv) A petition from Jude O. Nwachukwu, on alleged abandonment of the construction of Okpai Shoreline Protection and landing Jetty by Orbit Marine and Energy Services Limited, was presented and laid by Hon. Nnamdi Ezechi (*Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*); and
- (v) A petition from Aliyu Umar, on alleged assassination of Mansur Bako by Honourable Yusuf Ibrahim Zailani, was presented and laid by Hon. Hussaini Muhammed Jallo (*Igabi Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

(i) *Massive Killings, Kidnapping and Displacement of Innocent Nigerians in Faskari, Kankara and Sabuwa Local Government Areas, Katsina State:*

Hon. Shehu Dalhatu (*Faskari/Kankara/Sabuwa 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.

Massive Killings, Kidnapping and Displacement of Innocent Nigerians in Faskari, Kankara and Sabuwa Local Government Areas, Katsina State:

The House:

Notes that Sections 33 and 41 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that every person has the right to life and no one shall be deprived intentional of his or her life;

Also notes that Section 41 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that every citizen of Nigeria is entitled to move freely throughout Nigeria, and to reside in any part therein;

Worried about the high rate of kidnappings and incessant attacks of residents along the Damari town in Sabuwa Local Government Area of Katsina State, where 64 persons were kidnapped at once on Saturday, 3 February, 2024 and the bandits are demanding for ₦200 million as ransom. The victims includes women and children;

Also worried that the bandits are threatening to marry the victims including the new bride;

Alarmed that in the early hours of Tuesday, 20 February, 2024, 6 people were killed and a scores of people kidnapped in Sabuwa Village;

Also alarmed that on the same Tuesday, 20 February, 2024, three villages comprising Maigora, Ruwan Godiya and Zagari, Faskari Local Government Area were ransacked, killing six (6) people, leaving ten (10) persons injured and forty (40) kidnapped;

Disturbed that on the 19 February, 2024, seven people were killed including a new born child. Several houses, shops and vehicles were burnt in Yannasarawa Village, Faskari Local Government Area;

Also disturbed that on Wednesday, 14 February, 2024, Yargoje Village in Kankara Local Government were attacked and four people were killed;

Aware that the primary duty and obligation of government is to ensure the protection of the lives and properties of every Nigerian;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased victims;
- (ii) urge the Inspector-General of Police to deploy more Police officers in the area;
- (iii) also urge the Nigeria Police Force and the Nigerian Army as well as the Department of State Services to collaborate and ensure the culprits involved are brought to book and ensure the release of those held captive;
- (iv) also urge the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide food and non-food items to save thousands of victims from dying of hunger and severe hardship; and
- (v) mandate the Committees on Police, Army and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance (*Hon. Dalhatu Shehu — Faskari/Kankara/Sabuwa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Sections 33 and 41 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that every person has the right to life and no one shall be deprived intentional of his or her life;

Also noted that Section 41 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that every citizen of Nigeria is entitled to move freely throughout Nigeria, and to reside in any part therein;

Worried about the high rate of kidnappings and incessant attacks of residents along the Damari town in Sabuwa Local Government Area of Katsina State, where 64 persons were kidnapped at once on Saturday, 3 February, 2024 and the bandits are demanding for ₦200 million as ransom. The victims includes women and children;

Also worried that the bandits are threatening to marry the victims including the new bride;

Alarmed that in the early hours of Tuesday, 20 February, 2024, 6 people were killed and a scores of people kidnapped in Sabuwa Village;

Also alarmed that on the same Tuesday, 20 February, 2024, three villages comprising Maigora, Ruwan Godiya and Zagari, Faskari Local Government Area were ransacked, killing six (6) people, leaving ten (10) persons injured and forty (40) kidnapped;

Disturbed that on the 19 February, 2024, seven people were killed including a new born child. Several houses, shops and vehicles were burnt in Yannasarawa Village, Faskari Local Government Area;

Also disturbed that on Wednesday, 14 February, 2024, Yargoje Village in Kankara Local Government were attacked and four people were killed;

Aware that the primary duty and obligation of government is to ensure the protection of the lives and properties of every Nigerian;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased victims;
- (ii) urge the Inspector-General of Police to deploy more Police officers in the area;
- (iii) also urge the Nigeria Police Force and the Nigerian Army as well as the Department of State Services to collaborate and ensure the culprits involved are brought to book and ensure the release of those held captive;
- (iv) also urge the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide food and non-food items to save thousands of victims from dying of hunger and severe hardship; and
- (v) mandate the Committees on Police, Army and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance (**HR. 71/02/2024**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(ii) ***Security Challenge in Otutubatu Chiefdom in Omala Local Government Area of Kogi State:*** Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali (*Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro 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.

Security Challenge in Otutubatu Chiefdom in Omala Local Government Area of Kogi State:

The House:

Notes that Otutubatu Chiefdom is an ancient Kingdom founded by Ebutu Eje the first Igala King and the founder of Attah Dynasty in Igala Kingdom in 12 Century;

Also notes that Otutubatu Chiefdom comprised of Bagana, Ogba, Omagede all in present day

Omala LGA of Kogi State is completely under siege due to the renew attack by herdsmen since on Sunday, 18 February, 2024 leading to destructions of lives and property worth millions of Naira and the Chief of the Communalities narrowly escaped being killed through the whisker;

Further notes that Otutubatu Chiefdom is a riverine Community in Kogi State bordering Nasarawa State on one side and Benue State on the other side. Due to its strategic location on flood plane of River Benue, the major economic occupation of the people in the area is farming and fishing;

Worried that the community has suffered several attacks from Herdsmen/ bandit resulting to loss of life and properties worth millions of Naira and the inhabitant are currently taken refuge in the neighboring community's schools;

Disturbed that the magnitude of the renewed attacks and losses is huge and if nothing is done drastically to address this challenge, the whole community will be wiped out of the State and food production in the State may be affected;

Also disturbed that taking away the lively-hood of the inhabitant at this period of hardship is as good as taking away life from them;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) urge the Inspector General of Police and Services Chiefs to constitute a joint task force to immediately evacuate the militant from this community for peace to reign;
- (iii) also urge the Chief of Naval Staff and Inspector General of Police to establish a Naval Base and Police Station in the Community to enforce maintenance of peace in the Community;
- (iv) further urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief material for the displace persons in the Community;
- (v) mandate the Committees on Navy, Police Affairs, Emergency and Disaster Management, and Legislative Compliance to ensure Compliance (*Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Halims — Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Otutubatu Chiefdom is an ancient Kingdom founded by Ebutu Eje the first Igala King and the founder of Attah Dynasty in Igala Kingdom in 12 Century;

Also noted that Otutubatu Chiefdom comprised of Bagana, Ogba, Omagede all in present day Omala LGA of Kogi State is completely under siege due to the renew attack by herdsmen since on Sunday, 18 February, 2024 leading to destructions of lives and property worth millions of Naira and the Chief of the Communalities narrowly escaped being killed through the whisker;

Further noted that Otutubatu Chiefdom is a riverine Community in Kogi State bordering

Nasarawa State on one side and Benue State on the other side. Due to its strategic location on flood plane of River Benue, the major economic occupation of the people in the area is farming and fishing;

Worried that the community has suffered several attacks from Herdsmen/ bandit resulting to loss of life and properties worth millions of Naira and the inhabitant are currently taken refuge in the neighboring community's schools;

Disturbed that the magnitude of the renewed attacks and losses is huge and if nothing is done drastically to address this challenge, the whole community will be wiped out of the State and food production in the State may be affected;

Also disturbed that taking away the lively-hood of the inhabitant at this period of hardship is as good as taking away life from them;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) urge the Inspector General of Police and Services Chiefs to constitute a joint task force to immediately evacuate the militant from this community for peace to reign;
- (iii) also urge the Chief of Naval Staff and Inspector General of Police to establish a Naval Base and Police Station in the Community to enforce maintenance of peace in the Community;
- (iv) further urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief material for the displace persons in the Community;
- (v) mandate the Committees on Navy, Police Affairs, Emergency and Disaster Management, and Legislative Compliance to ensure Compliance (**HR. 72/02/2024**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(iii) Rampant Bandit Attacks in Igabi Local Government Area, Kaduna State:

Hon. Hussaini Mohammed Jallo (*Igabi 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.

Rampant Bandit Attacks in Igabi Local Government Area, Kaduna State:

The House:

Notes that insecurity has been a major threat to food stability and economic development in Nigeria;

Concerned that over the past weekend, there were multiple violent attacks by bandits on several communities in Wusono, in Igabi Federal Constituency of Kaduna State, which

resulted in destruction of properties, kidnapping of about 30 persons, and death of at least twelve people who were shot by the bandits;

Also concerned that that the bandits also stole the people's livestock, including cattle and goats while many other animals were killed in the raid;

Worried that the attacks in Igabi Federal Constituency have been occurring on almost a daily basis and the people are now living in constant fear of their lives, while others have fled their homes to seek refuge in safer places;

Also worried that these incessant despicable attacks have been occurring with hardly any resistance from security operatives and has caused extreme hardship for the people of Igabi Federal Constituency;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute of silence in honour of the deceased victims of the attacks;
- (ii) call on the Nigerian Armed Forces, the Nigeria Police Force and other Security agencies of the Federal Government to be more committed in the fight against insecurity and ensure that adequately equipped security personnel are posted to keep the peace at Igabi Federal Constituency;
- (iii) urge the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the victims of this attack;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Army, Air Force, and Police Affairs to ensure compliance (*Hon. Hussaini Mohammed Jallo — Igabi Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that insecurity has been a major threat to food stability and economic development in Nigeria;

Concerned that over the past weekend, there were multiple violent attacks by bandits on several communities in Wusono, in Igabi Federal Constituency of Kaduna State, which resulted in destruction of properties, kidnapping of about 30 persons, and death of at least twelve people who were shot by the bandits;

Also concerned that that the bandits also stole the people's livestock, including cattle and goats while many other animals were killed in the raid;

Worried that the attacks in Igabi Federal Constituency have been occurring on almost a daily basis and the people are now living in constant fear of their lives, while others have fled their homes to seek refuge in safer places;

Also worried that these incessant despicable attacks have been occurring with hardly any resistance from security operatives and has caused extreme hardship for the people of Igabi Federal Constituency;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute of silence in honour of the deceased victims of the attacks;
- (ii) call on the Nigerian Armed Forces, the Nigeria Police Force and other Security agencies of the Federal Government to be more committed in the fight against insecurity and ensure that adequately equipped security personnel are posted to keep the peace at Igabi Federal Constituency;
- (iii) urge the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the victims of this attack;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Army, Air Force, and Police Affairs to ensure compliance (**HR. 73/02/2024**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

8. Consolidation of Bills

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Niger Delta Development Commission Act, Cap N86, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for inclusion of Anambra State as an Oil Producing State and for Related Matters (HB.154); and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Niger Delta Development Commission Act, Cap N86, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for inclusion of Anambra State as an Oil Producing State and for Related Matters (HB. 857) be now consolidated (*Hon. Isah Bello Ambarura — Illela/Gwadabawa Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

9. A Bill for an Act to Establish Nigeria Army College of Environmental Science and Technology formerly known as Nigerian Army Institute of Technology and Environmental Studies and for Related Matters (HB.376) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Nigeria Army College of Environmental Science and Technology formerly known as Nigerian Army Institute of Technology and Environmental Studies and for Related Matters (HB.376) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Austin Asema Achado — Gwer East. Gwer West 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 Army.

10. A Bill for an Act to Establish National Vocational Centre with the responsibility among other things to provide Vocational Training for Nigerian Citizens for the purpose of modern Industrialization, creating Jobs and Improving National Economic Development and for Related Matters (HB.510) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish National Vocational Centre with the responsibility among other things to provide Vocational Training for Nigerian Citizens for the purpose of modern Industrialization, creating Jobs and Improving National Economic Development and for Related Matters (HB.510) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Abdulmalik Zubairu — Bagudu/Maru 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 Federal Polytechnics and Higher Technical Education.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act, Cap. A 12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make Provision for Establishment of Federal College of Agriculture and Forestry Okundi, Boki Local Government Area of Cross River State and for Related Matters (HB.146) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act, Cap. A 12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make Provision for Establishment of Federal College of Agriculture and Forestry Okundi, Boki Local Government Area of Cross River State and for Related Matters (HB.146) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Abang Victor Bisong — Ikom/Boki 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.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Nigerian Mining Protection and Security Corps, Provide Employment for the Youths at Mining Material Areas, Enable Effective Mining Revenue Generation and for Related Matters (HB.1067) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

13. **Sixty Percent Increase in Fees of the Nigerian Law School**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Nigerian Law School is the medium through which the Council of Legal Education discharges its function to regulate the legal education of persons seeking to become members of the legal profession as provided for under Section 1 (2) of the Legal Education (Consolidation, etc.) Act, Cap. L10, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004;

Also notes that the function of the Council of Legal Education to oversee legal education in Nigeria includes deciding the cost of tuition and other services rendered to students of the Nigerian Law School;

Aware that Nigeria is currently facing a 27.33% inflation rate, as reported by the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics, which is projected by Trade Economics to rise to 30.00% by December 2024;

Concern that in exercising its functions, the Council of Legal Education has approved a 60% increase in Nigerian law school fees from two hundred and ninety-six thousand Naira (₦296,000. 00) to four hundred and seventy-six thousand Naira (₦476,000) for the 2023/2024 Bar Part II academic session;

Also aware that the 2023-2024 Bar Part II Academic session commenced in January 2024 with no time given to prospective students to raise the balance;

Cognizant that unless immediate steps are taken to strike a balance between the Council's need to provide quality services and the prospective students' abilities to afford an increment, the country will

see a high decrease in the number of Nigerian law school students, resultant decrease in the number of lawyers in the next Call to Bar Ceremony, therefore leading to a higher national unemployment rate as those unable to attend law school cannot work as legal practitioners;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Council of Legal Education to put the Nigerian Law School fee increment in abeyance; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Justice, and Tertiary Education and Services to explore solutions to the issue at hand and report within two (2) weeks (*Hon. Onwusibe Ginger Obinna — Isiala Ngwa North/Isiala Ngwa South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Nigerian Law School is the medium through which the Council of Legal Education discharges its function to regulate the legal education of persons seeking to become members of the legal profession as provided for under Section 1 (2) of the Legal Education (Consolidation, etc.) Act, Cap. L10, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004;

Also noted that the function of the Council of Legal Education to oversee legal education in Nigeria includes deciding the cost of tuition and other services rendered to students of the Nigerian Law School;

Aware that Nigeria is currently facing a 27.33% inflation rate, as reported by the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics, which is projected by Trade Economics to rise to 30.00% by December 2024;

Concern that in exercising its functions, the Council of Legal Education has approved a 60% increase in Nigerian law school fees from two hundred and ninety-six thousand Naira (₦296,000. 00) to four hundred and seventy-six thousand Naira (₦476,000) for the 2023/2024 Bar Part II academic session;

Also aware that the 2023-2024 Bar Part II Academic session commenced in January 2024 with no time given to prospective students to raise the balance;

Cognizant that unless immediate steps are taken to strike a balance between the Council's need to provide quality services and the prospective students' abilities to afford an increment, the country will see a high decrease in the number of Nigerian law school students, resultant decrease in the number of lawyers in the next Call to Bar Ceremony, therefore leading to a higher national unemployment rate as those unable to attend law school cannot work as legal practitioners;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Council of Legal Education to put the Nigerian Law School fee increment in abeyance; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Justice, and Tertiary Education and Services to explore solutions to the issue at hand and report within two (2) weeks (**HR. 74/02/2024**).

14. Need for Palliative Interventions at Illela in Sokoto State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Illela is a major border town in Sokoto State with proximity to the Republic of Niger;

Also notes that in 2023, the Federal Government announced the removal of fuel subsidy, causing an astronomical hike in the price of petroleum products across the country;

Concerned that with the resultant inflation as a fallout of the subsidy removal, the people of Illela have been worst hit, especially after the collapse of socio-economic activities caused by the closure of Illela border by the Federal Government as part of the sanctions against the military junta in the Republic of Niger;

Worried that the Illela's people are facing unbearable living conditions daily without humanitarian aid, struggling to feed and lose livelihoods due to harsh economic realities;

Also worried that since the announcement by the Federal Government on the distribution of palliatives to cushion the effects of subsidy removal, the people of Illela have been consistently neglected, without any apparent intervention to alleviate their sufferings;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation to, as a matter of urgency, provide palliative interventions to the people of Illela, Sokoto State to enable them revive their businesses and earn a decent living;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Poverty Alleviation to ensure compliance and report within three (3) weeks (*Hon. Isah Bello Ambarura — Illela/Gwadabawa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (i), immediately after the words “Sokoto State”, insert the words “and all other States of the Federation” (*Hon. Alex Egbonna— Abi/Yakurr Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
“urge the States Government to compliment the efforts of the Federal Government of Nigeria by procuring grains and other foods items for their citizens” (*Hon. Leke Abejide — Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:
“urge the Executive Arm of Government to activate the activities of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, so as to enable the Ministry distribute palliative to the vulnerable people across the country” (*Hon. Leke Abejide — Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iv) In Prayers (ii), leave out the word and figure “three (3)” and insert the word and figure “Four (4)” (*Hon. Chinedu Emeka — Ahiazu Mbaise/Ezinihitte Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Illela is a major border town in Sokoto State with proximity to the Republic of Niger;

Also noted that in 2023, the Federal Government announced the removal of fuel subsidy, causing an astronomical hike in the price of petroleum products across the country;

Concerned that with the resultant inflation as a fallout of the subsidy removal, the people of Illela have been worst hit, especially after the collapse of socio-economic activities caused by the closure of Illela border by the Federal Government as part of the sanctions against the military junta in the Republic of Niger;

Worried that the Illela's people are facing unbearable living conditions daily without humanitarian aid, struggling to feed and lose livelihoods due to harsh economic realities;

Also worried that since the announcement by the Federal Government on the distribution of palliatives to cushion the effects of subsidy removal, the people of Illela have been consistently neglected, without any apparent intervention to alleviate their sufferings;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation to, as a matter of urgency, provide palliative interventions to the people of Illela, Sokoto State, and all other States of the Federation, to enable them revive their businesses and earn a decent living;
- (ii) also urge the States Government to compliment the efforts of the Federal Government of Nigeria by procuring grains and other foods items for their citizens;
- (iii) further urge the Executive Arm of Government to activate the activities of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, so as to enable the Ministry distribute palliative to the vulnerable people across the country;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Poverty Alleviation to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 75/02/2024**).

15. Need to Investigate the Recent Frequent Collapse of the National Grid

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

16. Need for the Construction of Wamba-Shendam-Langtang-Wase Road

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Wamba-Shendam - Langtang - Wase Road is a major transportation route connecting Communities in Nasarawa and Plateau States, it provides a reliable transportation connectivity allowing ease of travelling for education, health care, and other essential activities and reduce security challenges;

Also notes that the road construction will stimulate economic growth in Nasarawa, Plateau and part of Kaduna States;

Aware that the road when constructed will facilitate the movement of goods and services, boosting trade and commerce that can lead to establishment of new business, job creation, and increased investment opportunities;

Also aware that North Central Region of Nigeria is well known for its agricultural potential, the road will provide farmers with better access to market enabling them to sell their produce more efficiently and effectively;

Cognizant that a well-constructed road will provide a safer and more convenient travel experience for commuters and it will reduce travel time, decrease the risk of accidents and improve overall transport efficiency;

Concerned that construction of the road will have positive social impact and improve access to health care facilities, schools and other social amenities;

Also concerned that benefiting the local population social practice can be enhanced by connecting different communities and foster interaction and collaborations;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works to construct Wamba-Shandam-Lantang-Wase road to facilitate the movement of goods and services and reduce the impact of insecurity within the area; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Appropriations, and Works to make budgetary provision for the road Construction in the 2025 budget estimates (*Hon. Jeremiah Umaru — Akwanga /Nasarawa/Eggon/Wamba Federal Constituency and Three others*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 76/02/2024).

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

17. Need for the Construction of a 45 Kilometer Road from Tudun Gambo to Giger in Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the road from Tudun Gambo to Giger is an essential link that connects several communities of Tudun Gambo, Wuro Gauri, Shafa Kasuwa, Bada Koshi, Sabon Kaura, Yalwa, Yola Daka Juguda, Gwaramba, Bajaman Kogi Juwara, Dadinkowa Giger within the Bauchi Local Government Area;

Also notes that the deplorable state of the road's infrastructure is causing untold hardship to residents in terms of transportation, trade transaction and access to essential services such as healthcare and education;

Concerned that the lack of a well-constructed road has hampered economic activities in the region, impacting negatively on the livelihoods of the people who depend on the transportation of goods and services;

Cognizant that the construction of this road would not only improve the overall connectivity of the area but also stimulate economic growth, enhance access to social amenities, and ultimately improve the quality of life for the residents;

Resolve to:

- (i) urge the North East Development Commission to consider the construction of a 45-kilometer road from Tudun Gambo to Gigeri; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on North-East Development Commission, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Aliyu Aminu Garu —Bauchi Federal Constituency and Three others*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 77/02/2024).

Motion referred to the Committees on North-East Development Commission, and Legislative Compliance , pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 10 (5).

18. Need for the Canalization of the Epie Creek in Yenagoa Local Government Area of Bayelsa State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Epie Creek in Yenagoa Local Government Area of Bayelsa State originates its root from the Orash Rivers which covers about 63,067m² and encompasses communities such as Igbogene Epie, Yenegwe, Akenfa, Agudum Epiee, Akenpai, Edepie, Etegwekutukutu, Opolo, Biogbolo, Yenizue-Gene, Kpansia, Yenizue-Epie, Okaka, Ekeki, Amarata, Onopa, Ovom and Yenegoa Town;

Also notes that the creek has a significant impact on the socioeconomic well-being of the communities it serves due to its size and the towns it encompasses. It serves as a vital transportation route for numerous villages, provides subsistence through fish farming and other businesses, and has the potential to become a popular tourism destination;

Worried that the Creek is polluted and blocked by water hyacinth, resulting in economic hardship and a loss of livelihood as the residents are unable to engage in their traditional fishing and farming activities. Similarly, the creek is constantly overflowing with sand, creating the need for canalization and dredging;

Further notes that Residents of Bayelsa State, especially Yenegoa, the capital city, are concerned about the condition of the Epie Creek, believing it will not merely boost the economy but likewise help in the control of perennial flooding and facilitate the development of the state if the creek's capabilities are properly harnessed;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Ministry of Niger-Delta Affairs and Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to urgently commence the canalisation/dredging of the Epie Creek; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Niger Delta Ministry, and Niger Delta Development Commission to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Oboku Abonsizibe Oforji — Yenagoa/Kolokuma/Opokuma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 78/02/2024).

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

19. Call to Investigate the Non -Completion of Jere Earth Dam Project in Bakori Local Government Area of Katsina State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Jere Earth Dam Project in Bakori Local Government of Katsina State was commenced by the Federal Government during the administration of the late President Usman Shehu Shagari to provide water resources for agriculture, livestock rearing, and domestic use in Bakori Local Government Area;

Also notes that the said Dam construction project was stalled during late President Shagari's administration due to funding constraints but was revived in 2016 during the former President Muhammadu Buhari administration, which injected a sum of ₦10 billion for its continuation;

Worried that despite the enormous amount injected into the project by the administration of former President Muhammadu Buhari, it has remained stalled;

Cognizant that if the Dam project is completed, it will not only provide water resources for agriculture, livestock rearing, and domestic use, but also create employment opportunities and boost the region's economy;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to setup a high-level task force to assess the state of the project, investigate the completion of the Jere Earth Dam Construction project in Bakori Local Government of Katsina State, and make budgetary provisions for the completion of the Jere Earth Dam Project in the 2025 budget estimates; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Water Resources to ensure compliance (*Hon. Abdullahi Balarabe Dabai — Bakori/Danja Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 79/02/2024).

Motion referred to the Committee on Water Resources, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 10 (5).

20. Need to Investigate Activities of the Federal College of Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Abuja

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

21. Nigeria's Emergency Response and Management

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the ability to respond swiftly and effectively to emergencies and disasters is a critical aspect of ensuring the safety, security, and well-being of the Nigerian population;

Also notes that a well-structured and efficient emergency response and management system is essential for minimizing the impact of emergencies;

Aware that Nigeria has faced a series of emergency situations, most recently, the devastating explosion which occurred in Ibadan on the 16 January, 2024, which has highlighted the need for a robust and coordinated emergency response system;

Worried that in some instances where emergency response systems are available, lack of access roads and other environmental or logistic challenges have impeded timely response to emergency situations;

Also worried that there is lack of public awareness and education on emergency preparedness and response that empower citizens to play an active role in their own safety. A good percentage of Nigerians do not know, for example, the Fire Service Control Room number, where it is available;

Cognizant that it is imperative to improve the capacity and resources dedicated to Nigeria's emergency response, to ensure a more effective and efficient response to emergencies;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to prioritize the strengthening and modernization of Nigeria's emergency response infrastructure, including the establishment of state-of-the-art emergency operation centers, and the purchase of sufficient fire trucks and emergency management ambulances to efficiently serve the Nigerian populace; and
- (ii) also urge relevant emergency agencies like the National Emergency Management Agency, Federal Fire Service, and the Federal Road Safety Corps to establish clear Protocols and Communication Systems for timely and effective information sharing during emergencies; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Interior, Federal Road Safety Commission to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Jafaru Gambo Leko — Bogoro/Dass/Tafawa Balewa Federal Constituency*).

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (iv) as follows:
“mandate all relevant Emergency Agencies to make available to the public their telephone hotlines for prompt report of disasters” (*Hon. Dominic Okafor— Aguata Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (v) as follows:
“urge the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Security Agencies, and Telecommunications Service Providers to facilitate the implementation of a comprehensive and user-friendly nationwide emergency hotline ” (*Hon. Muktar Tolani Shagaya — Ilorin west/Asa Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the ability to respond swiftly and effectively to emergencies and disasters is a critical aspect of ensuring the safety, security, and well-being of the Nigerian population;

Also noted that a well-structured and efficient emergency response and management system is essential for minimizing the impact of emergencies;

Aware that Nigeria has faced a series of emergency situations, most recently, the devastating explosion which occurred in Ibadan on the 16 January, 2024, which has highlighted the need for a robust and coordinated emergency response system;

Worried that in some instances where emergency response systems are available, lack of access roads and other environmental or logistic challenges have impeded timely response to emergency situations;

Also worried that there is lack of public awareness and education on emergency preparedness and response that empower citizens to play an active role in their own safety. A good percentage of Nigerians do not know, for example, the Fire Service Control Room number, where it is available;

Cognizant that it is imperative to improve the capacity and resources dedicated to Nigeria's emergency response, to ensure a more effective and efficient response to emergencies;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to prioritize the strengthening and modernization of Nigeria's emergency response infrastructure, including the establishment of state-of-the-art emergency operation centers, and the purchase of sufficient fire trucks and emergency management ambulances to efficiently serve the Nigerian populace; and
- (ii) also urge relevant emergency agencies like the National Emergency Management Agency, Federal Fire Service, and the Federal Road Safety Corps to establish clear Protocols and Communication Systems for timely and effective information sharing during emergencies;
- (iii) further urge all relevant Emergency Agencies to make available to the public their telephone hotlines for prompt report of disasters;
- (iv) still urge the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Security Agencies, and Telecommunications Service Providers to facilitate the implementation of a comprehensive and user-friendly nationwide emergency hotline; and
- (v) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Interior, Federal Road Safety Commission to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 81/02/2024**).

22. Production of National Identity Number

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the National Identification Number (NIN) is a unique, lifelong Nigerian identification issued by the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) to Nigerian citizens after enrollment;

Also notes that the National Identification Number is a security measure used to match individuals with their biometric data, tie all records in the database, and establish or verify their identity;

Aware that the National Identity Management Commission regulates national identity in Nigeria, offering services like National Identification Number enrolment and issuance, National e-ID card, among others;

Also aware that the National Identity Commission (NIMC) is responsible for managing Nigeria's National Identity database, registering individuals, assigning Unique NINs, and issuing General Multi-Purpose Cards (GMPC);

Observes that Nigerians face arduous experiences during registration despite various enrollment options and service centers, with most Nigerians yet to collect their NIN cards despite successful registration;

Cognizant that NIN is the foundational ecosystem of identifying Nigerians, and its functional identification purpose will be defeated if all citizens cannot access their unique national identification number;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) to collaborate with the Federal Ministry of Health, Partner Agencies, Hospitals, and other relevant agencies to enroll, register, and generate NIN for all Nigerian citizens and residents upon birth;
- (ii) also urge the NIMC and partner agencies to urgently resolve the issues for a seamless and nationwide NIN registration and card issuance; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Population to investigate the issues and lapses encountered by Nigerians in registering their National Identification Numbers (*Hon. Olamijuwonlo Ayodeji Alao Akala — Ogbomoshos North/Ogbomoshos South/Orire Federal Constituency*).

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (iii), immediately after the words “Population”, insert the words “Digital and Information Technology, and Information, National Orientation, Ethics and Values” (*Hon. Ajilo Umar Shehu — Makarfi/Kudan Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the National Identification Number (NIN) is a unique, lifelong Nigerian identification issued by the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) to Nigerian citizens after enrollment;

Also noted that the National Identification Number is a security measure used to match individuals with their biometric data, tie all records in the database, and establish or verify their identity;

Aware that the National Identity Management Commission regulates national identity in Nigeria, offering services like National Identification Number enrollment and issuance, National e-ID card, among others;

Also aware that the National Identity Commission (NIMC) is responsible for managing Nigeria's National Identity database, registering individuals, assigning Unique NINs, and issuing General Multi-Purpose Cards (GMPC);

Observed that Nigerians face arduous experiences during registration despite various enrollment options and service centers, with most Nigerians yet to collect their NIN cards despite successful registration;

Cognizant that NIN is the foundational ecosystem of identifying Nigerians, and its functional identification purpose will be defeated if all citizens cannot access their unique national identification number;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) to collaborate with the Federal Ministry of Health, Partner Agencies, Hospitals, and other relevant agencies to enroll, register, and generate NIN for all Nigerian citizens and residents upon birth;
- (ii) also urge the NIMC and partner agencies to urgently resolve the issues for a seamless and nationwide NIN registration and card issuance; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Population, Digital and Information Technology, and Information, National Orientation, Ethics and Values to investigate the issues and lapses encountered by Nigerians in registering their National Identification Numbers (**HR. 82/02/2024**).

23. Need to Invite the Leadership of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and Trade Union Congress (TUC) for Dialogue over the Impending Nationwide Mass Protests

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

24. Consideration of Reports

- (i) *A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of the Federal College of Health Technology, Benisheikh, Kaga, Borno State and for Related Matters (HB. 234) (Committee of the Whole):*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of the Federal College of Health Technology, Benisheikh, Kaga, Borno State and for Related Matters (HB.234)" (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader)

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEDERAL COLLEGE OF HEALTH TECHNOLOGY, BENISHEIKH, KAGA LOCAL GOVERNMENT, BORNO STATE; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB.234)

PART I — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEDERAL COLLEGE OF HEALTH TECHNOLOGY, BENISHEIKH, KAGA LOCAL GOVERNMENT, BORNO STATE

Clause 1: Establishment.

- (1) There is hereby established a Federal College to be known as the Federal College of Health Technology, Benisheikh, Kaga Local Government, Borno State (in this Bill referred to as the "College") which shall have such powers and exercise such functions as are conferred on it by this Bill.
- (2) The College shall:
 - (a) be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal with powers to sue and be sued in its corporate name.

- (b) may acquire, hold and dispose of movable and immovable property for the purpose of its functions (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 1 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 2: Objects of the College.

The objects of College shall be:

- (a) to provide courses of study, training and research in Health Technology leading to attainment or award of Certificates and Professional Diploma as may be determined by the Governing Council;
- (b) to provide Courses of instruction and other facilities for the pursuit of learning in an Health related subject, and to make those facilities available on proper terms to such persons as are equipped to benefit from them;
- (c) to provide avenues for research in Health related Subjects and continuing education in Health relates subjects;
- (d) to provide the basis for curriculum development in the areas of disease prevention, health restoration, promotion and protection as well as Health Education, Information and Communication; and
- (e) to undertake other activities appropriate for the highest standard of a College (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 2 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 3: Functions of the College.

(1) The College shall have power:

- (a) to make rules and regulations under which persons may be admitted as subjects for students of the College;
- (b) to provide courses of instruction in academic and professional subjects for students of the College;
- (c) to make provision for research and health information, particularly at the community or grass-root level;
- (d) to hold examinations and award certificates and other distinctions to persons who have pursued a course of study approved by the college and have satisfied such other requirements as the college may specify;
- (e) to establish on the recommendation of the Governing Council campuses, departments and other units of learning and research as the College may require;
- (f) to produce Health Professionals of both National and International standards;
- (g) subject to clause 22 of this Bill, to acquire, hold, grant, charge or otherwise deal with or dispose of movable and immovable property wherever situated;

- (h) to accept gifts, grants and donations, but without obligation to accept the same for a particular purpose, unless it approves the terms and conditions;
 - (i) to enter into contracts, establish trusts, act as trustee, solely or jointly with any other person, and employ and act through agents;
 - (j) to erect, provide, equip and maintain libraries, laboratories, lecture halls, halls of residence, refectories, sports grounds, playing fields and other buildings or things necessary, suitable or convenient for any of the objects of the College;
 - (k) to hold public lectures and undertake printing, publishing and book selling;
 - (l) to borrow, whether on interest or not, and indeed be, upon the security of any or all of the property movable or immovable of the college, such as moneys as the Council may, from time to time in its discretion, find necessary or expedient to borrow or to guarantee any loan, advance or credit facility;
 - (m) to make gifts for any charitable purpose;
 - (n) to do anything which it is authorized or required by this Bill or any other Statute to do ; and
 - (o) to do all such acts or things, whether or not incidental to the foregoing powers, as may advance the objects of the College.
- (2) Subject to the Provisions of this Bill and of the Statutes made there under and without prejudice to Clause 9(2) of this Bill, the powers conferred on the College by Sub-Clause (1) of this Clause shall be exercisable on behalf of the College by the Council or in any other manner which may be authorized by this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 3 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 4: Governing Council of the College.

- (1) The governance of the College and the direction of its affairs shall vest in the Governing Council of the College
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of Sub clause (1) of this clause, it is the responsibility of the Council to consider and approve:
 - (a) the plan of activities of the College;
 - (b) the programme of studies, courses, and research to be undertaken by the College;
 - (c) the annual estimates and expenditures of the College and
 - (d) the Investment plans of the College (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 4 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 5: Membership of the Council of the College.

- (1) The Council shall consist of a Chairman and the Following Members appointed by the Minister:
 - (a) a representative of the Federal Ministry responsible for Health;
 - (b) a representative of the alumni association of the College;
 - (c) three persons appointed on individual merit on a nationwide basis who should have wide experience of service in the public in the public or private sector;
 - (d) two representatives of the Academic Board of the College ; and
 - (e) the provost of the College.
- (2) Persons to be appointed to the Council shall be persons of proven Integrity, Knowledgeable and familiar with the affairs and tradition of the College (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 5 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 6: Tenure of Office of Members of Council.

- (1) A member of the Council (other than an *ex-officio* member) shall hold office for a term of three years and subject to the Provisions of sub clause (2) of this clause, shall be eligible for reappointment for a further period of three period
- (2) A member of council shall hold office if:
 - (a) the member resigns his office by notice in writing under his hand, addressed to the minister; or
 - (b) the minister is satisfied that is not in tile interest of the College for the person appointed to continue in office and notifies the member in writing to that effect (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 6 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 7: Powers of the Council.

- (1) For the carrying out of the functions of the College, the Council shall have power to:
 - (a) provide amenities for and make such other provision for the welfare of the staff of the College;
 - (b) make gifts for any charitable purpose;
 - (c) invest the funds of the College in securities specified by law or in such other securities in Nigeria as may be approved by the Minister;
 - (d) borrow money within Nigeria in such manner and upon such security as the Minister may from time or time authorize;

- (e) enter into such contracts as may be necessary or expedient for carrying into effect the objectives of the College;
- (f) recruit staff of the right caliber and determine the career structure of such staff;
- (g) establish and maintain teaching units within the college or departments as the Council may, from time to time decide;
- (h) institute and award fellowships, medals, prizes and other titles;
- (i) mount exhibitions and displays designed to foster an appreciation of trends on and the scope and requirements of education;
- (j) erect, provide, equip and maintain such educational, recreational and residential facilities as the College may require;
- (k) create lectureships and other academic posts and offices and to make appointments;
- (l) encourage and make provision for research in the College; and;
- (m) do such acts and things whether or not incidental to the foregoing powers as may advance the objects of the college (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 7 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 8: Visitation.

- (1) The Minister of Health shall be the Visitor of the College.
- (2) The Visitor shall, at least once in every five years, conduct a visitation of the College or appoint a visitation panel consisting of not less than five experts to conduct the visitation:
 - (a) for the purpose of evaluating the academic and administrative performance of the college; or
 - (b) for such other purpose or in respect of any other affairs of the College as the Visitor may deem fit (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 8 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 9: The Academic Board And Its Functions.

- (1) There shall be established for the College a Board to be known as the Academic Board which shall consist of the following members:
 - (a) the Provost of the college who shall be the Chairman;
 - (b) all Heads of Departments;
 - (c) the College Librarian; and
 - (d) not more than two members of the Academic Staff other than Heads of Departments to be appointed by the Council.

- (2) The Academic Board shall be responsible for:
 - (a) the direction and management of academic matters of the college including the regulation of admission of students, the awards of certificates, scholarships, prizes and other academic distinctions;
 - (b) making periodic reports on such academic matters to the council as the council may from time to time direct; and
 - (c) discharging any other functions which the council may from time to time delegate to it (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 9 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 10: Power of Minister to Give Directions to the Council.

Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Minister may give to the Council directions of a general character or relating generally to matters of policy with regard to exercise by the Council of its functions under this Bill and it shall be the duty of the council to comply with such directions (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 10 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 11: The Provost of the College.

- (1) There shall be a Provost of the College ("in this Bill referred to as Lithe Provost") who shall be appointed by the Minister, in accordance with the provisions of this clause.
- (2) Where a vacancy occurs in the office of Provost, the Council shall:
 - (a) advertise the vacancy in a reputable journal or a widely read newspaper in Nigeria specifying:
 - (i) the qualities of the person who may apply for the post,
 - (ii) the terms and conditions of service applicable to the post; and therefore draw up a shortlist of suitable candidates for consideration;
 - (b) constitute a search team consisting of:
 - (i) a member of the Council not being a member of the Academic Board, as Chairman,
 - (ii) two members of the academic board not below the rank of chief lecturer,
 - (iii) two members of the academic community of the college not below the rank of chief lecturer to be selected by the council, to identify and draw up a short list of suitable persons who are not likely to apply for the post for any reason whatsoever.
- (3) A Joint Council and Academic Selection Board consisting of:

- (a) the Chairman of the Council;
 - (b) two members of the Council not being members of the Academic Board;
 - (c) two members of the Academic Board not below the rank of chief lecturer, who were not members of the search team, shall consider the candidates and persons on the short lists drawn up under sub clause (2) of this clause through an examination of their curriculum vitae and interaction with them and recommended through the Council to the Minister, three candidates for his consideration.
- (4) The Minister shall appoint as provost one of the candidates recommended to him under the provisions of sub clause (3) of this clause.
- (5) The Provost:
- (a) shall hold office for a period of four years beginning with the effective date of appointment and on such terms and conditions as may be specified in the letter of appointment; and
 - (b) may be reappointed for one further period of four years and no more (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 11 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 12: Deputy Provost.

- (1) There shall be for the College a Deputy Provost.
- (2) The Council shall appoint the Deputy Provost from among the chief lecturers in the College in one of the following ways, that is:
 - (a) from a list of three candidates in order of preference, submitted by the provost; or
 - (b) on the recommendation of a Selection Board constituted under this clause for that purpose; or
 - (c) on the nomination of the Provost.
- (3) The Selection Board referred to in sub clause (2) of this clause shall:
 - (a) consist of:
 - (i) the Chairman of the Council,
 - (ii) the Provost,
 - (iii) two members of the Council not being members of the Academic Board;
 - (b) make such inquiries as it deems fit before making the recommendation required under that sub clause.
- (4) The Deputy Provost shall:

- (a) assist the Provost in the performance of his functions;
 - (b) act in the place of the Provost when the office of Provost is vacant or if the Provost is, for any reason, absent or unable to perform his functions as Provost; and
 - (c) perform such other functions as the provost or the Council may, from time to time, assign to him.
- (5) The Deputy Provost:
- (a) shall hold office for two years from the date of appointment and on such terms and conditions as may be specified in the letter of appointment; and
 - (b) may be reappointed for one further period of two years and no more (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 12 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 13: The Registrar and Other Staff of the College.

- (1) The Council of the College shall appoint a Registrar to the College (hereinafter referred to as the Registrar") who shall keep the records and conduct the correspondence of the Council and shall perform such other duties as the council and the provost may from time to time direct.
- (2) The Registrar shall, in addition to other duties conferred on him by or under this Bill, be the Secretary to the Council, the Academic Board and any committee of the Council and in his absence, the Councilor any such committee may appoint some other person to act as Secretary, and he shall not vote on any question before the Councilor count towards a quorum.
- (3) The Registrar:
 - (a) shall hold office for a period of five years from the effective date of appointment and on such terms and conditions as may be specified in the letter of appointment; and
 - (b) may be reappointed for one further period of five years and no more.
- (4) Where, on the commencement of this clause, a Registrar appointed before the commencement of this clause has held office:
 - (a) for five years or less, the person shall be deemed to be serving the first term of office and may be reappointed for a further term of five years;
 - (b) for more than five years but less than ten years, the person shall complete the maximum period of ten years and thereafter shall relinquish the post; and
 - (c) for ten years or more, the Council may allow the person to serve as Registrar for a further period of one year only and thereafter he shall relinquish the office (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 13 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 14: Resignation of Appointment of Principal Officers.

A principal officer of the College may resign his appointment:

- (a) in the case of the Provost, by notice to the Visitor; and
- (b) in any other case, by notice to the Council (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 14 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 15: Other Staff of the College.

The Council may appoint such other persons to be employees of the College as the Council may determine to assist the Provost and the Principal Officers of the College in the performance of their functions under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 15 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 16: Selection Board for other Principal Officers.

(1) There shall be, for College, a Selection Board which shall consist of:

- (a) the Chairman of the Council;
- (b) the Provost;
- (c) four members of the Council not being members of the Academic Board; and
- (d) two members of the Academic Board;
- (e) the functions, procedure and other matters relating to the Selection Board constituted under sub clause (1) of this clause, shall be as the Council may, time to time, determine (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 16 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 17: Pensions.

- (1) Service in the College shall be approved for the purposes of the Pensions Act and, accordingly, officers and other persons employed in the College shall in respect of their services in the college be entitled to pensions, gratuities and other retirement benefits as are prescribed in the Act, however nothing in this Bill shall prevent the appointment of a person to any office on terms which preclude the grant of a pension and gratuity in respect of that office.
- (2) For the purpose of the application of the provisions of the Pensions Act, any power exercisable by a Minister or other authority of the Government of the Federation (other than the power to make regulations under clause 23) shall be exercisable by the College and not by any other person or authority (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 17 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART II — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Clause 18: Establishment of the Fund of the College.

- (1) The Council shall establish and maintain a fund which shall be applied towards the promotion of the objectives specified in this Bill.
- (2) There shall be paid and credited to the fund established under sub clause (1) of this clause:
 - (a) such sums as may from time to time be granted to the Council by the Federal Government through the National Commission for Colleges of Education;
 - (b) all moneys raised for the purposes of the Council by way or gifts, grants -in-aid or testamentary disposition; and
 - (c) all subscriptions, fees and charges for services rendered by the Council and all other sums that may accrue to the Council from any source.
- (3) The Council shall submit to the Minister, through the National Commission for Colleges of Education, not later than three months before the end of each financial year or at such other time as he may direct, an estimate of its revenue and expenditure for the next succeeding financial year (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 18 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 19: Power to Accept Gifts.

- (1) The Council may accept gifts of land, money or other property upon such term and conditions if any, as may be specified by the person making the gift.
- (2) The Council shall not accept any gift if the condition attached by the person making the gift are inconsistent with the functions of the Council (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 19 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 20: Accounts and Audit.

The council shall keep proper accounts of its receipts, payments, assets and liabilities and shall in respect of each year cause the accounts to be audited (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 20 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 21: Annual Report.

The Council shall soon as may be after the expiration of each financial year, prepare and submit to the Minister a report of its activities during the immediately preceding financial year and shall include in the report a copy of the audited accounts of the College for that year and of the auditor's report on the accounts (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 21 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART III — MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY

Clause 22: Offices and Premises.

- (1) For the purpose of providing offices and premises necessary for the performance of its functions, the Council may
 - (a) purchase any interest or take on lease any land; and
 - (b) build, equip and maintain offices and premises.
- (2) The Council may, with the approval of the Minister, sell any interest in or lease any land, offices or premises held by it and no longer required for the performance of its functions (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 22 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 23: Discipline of Students.

- (1) The Council may make rules providing for the Provost to conduct enquires into alleged breaches of discipline (including lack of diligence) by students and such rules may make different provisions for different circumstances.
- (2) The rules shall provide for the procedure and rules of evidence to be followed at enquires under this clause.
- (3) Subject to provisions of subclause (1) of this clause, where it is proved during enquiry that any student of the College has been guilty of misconduct, the Provost may, without prejudice to any other disciplinary powers conferred on him by this Bill or any other regulations made there under direct:
 - (a) that the student shall not, during such period as may be specified in the direction, participate in such activities of the College, or make use of such facilities of the College, as may be specified;
 - (b) that the activities of the student shall during such period as may be specified in the directions, be restricted in such manner as may be so specified;
 - (c) that the student may be suspended for such period as may be specified in the direction; or
 - (d) that the student be expelled from the College.
- (4) Where there is temporarily no Provost or where the Provost refuses to apply any disciplinary measures, the Council may, either directly or through some other staff, apply such disciplinary actions as are specified in sub clause (3) of this clause to any student of the College who is guilty of misconduct.
- (5) Where a direction is given under sub clause (3) (c) or (d) of this clause in respect of any student, the student may, within 21 days from the date of the letter communicating the decision to him, appeal against the direction to the Council, and where such an appeal is brought, the Council shall, after causing such inquiry to be made in the matter as the Council considers just, either confirm or set aside the direction or modify it in such manner as the Council may think fit.
- (6) The fact that an appeal or a direction is brought in pursuance of subclause

- (5) of this clause shall not affect the operation of the direction while the appeal is pending.
- (7) The Provost may delegate his powers under this clause of a disciplinary committee consisting of such members of the College as he may nominate.
- (8) Nothing in this clause shall be construed as preventing the restriction or termination of a student's activities at the College otherwise than on the ground of misconduct.
- (9) The direction under subclause (3) (a) of this clause may be combined with a direction under sub clause (3) (b) of this clause.
- (10) In all cases under this clause, the decision of the Council shall be final unless reversed by the Minister on appeal by the student (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 23 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 24: Interpretation.

In this Bill:

"Appropriate authority" means any person, body or authority authorized by law to act in a specific or general capacity in relation to a subject matter (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Appropriate authority" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Campus" means any campus which may be established by the College (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the word "Campus" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Chairman" means the chairman of the Council (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the word "Chairman" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Council" means the Governing Council of the College established by clause 4 of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the word "Council" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Provost" means the Provost of a College appointed under clause 9 of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the word "Provost" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Functions" includes powers and duties (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the word "Functions" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Minister" means the Minister charged with responsibility for matters relating to health (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the word "Minister" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Member" means a member of the Council including the Chairman (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the word "Member" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

Question that Clause 24 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 25: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Federal College of Health Technology, Benisheikh, Borno State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2024 (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 25 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

SCHEDULE

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION OF THE COUNCIL, ETC.

Terms of Service

3. (1) There may be paid to the members of the council or any committee, other than ex-officio members, such remuneration and allowances as may from time to time be determined by the Minister.
- (2) Where a vacancy occurs in respect of the membership specified in clause 3(1) (d) and 3 (2) (d), it shall be filled by the appointment of a successor to hold office for the remainder of the term of office of his predecessor in office and such successor shall represent the same interest as his predecessor.
- (3) The Council may act notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership or any defect in the appointment of a member or the absence of a member.

Proceedings

4. (1) The Council shall meet for the conduct of business at such times, places and on such days as the chairman may appoint but shall meet not less than once every four months.
- (2) The Chairman may at any time and shall, at the request in writing of not less than six members, convene a meeting of the Council.
- (3) At the meeting of the Council the Chairman shall preside; but in his absence, members present shall elect one of their members to preside at the meeting.
- (4) Where the Council desires to obtain the advice of any person on any particular matter, the Council may co-opted shall not be entitled to vote at a meeting of the Council.

- (5) The quorum of the Council shall be one half of the total members of the Council, at least one of whom shall be a member appointed by the Minister.
- (6) Decisions of the Council shall be made on approval by a simple majority of members.

Miscellaneous

5. (1) The fixing of the seal of the College shall be authenticated by the signature of the chairman, provost and of some other members of the Council authorized generally or specially by the Council to act for that purpose.
- (2) Any contract or instrument which, if made or executed by a person other than a body corporate would not be required to be under seal may be made or executed on behalf of the college by any person generally or specially authorized to act for that purpose by the Council.
- (3) Any document purporting to be duly executed under the seal of the College shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be presumed to be executed (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the provisions of the Schedule stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to establish the Federal College of Health Technology Benisheikh, Borno State to ensure access to education in Health Technology, to provide full-time courses of teaching, instruction and training in Health Technology; and also make provision for the appointment of a Provost and the Officials of the College to carry out the administration of the College (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Federal College of Health Technology, Benisheikh, Kaga Local Government, Borno State; and for Related Matters (HB.234) (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of the Federal College of Health Technology, Benisheikh, Kaga, Borno State and for Related Matters (HB.234) and approved Clauses 1 - 25, the Schedules, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

- (ii) ***A Bill for an Act to Domesticate the New Partnership for Africa's Development framework and Establish African Union Development Commission and to give effect to its provisions in the Federal Republic of Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.271) (Committee of the Whole):***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Domesticate the New Partnership for Africa's Development framework and

Establish African Union Development Commission and to give effect to its provisions in the Federal Republic of Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.271)” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO DOMESTICATE THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK AND ESTABLISH AFRICAN UNION DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND TO GIVE EFFECT TO ITS PROVISIONS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB.271)

Consideration deferred for further consultation.

Chairman to report progress.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole deferred consideration of the Report on a Bill for an Act to Domesticate the New Partnership for Africa's Development framework and Establish African Union Development Commission and to give effect to its provisions in the Federal Republic of Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.271).

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

(iii) A Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Library Act, Cap. N56, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the National Library Bill, 2024 to establish and maintain the National Library of Nigeria, strengthen its statutory functions and for Related Matters (HB. 89) (Committee of the Whole):

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Library Act, Cap. N56, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the National Library Bill, 2024 to establish and maintain the National Library of Nigeria, strengthen its statutory functions and for Related Matters (HB. 89)” (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO REPEAL THE NATIONAL LIBRARY ACT, CAP. N56, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004, AND ENACT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY ACT, 2023 TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA, STRENGTHEN ITS STATUTORY FUNCTIONS; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB.89)

Clause 1: Establishment of the National Library.

- (1) There is established the National Library of Nigeria (in this Bill referred to as "the National Library").
- (2) The National Library —
 - (a) is a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal;
 - (b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name; and
 - (c) may acquire, hold and dispose of property moveable and immoveable in the performance of its functions under this Bill.
- (3) The headquarters of the National Library is situate in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory.
- (4) The National Library shall have branches in each state capital of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 1 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 2: Objectives of the Act.

The objectives of this Bill are to —

- (a) strengthen the legal deposit drive in conformity with International best practices;
- (b) embrace e-government policy, incorporate digital system and national repository;
- (c) confer research status on the National Library of Nigeria; and
- (d) reflect the title of chief executive officer of National Librarian in line with International best practices (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 2 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 3: Establishment and membership of the Governing Board of the National Library.

- (1) There is established for the National Library a Governing Board (in this Bill referred to as "the Board") which shall direct the affairs of the National Library.
- (2) The Board shall consist of —
 - (a) a Chairman;
 - (b) one representative of the Federal Ministry of Education;
 - (c) one representative of the Nigerian Association of University Librarians;
 - (d) one representative of the Nigerian Library Association;

- (e) one representative' of the Nigerian Authors and Publishers Association established in Nigeria;
 - (f) one representative of each geopolitical zone of Nigeria as prescribed in the Second Schedule to this Bill;
 - (g) one representative of the National Archives of Nigeria; and
 - (h) the National Librarian.
- (3) The Chairman and other members of the Board shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister.
- (4) Subject to subsection (1) (a) of this Bill, a person appointed as a member of the Board, who is not an *ex-officio* member, shall hold office for four years and no more.
- (5) The supplementary provisions contained in the First Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Board, and other matters mentioned in it.
- (6) There shall be paid to every member of the Board such allowances and expenses as the Federal Government may direct (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonybere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 3 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 4: Cessation of office.

- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 3 (4) of this Bill, a person shall cease to hold office as a member of the Board where —
- (a) his term of office expires;
 - (b) he resigns his office by a notice in writing under his hand addressed to the President through the Minister;
 - (c) he dies;
 - (d) he is incapable of carrying out his duties due to physical or mental illness;
 - (e) he is declared bankrupt;
 - (f) he is convicted of a felony or any offence involving dishonesty;
 - (g) he is found guilty of gross misconduct relating to his duties;
 - (h) in the case of a person possessed of professional qualification, he is disqualified or suspended from practicing his profession in any part of the world by an order of a competent authority; or
 - (i) in the case of an *ex-officio* member, he ceases to hold the office on the basis of which he is a member of the Board.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), a member of the Board may be suspended or removed from office by the President if the President

is satisfied that it is not in the interest of the National Library or the public that the member continues in office.

- (3) Where a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Board, it shall be filled by the appointment of a successor representing the same interest to hold office for the remainder of the term of office of his predecessor (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 4 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 5: Functions and powers of the Board.

The Board shall —

- (a) formulate policy and superintend over the policy, finance and property of the National Library including its public relations;
- (b) set out the economic, financial, operational and administrative policies, programmes and targets of the National Library in line with the overall objective of setting up the organisation, and take into cognisance of the policy directives of the Government as provided by the Minister;
- (c) measure performance against targets, introduce broad policy measures and supervise management to ensure that the targets are achieved; and
- (d) approve procedures for collection, preservation and use of the National Library collections (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 5 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 6: Functions of the National Library.

The National Library shall —

- (a) act as a national depository institution for books and any other literary output in Nigeria including digital publications;
- (b) digitise and upload collected legal deposit materials to its virtual library without compromising the copyright of authors and publishers;
- (c) act as the focal institution and advisory body to individual, corporate and Government institutions on library and information matters;
- (d) acquire, process, organise, disseminate as well as provide links to information resources to Nigerians and non-Nigerians, for their educational pursuit and for informed decision making;
- (e) assemble and maintain a collection of all books, periodicals, newspapers, maps, gazettes, laws, bye-laws, notices, orders and other government publications which are published in and about Nigeria;
- (f) assemble and maintain a collection of all musical recordings and films produced in and about Nigeria;
- (g) develop networks and linkages with other libraries in Nigeria and anywhere in the world;
- (h) prepare catalogues, indexes and similar research aids;

- (i) register and represent international standard publishing agencies in Nigeria, such as International Standard Book Number (ISBN), International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), International Standard Music Number (ISMN) and any other international standard publishing agency;
- (j) prescribe the rules and procedures for granting applications and issuance of ISBN, ISSN, ISMN or as may be applicable;
- (k) allocate ISBN to publications that emanate from Nigeria, assign ISSN to new serial titles and ISMN to music publications;
- (l) make the facilities of the National Library available to members of the public and others on proper terms, which may include provision for —
 - (i) registration of persons admitted to use the library facilities, and
 - (ii) safe-guard of the property' of the National Library;
- (m) impose fees or administrative charges for services rendered to the public, subject to approval of the Board;
- (n) provide consultancy services to individuals, communities, corporate bodies, agencies and other government bodies as it relates to library matters;
- (o) develop and publish the National Bibliography of Nigeria and national bibliographical services, either in nine national bibliographical centres or elsewhere;
- (p) engage in research on any subject of national interest relating to library affairs and publish its findings for public use;
- (q) provide and encourage staff to undertake capacity-building and skill acquisition programmes to enhance their skills in the performance of their duties to the National Library;
- (r) engage in readership promotion campaign with a view to encourage reading culture and awareness among Nigerians;
- (s) provide leadership initiative in the area of resource sharing and library co-operation;
- (t) audit the sources of unrecorded information such as indigenous knowledge which are required for continued research into national heritage of Nigerian history and culture;
- (u) develop Information and Communication Technology (ICT) facilities to ensure that the services of the National Library are offered in real time, more widely and efficiently;
- (v) develop and provide virtual and other ICT related library services;
- (w) provide, in accordance with this Bill, the services provided by the national libraries of highest standing as the Board may deem;
- (x) establish a Centre for Advanced Library and Information Management (CALIM) and other capacity building centres that may be responsible for

- short and long term capacity building of librarians and other information personnel;
- (y) subject to extant laws, grant open access in print or electronic form to research publications sponsored by Government and international agencies;
 - (z) be an educational research institution;
 - (aa) act as the Bibliographic body of Nigeria;
 - (bb) act as Registrar of all other libraries in Nigeria;
 - (cc) index and keep the list of all public library in a data base in Nigeria and cause a certificate of registration to be issued; and
 - (dd) facilitate collaboration and linkages with related organisations (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 6 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 7: Appointment of the National Librarian.

- (1) There is appointed for the National Library a National Librarian ("National Librarian"), by the President on the recommendation of the Minister.
- (2) The National Librarian shall —
 - (a) be subject to the general direction and supervision of the Board;
 - (b) be a person who has capacity in the organisation of library and its services;
 - (c) be the chief executive and accounting officer of the National Library;
 - (d) be a degree holder with at least 18 years cognate experience on matters which relates to library and information management;
 - (e) execute the policies of the Board and be responsible for the administration of the National Library; and
 - (f) discharge other duties as the Board may direct.
- (3) The National Librarian shall hold office for a term of four years and is eligible for another term of four years and no more (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 7 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 8: Staff of the National Library.

The National Library may, subject to the approval of the Board, appoint such staff as it deems necessary and expedient —

- (a) for the proper and efficient performance of its functions; and
- (b) on such terms and conditions, with remunerations, allowances and benefits as may be determined by the Board, in consultation with the National

Salaries Incomes and Wages Commission (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 8 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 9: Service in the National Library.

- (1) Service in the National Library shall be approved service for the purposes of the Pension Reform Act, and accordingly, staff of the National Library are entitled to pensions and other retirement benefits as are prescribed under the Pension Reform Act.
- (2) Without prejudice to the provisions of subsection (1), nothing in this Bill shall prevent the appointment of a person to any office on conditions which preclude the grant of a pension, gratuity or other retirement benefits in respect of the office.
- (3) For the application of the provisions of the Pension Reform Act, any power exercisable by a Minister or other authority of the Government other than the power to make regulations under the Pension Reform Act is vested in and shall be exercised by the Board (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 9 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 10: Deposit obligations.

- (1) An author or publisher of a published work in Nigeria shall within one month after the publication, deposit with the National Library perfect copies in print and electronic form (the published work) for permanent preservation and public use at their own expense.
- (2) Where the publication is by or on behalf of any department of the Federal Government, State Government or an individual, the number of copies to deposit shall be 37 for Federal, 18 for States and four for individuals, which shall be delivered to the National Library for permanent preservation and public use at their own expense.
- (3) Publications in digital and print forms sponsored by Government and inter government agencies, deposited with the National Library shall be made available freely without copyright restrictions.
- (4) Collection of electronic publications by Nigerians for and about Nigeria domiciled in other databases and repositories shall be harvested for free and access given in perpetuity to the National Library.
- (5) Where an author or publisher fails to deposit the requisite number of copies of the published work at the National Library as provided in subsection (1), the National Library shall —
 - (a) seize the published work; and
 - (b) impose a fine of five times the cover price of the publication.
- (6) An author or publisher who fails to comply with the provision of subsection (1), the author or publisher commits an offence and is liable upon conviction —

- (a) in the case of an individual to a fine 10 times the cover price of the publication; or
 - (b) in the case of a body corporate, to a fine 20 times the cover price of the publication.
- (7) Without prejudice to subsection (6), the court shall order the person in default to deliver to the National Library the mandatory number of copies of the publications.
- (8) Any person who refuses to grant free access for the collection of electronic publications, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a minimum fine of N500,000.
- (9) A book, periodical or any other publication shall not be launched publicly anywhere in Nigeria unless the author or publisher has obtained a certificate of clearance of depositing the publication with the National Library.
- (10) Any person who fails to present the certificate of clearance, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a minimum fine of ₦500,000.
- (11) The President may, by order in the Federal Government Gazette exclude any publisher or book from the operation of subsections (1) and (2) (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 10 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 11: International standard publishing obligations.

- (1) A book, periodical or publication, including digital materials published in Nigeria which meets international standard publishing format shall be assigned an appropriate international standard number by the National Library.
- (2) An author or publisher who fails to obtain international standard number for his publication, commits an offence and is liable upon conviction to a fine of at least ₦100,000.
- (3) An author or publisher who obtains an international standard number from an unauthorised source, commits an offence and is liable upon conviction to a fine of at least ₦100,000.
- (4) A staff or director of an organisation who issues unauthorised international standard number, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of two years without an option of fine (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 11 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 12: Fund of the National Library.

There is established a fund for the National Library (in this Bill referred to as "the Fund") which shall consist of —

- (a) all subventions and budgetary allocations from the Federal Government;
- (b) foreign aid assistance from international, regional or sub-regional bodies, provided that the foreign aid assistance is not inconsistent with the objectives of the National Library;

- (c) all sums which accrue to the National Library by way of gifts, endowments or testamentary depositions; and
- (d) any other fund as may accrue to the National Library from its investments or from the disposal of its assets (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 12 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 13: Expenditure of the National Library.

The National Library shall apply the proceeds of the Fund to —

- (a) meet its administrative and operating costs;
- (b) pay salaries, wages, fees, allowances, retirement benefits including pensions and any other remuneration payable to the staff of the National Library;
- (c) publicise and promote the activities, of the National Library;
- (d) purchase or acquire property, develop, or maintain any property vested in or owned by the National Library; and
- (e) undertake any other expenditure in connection with its functions under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 13 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 14: Accounts and audit.

- (1) The National Library shall keep proper accounts and other records relating to the National Library and shall prepare, in respect of each financial year, a statement of accounts and present it to the Board.
- (2) The accounts of the National Library shall be audited by auditors appointed by the Board from the list of auditor's and in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by the Auditor-General for the Federation (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 14 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 15: Annual report.

The National Librarian shall prepare and submit to the Board, not later than 30 May in each financial year, a report in such form as the Board may direct, on the activities of the National Library during the last preceding financial year, and shall include in the report a copy of the audited accounts of the National Library for the last preceding financial year and of the auditors' report on the accounts (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 15 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 16: Power to accept gifts.

The National Library may accept gifts on such terms and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the donor of the gift, provided that the terms and conditions are not contrary to the objectives and functions of the National Library (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 16 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 17: Power to make regulations.

The National Librarian may make such regulations —

- (a) as in his opinion are necessary or expedient to give effect to the provisions of this Bill; and
- (b) to vary the number of copies of publication to be deposited by an author or publisher (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 17 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 18: Legal proceedings, service of documents.

- (1) A suit against the National Library or any member, officer or staff of the National Library in his capacity as such, shall not lie or be instituted unless it is commenced within 12 months following the act, neglect or default complained of or, in the case of a continuance of damage or injury, within the 12 months following the cessation.
- (2) A suit shall not be commenced against the National Library or any member, officer or staff of the National Library in his capacity as such, unless at least one month written notice of intention to commence the suit is served on the National Library by or on behalf of the intending plaintiff, which states the —
 - (a) cause of action;
 - (b) particulars of the claim; and
 - (c) name and place of abode of the intending plaintiff and the relief claimed.
- (3) The notice referred to in subsection (2) and any summons, notice or other documents required or authorised to be served on the Board or National Library may, except where there is express provision to the contrary, be served by —
 - (a) delivering it to the National Librarian; or
 - (b) sending it by registered post, addressed to the National Librarian, at the principal office of the National Library.
- (4) The National Library shall, without prejudice to any other right of representation, be represented at any stage of the proceedings by any member, officer or staff of the National Library who is duly authorised in writing by the National Librarian in that behalf.
- (5) In any suit against the National Library, no execution, attachment or process shall be issued against the National Library, except any sum of money which may, by the judgment of the court, be awarded against the National Library and shall subject to any direction given by the court where notice of appeal has been given by the National Library in respect of the judgment, be paid by the National Librarian from the funds of the National Library.
- (6) In this section "suit" means any civil proceeding however commenced (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 18 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 19: Repeal and savings provisions.

- (1) The National Library Act, Cap. N56, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 is repealed.
- (2) From the commencement of this Bill, all assets, funds, resources and other movable or immovable property which, immediately before the commencement of this Bill is vested on the National Library, is vested in the National Library established under this Bill.
- (3) From the commencement of this Bill —
 - (a) the rights, interests, obligations and liabilities of the former Board existing immediately before the commencement of this Bill under any contract or instrument shall under this Bill be assigned and vest in the Board established in this Bill;
 - (b) anything made, done or having effect under the repealed Act and having any resulting or continuing effect shall be treated from the commencement of this Bill, as if it were made or done by the National Library established under this Bill; and
 - (c) any person who before the commencement of this Bill, is appointed or employed by the National Library established under the repealed Act shall continue in office and is deemed appointed or employed by the National Library established under this Bill.
- (4) All assets, rights, liabilities and obligations of the National Library under the repealed Act are, under this Bill, deemed to be that of the National Library established under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 19 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 20: Interpretation.

In this Bill —

"bibliographic services" means management and processing of publications by the National Library for ease of access (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the words "bibliographic services" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Board" means the National Library Board, established under section 2 of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the word "Board" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Chairman" means the Chairman of the Board (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the word "Chairman" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"competent authority" includes a court and professional bodies (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the words "competent authority" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Minister" means the Minister charged with responsibility for education (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the word "Minister" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"National Library" means the apex library of Nigeria established under section 1 of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the words "National Library" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"National Librarian" means the Chief Executive Officer of the National Library; and (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the words "National Librarian" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"State" means a State of the Federation (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the word "State" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

Question that Clause 20 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 21: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the National Library of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that Clause 21 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

SCHEDULES

FIRST SCHEDULE

Section 3 (5)

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE BOARD

Proceedings of the Board

1. (1) Subject to this Bill and section 3 of the Interpretation Act, Cap. I23, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 the Board may make standing orders to regulate the proceedings of the Board or any of its committee.
- (2) The quorum of the Board shall be four and the quorum of any committee of the Board shall be determined by the Board.

- (3) The Board shall elect a member of the Board to be the Deputy Chairman of the Board for such period as the Board may determine, however a Deputy Chairman who ceases to be a member shall cease to be the Deputy Chairman.
- (4) Where the office of the Chairman is vacant or the Chairman is, in the opinion of the Board, unable to perform the functions of his office, the Deputy Chairman shall perform those functions, and the references in this Bill to the Chairman shall be construed accordingly.
- (5) The Board shall meet not more than four times in each calendar year.
- (6) Subject to subparagraph (5) and standing orders of the Board, the Board shall meet where it is summoned for emergency meeting by the Chairman and if the Chairman is required to do so by notice given to him by at least seven other members, he shall summon an emergency meeting of the Board to be held within seven days from the date on which the notice is given.
- (7) At any meeting of the Board the Chairman, in his absence the Deputy Chairman, shall preside, but if both are absent, the members present at the meeting shall elect one of their member to preside at the meeting.
- (8) Where the Board desires to obtain the advice of any person on a particular matter, the Board may co-opt the person as a member for such period as it deems fit, but a person who is a member under this paragraph, is not entitled to vote at any meeting of the Board and shall not count towards a quorum.
- (9) The Board shall appoint three standing committees which are the Finance and General Purpose, the Establishment and Planning Committee and the Development Committee to which the Board shall delegate its functions.
- (10) The Board shall appoint a Secretary to the Board, who shall —
 - (a) be an officer of the National Library but not a member of the Board; and
 - (b) discharge such duties as the Board or the National Librarian may determine.
- (11) Without prejudice to the generality of the powers conferred by this Bill, the Board has power to make staff regulations, to regulate the conditions of service of the staff of the National Library to provide for —
 - (a) the appointments, promotions, dismissals, disciplines, leave of absence, sabbatical and study leave of senior staff; and
 - (b) appeals by staff against dismissal or other disciplinary measures and until the regulations are made, an instrument relating to conditions of service in the Public Service of the Federation shall be applicable, with modifications as may be necessary, to the staff of the National, Library.

Miscellaneous

2. (1) The affixing of the seal of the National Library shall be authenticated by the signature of the National Librarian or any authorised officer.
- (2) Any contract or instrument which, if made or executed by a person who is not a body corporate, is not required to be under seal, may be made or executed on behalf of the National Library by any person generally or specially authorised by the

National Librarian to act for that purpose.

- (3) Any document which purports to be a document duly executed under the seal of the National Library shall be received in evidence and is, unless the contrary is proved, presumed to be so executed.
- (4) The validity of any proceedings of the Board or its committee is not affected by any —
- (a) vacancy in the membership of the Board or committee;
 - (b) defect in the appointment of a member of the Board; or
 - (c) reason that a person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the provisions of the First Schedule stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

SECOND SCHEDULE

Section 3 (2) (f)

The States in each zone referred to in section 3 (2) (f) of this Bill are —

Zone A — North East:

Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe;

Zone B — North West:

Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, and Zamfara;

Zones C — North Central:

Benue, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Kwara, Kogi, Niger, Nasarawa and Plateau;

Zone D — South West:

Ekiti, Ondo, Lagos, Ogun, Osun, Oyo;

Zone E — South East:

Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu, Imo;

Zone F — South South

Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo and Rivers (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the provisions of the Second Schedule stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Library Act, Cap. N56, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, and Enact the National Library Act, 2023 to Establish and Maintain the National Library of Nigeria, Strengthen its Statutory Functions; and for Related Matters (HB.89) (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Library Act, Cap. N56, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the National Library Bill, 2024 to establish and maintain the National Library of Nigeria, strengthen its statutory functions and for Related Matters (HB. 89) and approved Clauses 1 - 21, the Schedules, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

- (iv) ***A Bill for an Act to Establish National Metallurgical Training Institute, Sagamu, Ogun State to Provide Training, Information, Supervision, Guidance and advice to Students, Researchers and Personnel in Iron and Steel, and Oil and Gas Industries for National Development and for Related Matters (HB. 109) (Committee of the Whole):***
Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish National Metallurgical Training Institute, Sagamu, Ogun State to Provide Training, Information, Supervision, Guidance and advice to Students, Researchers and Personnel in Iron and Steel, and Oil and Gas Industries for National Development and for Related Matters (HB. 109)” (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL METALLURGICAL TRAINING INSTITUTE, SAGAMU, OGUN STATE TO PROVIDE TRAINING, INFORMATION, SUPERVISION, GUIDANCE AND ADVICE TO STUDENTS, RESEARCHERS AND PERSONNEL IN IRON AND STEEL, AND OIL AND GAS INDUSTRIES FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 109)

Consideration deferred to enable the Committee on Rules and Business clean up the Bill properly.

Chairman to report progress.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole deferred consideration of the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish National Metallurgical Training Institute, Sagamu, Ogun State to Provide Training, Information, Supervision, Guidance and advice to Students, researchers and Personnel in Iron and Steel, and Oil and Gas Industries for National Development and for Related Matters (HB. 109).

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

- (v) ***A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal College of Agricultural Technology, Otun Ekiti to Provide full-time Courses in Agricultural Technology, Applied Science Management and other Fields of Studies and to make Provisions for the General Administration of the College and for Related Matters (HB.875) (Committee of the Whole).***

Order read; deferred by leave of the House, to enable the Committee on Rules and Business clean up the Bill properly.

25. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 22 February, 2024 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.22 p.m.

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker