



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA FIRST VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 13 July, 2023

1. The House met at 11.23 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Wednesday, 12 July, 2023.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Message**
Mr Speaker read a message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

11th July, 2023

Rt. Honourable Tajudeen Abbas,
*Speaker of the House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL FINANCING OF THE NATIONAL SOCIAL SAFETY NET PROGRAMME (SCALE UP) BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

It is with pleasure that I refer the above matter to you. Please note that the Federal Executive Council led by President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR ("FEC") approved an additional loan facility to the tune

of USD800,000,000 (Eight Hundred Million United States Dollars) to be secured from the World Bank for the National Social Safety Net Programme (the "Programme") (Copy of FEC Extract attached).

2. You may also wish to note that the purpose of the facility is to expand coverage of shock responsive safety net support for poor and vulnerable Nigerians and to help them cope with the cost of meeting basic needs.

3. You may further wish to note that under the conditional cash transfer window of the Programme, the Federal Government of Nigeria will transfer the sum of ₦8,000 per month to 12,000,000 (twelve million) poor and low income households for a period of 6 (six) months with a multiplier effect on about 60,000,000 (sixty million) individuals. In order to guarantee the credibility of the process, digital transfers will be made directly to beneficiaries' account and mobile wallets.

4. It is expected that the Programme will stimulate economic activity in the informal sector and improve nutrition, health and education outcomes for beneficiary households.

5. Given the above, I wish to invite the House of Representatives to kindly grant approval for the additional loan facility of USD800,000,000.00 (Eight Hundred Million United States Dollars) to be secured from the World Bank for the National Social Safety Net Programme.

6. While hoping that this submission will receive expeditious consideration by the House of Representatives, please accept, Rt. Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my highest regards.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)
Bola Ahmed Tinubu

5. Announcement

Ad-hoc Committee on the Screening of Mr President's Nominees for the Office of Chief of Defence Staff and Service Chiefs of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

Mr Speaker announced the membership of the Committee as follows:

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|---|-----------------|
| (1) | Hon. Babajimi Benson | — | <i>Chairman</i> |
| (2) | Hon. Julius O. Ohonvbere | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (3) | Hon. Kingsley Ogundu Chinda | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (4) | Hon. Abdullahi I. Halims | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (5) | Hon. Bello Usman Kumo | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (6) | Hon. Isa Ali J. C. | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (7) | Hon. Onanuga Adewunmi O. | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (8) | Hon. Madaki Aliyu Sani | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (9) | Hon. George I. Ozodinobi | — | <i>Member</i> |

6. Petitions

- (i) A petition from Mrs Victoria Ibe Okwara Okoronkwo, on alleged attempt to amend the Chartered Institute of Project Managers (CIPMN), Establishment Act No. 3, 2017 by the Federal Ministry of Industry Trade and Investment, was presented and laid by Hon. Ibe Okwara Osonwa (*Arochukwu/Ohafia Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) A petition from S. O. Onwuegbuchulam and 5 others, on behalf of Forum of Anambra - Imo River Basin Development Authority Host Communities, on alleged abuse of office, and inability to deliver on the corporate social responsibility by Anambra - Imo River Basin Development Authority, was presented and laid Hon. Tochukwu Chinedu Okere (*Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions (when Constituted).

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

(i) *Need to Stop the Alleged Plan by the Federal Ministry of Education to Relocate the Federal University of Agriculture, Mubi, Adamawa State:*

Hon. Jingi Rufa'i (Maiha/Mubi North/Mubi South Federal Constituency) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
- (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Need to Stop the Alleged Plan by the Federal Ministry of Education to Relocate the Federal University of Agriculture, Mubi, Adamawa State:

The House:

Notes that the former President, His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari signed into law the Bill, for the establishment of Federal University of Agriculture, Mubi, Adamawa State, among other Tertiary Education Bills;

Also notes that the Act was conveyed via a letter dated April 18, 2023 written to the Minister of Education with reference No. SH/COS/02/A/3342, through the President's Chief of Staff, Professor Ibrahim Gambari;

Worried that the Federal Ministry of Education was allegedly conceiving the idea of relocating the institution to Hong Local Government, under a flimsy reason that there exists a Federal Polytechnic in Mubi;

Concerned that the move (if proven) is a flagrant not only disrespect to the presidential directive which sited the institution in Mubi, but a breach of the provision of the Act which established the Institution;

Also concerned that there have been protests and agitations by the people of Adamawa Northern Senatorial Zone against the plan need relocation of the institution to another place;

Perturbed that the action may pitch the two communities in Adamawa against each other;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Bola Ahmed Tinubu to order reversal of the move for the relocation of the institution by the Federal Ministry of Education to avert the impending crises in the area;
- (ii) also urge the members of Adamawa Northern Senatorial Zone to stay calm and be law-abiding until the matter is duly investigated and appropriate measures taken; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services (*when constituted*) to investigate the veracity or otherwise of this allegation and act appropriately on the matter (*Hon. Jingi Rufa'i — Maiha/Mubi North/Mubi South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the former President, His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari signed into law the Bill, for the establishment of Federal University of Agriculture, Mubi, Adamawa State, among other Tertiary Education Bills;

Also noted that the Act was conveyed via a letter dated April 18, 2023 written to the Minister of Education with reference No. SH/COS/02/A/3342, through the President's Chief of Staff, Professor Ibrahim Gambari;

Worried that the Federal Ministry of Education was allegedly conceiving the idea of relocating the institution to Hong Local Government, under a flimsy reason that there exists a Federal Polytechnic in Mubi;

Concerned that the move (if proven) is a flagrant not only disrespect to the presidential directive which sited the institution in Mubi, but a breach of the provision of the Act which established the Institution;

Also concerned that there have been protests and agitations by the people of Adamawa Northern Senatorial Zone against the plan need relocation of the institution to another place;

Perturbed that the action may pitch the two communities in Adamawa against each other;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Bola Ahmed Tinubu to order reversal of the move for the relocation of the institution by the Federal Ministry of Education to avert the impending crises in the area;
 - (ii) also urge the members of Adamawa Northern Senatorial Zone to stay calm and be law-abiding until the matter is duly investigated and appropriate measures taken; and
 - (iii) mandate the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services (*when constituted*) to investigate the veracity or otherwise of this allegation and act appropriately on the matter (**HR. 70/07/2023**).
- (ii) ***Need to Curb Continuous Killings in Zamfara State:***
Hon. Kabiru Amadu (*Gusau/Tsafe Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Need to Curb Continuous Killings in Zamfara State:

The House:

Notes that, Nigeria is a Federation made up of 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory, with States created to bring the government closer to the people, to complement the efforts of the Federal Government in providing social amenities and in maintenance of law and order, ensure the security and safety of the people are of paramount importance, amongst several others;

Also notes that Zamfara State being one of the 36 States of the Federation is bound by the same principles of bringing the government closer to people, protecting the lives and properties of the people, amongst others;

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

Further notes that, Zamfara State has become one of the worst hit State of the Federation with respect to the spate of killing, maiming and all forms of destruction which has lasted for over a decade;

Also recalls that Gusau Local Government which is the capital of Zamfara State is not also spared of this menace as just last week, gunmen who are now basically referred to as bandits stormed students' off campus residences in Sabon Gida area and took away five students of Federal University, Gusau (FUG), into captivity, demanding millions of Naira as ransom;

Aware that Mada, Wonaka, Rijiya, Wanke, Ruwan Bore, Magami, Damba, Karazau, Kasha Ruwa, Tungar Hakki, all are towns under Gusau Local Government who are predominantly farmers and business people, can't access their farms nor go to their markets, thereby paralysing business transactions as well as causing untold hardship, poverty and hunger for the residents of these areas;

Further recalls that, recently in Tsafe, bandits in a broad day light, invaded the town, attacked and killed almost 8 people, abducted dozens and as usual, demanding millions of Naira as ransom, thus making Tsafe Local Government a soft target where the bandits invade and attack at will and with reckless impunity;

Worried that within this period since deterioration of security, these heartless criminals have continuously sacked thousands of people from their homes, killed hundreds and ransacked a lot of villages around Wanzamai, Danjibga, Keta, Kwaren Ganuwa, Magazu, Yankuzo and Yan Doton Daji all under Tsafe Local Government;

Still recalls that, just yesterday, in Magami Town, over 5 farmers were killed and over 17 farmers abducted in broad day light;

Still notes that, this grievous menace of continuous and non-stop security challenge in the State has already escalated to neighbouring States such as, Katsina, Sokoto, Kebbi, Niger and Kaduna States, reported at the back pages of print media, broadcast stations, and even social media of how the people are bearing the brunt of security challenges with their lives;

Observes that, in addition to the continuous grievous loss of lives, homes and properties, the lingering security challenges have crippled the economic and educational sectors of the State as nobody from outside the State is willing to go to Zamfara State to conduct business or to even invest, as up till today no single boarding school is operating in the State;

Concerned that the only Federal University in operation seem to be a new target of the bandits in an obvious ploy to intimidate the students and force the University Management to shut it down by carrying out intermittent attack almost on daily basis. Right now, as mentioned earlier, most of the local Markets are reported to have been shut down, making the people of the area extremely poor, weak and pessimistic in the ability of government to give them the needed protection in line with its constitutional mandates;

Also concerned that, if urgent intervention steps are not implemented and pushed by this great House, the sacrosanct provisions of Sections 14 (2) (b) and 33 (1) of the CFRN (1999) (as amended) will be violated and denied of the people of Zamfara State;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Nigerian Armed Forces, Nigeria Police, State Security Services and all other security agencies to as a matter of urgency, flush out these criminal elements from the state and restore normalcy in the State;
- (ii) also call on the Nigerian Armed Forces to build Military Bases between Wanke to Magami, between Damba to Karazau, between Kwaren Ganuwa to Bilbis and between Tsafe to Wanzamai and also to mount more check points around these areas in other to stop these incessant attacks from the bandits.
- (iii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to liaise with the Armed Forces, Security Agencies and other Committees of the House, including the House Committees on Army, Air Force, Defence and all other relevant Committees of the House (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Kabiru Amadu — Gusau/Tsafe Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that, Nigeria is a Federation made up of 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory, with States created to bring the government closer to the people, to complement the efforts of the Federal Government in providing social amenities and in maintenance of law and order, ensure the security and safety of the people are of paramount importance, amongst several others;

Also noted that Zamfara State being one of the 36 States of the Federation is bound by the same principles of bringing the government closer to people, protecting the lives and properties of the people, amongst others;

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

Further noted that, Zamfara State has become one of the worst hit State of the Federation with respect to the spate of killing, maiming and all forms of destruction which has lasted for over a decade;

Also recalled that Gusau Local Government which is the capital of Zamfara State is not also spared of this menace as just last week, gunmen who are now basically referred to as bandits stormed students' off campus residences in Sabon Gida area and took away five students of Federal University, Gusau (FUG), into captivity, demanding millions of Naira as ransom;

Aware that Mada, Wonaka, Rijiya, Wanke, Ruwan Bore, Magami, Damba, Karazau, Kasha Ruwa, Tungar Hakki, all are towns under Gusau Local Government who are predominantly farmers and business people, can't access their farms nor go to their markets, thereby paralysing business transactions as well as causing untold hardship, poverty and hunger for the residents of these areas;

Further recalled that, recently in Tsafe, bandits in a broad day light, invaded the town, attacked and killed almost 8 people, abducted dozens and as usual, demanding millions of Naira as ransom, thus making Tsafe Local Government a soft target where the bandits invade and attack at will and with reckless impunity;

Worried that within this period since deterioration of security, these heartless criminals have continuously sacked thousands of people from their homes, killed hundreds and ransacked a lot of villages around Wanzamai, Danjibga, Keta, Kwaren Ganuwa, Magazu, Yankuzo and Yan Doton Daji all under Tsafe Local Government;

Still recalled that, just yesterday, in Magami Town, over 5 farmers were killed and over 17 farmers abducted in broad day light;

Still noted that, this grievous menace of continuous and non-stop security challenge in the State has already escalated to neighbouring States such as, Katsina, Sokoto, Kebbi, Niger and Kaduna States, reported at the back pages of print media, broadcast stations, and even social media of how the people are bearing the brunt of security challenges with their lives;

Observed that, in addition to the continuous grievous loss of lives, homes and properties, the lingering security challenges have crippled the economic and educational sectors of the State as nobody from outside the State is willing to go to Zamfara State to conduct business or to even invest, as up till today no single boarding school is operating in the State;

Concerned that the only Federal University in operation seem to be a new target of the bandits in an obvious ploy to intimidate the students and force the University Management to shut it down by carrying out intermittent attack almost on daily basis. Right now, as mentioned earlier, most of the local Markets are reported to have been shut down, making the people of the area extremely poor, weak and pessimistic in the ability of government to give them the needed protection in line with its constitutional mandates;

Also concerned that, if urgent intervention steps are not implemented and pushed by this great House, the sacrosanct provisions of Sections 14 (2) (b) and 33 (1) of the CFRN (1999) (as amended) will be violated and denied of the people of Zamfara State;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the Nigerian Armed Forces, Nigeria Police, State Security Services and all other security agencies to as a matter of urgency, flush out these criminal elements from the state and restore normalcy in the State;
- (ii) also call on the Nigerian Armed Forces to build Military Bases between Wanke to Magami, between Damba to Karazau, between Kwaren Ganuwa to Bilbis and between Tsafe to Wanzamai and also to mount more check points around these areas in other to stop these incessant attacks from the bandits.
- (iii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to liaise with the Armed Forces, Security Agencies and other Committees of the House, including the House Committees on Army, Air Force, Defence and all other relevant Committees of the House (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (**HR. 71/07/2023**).

8. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Supplementary Appropriation Act, 2022 (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.101).
- (2) Federal University of Sports, Karfi, Kano State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.93).
- (3) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 94).
- (4) Federal College of Dental Technology and Therapy, Fagge (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 95).
- (5) Institute of Debt Recovery Practitioners of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.96).
- (6) Insurance Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill 2023 (HB.97).
- (7) Federal Audit Service Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 98).
- (8) Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (Repeal) Bill, 2023 (HB.99).
- (9) Hydroelectric Power Producing Areas Development Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.100).
- (10) Federal Medical Centers Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.102).
- (11) Federal Medical Centers Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.103).
- (12) Federal University of Information and Communication Technology, Lagos Island, Lagos State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.104).
- (13) Federal University of Agriculture, Ute Okpa, Delta State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.105).
- (14) Federal University of Health Science, Kwankwaso, Kano State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.106).
- (15) Federal Medical Centers Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.107).

Motion made and Question proposed; “That the House do suspend Order twelve, Rule 3 (1) to enable it take the Second Reading on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Supplementary Appropriation Act, 2022 to Provide for the Extraction of Fund from the Supplementary Appropriation Act for Provision of Palliatives to Cushion the Effects of the Removal of Fuel Subsidy in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 101)” (Hon. Julius Ihonvere — House Leader) — ***Agreed to.***

9. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Supplementary Appropriation Act, 2022 to Provide for the Extraction of Fund from the Supplementary Appropriation Act for Provision of Palliatives to Cushion the Effects of the Removal of Fuel Subsidy in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.101) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Supplementary Appropriation Act, 2022 to Provide for the Extraction of Fund from the Supplementary Appropriation Act for Provision of Palliatives to Cushion the Effects of the Removal of Fuel Subsidy in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.101) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Julius Ihonvere — House Leader).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee of Supply.

10. Need for full Implementation of the Federal College of Dental Technology and Therapy (Establishment) Act, 2017

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the National Assembly enacted the Federal College of Dental Technology and Therapy (Establishment) Act, 2017, and under Section 6 (a) of the Act, the College is empowered to award degrees, diplomas, and certificates for courses provided under the Act;

Also notes that the Federal College of Dental Technology and Therapy (Establishment) Act, 2017 which provided a legal framework for the College was established in 1955 and has been fully operational aimed at empowering the institution to help reduce capital flight on the one hand and service the critical medical and health manpower need of the nation on the other hand;

Aware that the College has been funded by the annual National Budget and is well-positioned both in manpower and infrastructure to take off in line with the new mandate as provided for in by the Federal College of Dental Technology and Therapy (Establishment) Act, 2017;

Also aware that a visitation report from the National Universities Commission (NUC) confirmed that the College is fully equipped with the availability of adequate manpower and facilities to offer degree-awarding courses of study as required by the NUC, as the College is duly qualified to function in line with the new mandate;

Worried that despite meeting all requirements, the National Universities Commission insists that the College may operate only in affiliation with the Federal University of Technology Owerri, thereby obstructing the full implementation of the Federal College of Dental Technology and Therapy (Establishment) Act, an Act of the National Assembly duly passed and given Presidential assent in 2017, while also violating section 4 (1) (a) of the National Universities Commission Act, Cap N81, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm to direct the National Universities Commission to revisit the College, and provide the necessary accreditation as required by law to enable the full implementation of the Federal College of Dental Technology and Therapy (Establishment) Act, 2007 as a degree awarding institution; and*
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Tertiary Education and Services, Health Institutions, and Legislative Compliance (when constituted) to ensure compliance (Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu — Bende Federal Constituency).*

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the National Assembly enacted the Federal College of Dental Technology and Therapy (Establishment) Act, 2017, and under Section 6 (a) of the Act, the College is empowered to award degrees, diplomas, and certificates for courses provided under the Act;

Also noted that the Federal College of Dental Technology and Therapy (Establishment) Act, 2017 which provided a legal framework for the College was established in 1955 and has been fully operational aimed at empowering the institution to help reduce capital flight on the one hand and service the critical medical and health manpower need of the nation on the other hand;

Aware that the College has been funded by the annual National Budget and is well-positioned both in manpower and infrastructure to take off in line with the new mandate as provided for in by the Federal College of Dental Technology and Therapy (Establishment) Act, 2017;

Also aware that a visitation report from the National Universities Commission (NUC) confirmed that the College is fully equipped with the availability of adequate manpower and facilities to offer degree-awarding courses of study as required by the NUC, as the College is duly qualified to function in line with the new mandate;

Worried that despite meeting all requirements, the National Universities Commission insists that the College may operate only in affiliation with the Federal University of Technology Owerri, thereby obstructing the full implementation of the Federal College of Dental Technology and Therapy (Establishment) Act, an Act of the National Assembly duly passed and given Presidential assent in 2017, while also violating section 4(1)(a) of the National Universities Commission Act, Cap N81, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm to direct the National Universities Commission to revisit the College, and provide the necessary accreditation as required by law to enable the full implementation of the Federal College of Dental Technology and Therapy (Establishment) Act, 2007 as a degree awarding institution; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Tertiary Education and Services, Health Institutions, and Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (**HR. 72/07/2023**).

11. Need to Investigate the Untold Hardship Faced by Nigerian Pilgrims at the Recently Concluded 2023 Hajj

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the recently concluded Hajj exercise in the Holy land of Saudi Arabia by over 95,000 Nigerian pilgrims;

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

Informed that a total of about Ninety-Five thousand slots were allocated to Nigeria which was coordinated by the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) and pursuant to Section 4 it is charged with the mandate of providing effective and efficient Hajj and Umrah services to Nigerian pilgrims;

Also informed that this year's Hajj recorded one of the largest turnouts in the history of Hajj with Al-Jazeera and other International media putting the figure at about 2.5 million pilgrims;

Aware that Nigerian Pilgrims were subjected to untold hardships during the Hajj exercise from the inability of some airlines (such as Arik) to lift pilgrims due to lack of aircraft; lack of adequate tent accommodation at Mina and Arafat; substandard tents with unhealthy living conditions and environment; lack of proper medical attention to pilgrims in cases of emergency; lack of proper

transportation logistics for Nigerian pilgrims; Nigerians being made to miss their flights due to stringent bottlenecks regarding withholding of their International Passports; inability to secure airport slots for Nigerian airline operators for lifting of Nigerian pilgrims from Saudi Arabia back to Nigeria and many others;

Also aware that over twenty-five thousand (25,000) Nigerian pilgrims (including those who paid for Tent A VIP Class) were stranded at Mina due to inadequate tents and over-subscription leaving Nigerian pilgrims sleeping on the roads, under bridges and nearby mosques there are cases of several public officials (such as present and former Governors, Senators and Hon. Members) who had no tent and were made to sleep in unhealthy places and conditions;

Further notes that VIP Pilgrims were made to pay about \$5,000 (18,000 Riyals) for VIP tents and despite this exorbitant amount, pilgrims were stranded while others got tents of lesser value than what they paid for;

Again notes that some tour operators perpetrated the worst form of un-professionalism by failing to provide services promised to pilgrims in terms of accommodation, tent, feeding or transportation;

Disturbed that there was the absence of emergency medical services for sick patients in distress at Mina camp as many distressed patients could not be attended to due to restrictions of Ambulance access to the camp;

Also disturbed that most Nigerian pilgrims were made to miss their flights and had to procure new tickets without justifiable cause due to disturbing bottlenecks placed by Hajj Service Centres (especially Service Centre No. 16) who withheld passports of pilgrims until a lengthy list of bottlenecks are fulfilled;

Worried that many Nigerian pilgrims did not get commensurate value for the high amount they paid for and are justly clamouring for a full refund for tent and feeding;

Also worried that the Agency mandated to cater for Pilgrim Affairs (NAHCON) has not been proactive in ameliorating the plight of Nigerians during the 2023 Hajj;

Resolves to:

- (i) mandate the Committee on Pilgrims Affairs (*when constituted*) to conduct a detailed investigation into the several anomalies that emanated from the 2023 Hajj and report within four (4) weeks;
- (ii) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to ensure implementation (*Hon. Olajide Adedeji Stanley — Ibadan South West/Ibadan North West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the recently concluded Hajj exercise in the Holy land of Saudi Arabia by over 95,000 Nigerian pilgrims.

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

Informed that a total of about Ninety-Five thousand slots were allocated to Nigeria which was coordinated by the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) and pursuant to Section 4 it is charged with the mandate of providing effective and efficient Hajj and Umrah services to Nigerian pilgrims;

Also informed that this year's Hajj recorded one of the largest turnouts in the history of Hajj with Al-Jazeera and other International media putting the figure at about 2.5 million pilgrims;

Aware that Nigerian Pilgrims were subjected to untold hardships during the Hajj exercise from the inability of some airlines (such as Arik) to lift pilgrims due to lack of aircraft; lack of adequate tent accommodation at Mina and Arafat; substandard tents with unhealthy living conditions and environment; lack of proper medical attention to pilgrims in cases of emergency; lack of proper transportation logistics for Nigerian pilgrims; Nigerians being made to miss their flights due to stringent bottlenecks regarding withholding of their International Passports; inability to secure airport slots for Nigerian airline operators for lifting of Nigerian pilgrims from Saudi Arabia back to Nigeria and many others;

Also aware that over twenty-five thousand (25,000) Nigerian pilgrims (including those who paid for Tent A VIP Class) were stranded at Mina due to inadequate tents and over-subscription leaving Nigerian pilgrims sleeping on the roads, under bridges and nearby mosques there are cases of several public officials (such as present and former Governors, Senators and Hon. Members) who had no tent and were made to sleep in unhealthy places and conditions;

Further noted that VIP Pilgrims were made to pay about \$5,000 (18,000 riyal) for VIP tents and despite this exorbitant amount, pilgrims were stranded while others got tents of lesser value than what they paid for;

Again noted that some tour operators perpetrated the worst form of un-professionalism by failing to provide services promised to pilgrims in terms of accommodation, tent, feeding or transportation;

Disturbed that there was the absence of emergency medical services for sick patients in distress at Mina camp as many distressed patients could not be attended to due to restrictions of Ambulance access to the camp;

Also disturbed that most Nigerian pilgrims were made to miss their flights and had to procure new tickets without justifiable cause due to disturbing bottlenecks placed by Hajj Service Centres (especially Service Centre No. 16) who withheld passports of pilgrims until a lengthy list of bottlenecks are fulfilled;

Worried that many Nigerian pilgrims did not get commensurate value for the high amount they paid for and are justly clamouring for a full refund for tent and feeding;

Also worried that the Agency mandated to cater for Pilgrim Affairs (NAHCON) has not been proactive in ameliorating the plight of Nigerians during the 2023 Hajj;

Resolved to:

- (i) mandate the Committee on Pilgrims Affairs (*when constituted*) to conduct a detailed investigation into the several anomalies that emanated from the 2023 Hajj and report within four (4) weeks;
- (ii) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to ensure implementation (**HR. 73/07/2023**).

12. Call for Establishment of Ministry of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Resources

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Aware that despite having a coastline of 853 kilometres bordering the Atlantic Ocean, as well as fresh and mangrove swamps, creeks, coastal rivers, estuaries, bays, and near and offshore waters with the capacity to feed the entire country and export, Nigeria is and has remained the fourth largest importer of fish in the world for its teeming population of over 200 million people;

Notes that the 2016 Nigeria Fisheries Statistics report puts our annual fish demand at an estimated 3.32 million metric tons and domestic production at about 1.12 million metric tons, while the 2018 World Bank report puts Nigeria's annual fish demand at about 3.4 million metric tons, and domestic production at 1.17 million metric tons. These leave a deficit of 2.2 million metric tons in 2016, and a deficit of 2.23 million metric tons in the 2018 report, thus domestic production in Nigeria only meets about 40% of the demand for fish. This deficit is responsible for the over \$1.2 billion loss of revenue through the importation of fish and fishery products during the aforementioned years;

Also notes that to fully meet the wholesome demand of Nigerians for fish, the country spent about ₦500 billion on fish import between January and November 2021 (the Nation Newspaper, December 20, 2021). Findings according to the Newspaper also revealed that Nigeria imported over ₦1 trillion (\$2.06 billion) of fish from major nine countries between 2019 and 2021, thus taking a toll on the Country's foreign exchange and negatively affecting the Country's GDP;

Further notes that Fisheries is a major economic sector; estimated to employ over 8.6 million people directly and a further 19.6 million indirectly, 70 per cent of whom are women. Owing to recent significant investments of private capital and a renewed political will to empower the private sector in the area of aquaculture development, Nigeria is the largest aquaculture producer in Sub-Saharan Africa and this importance is steadily increasing, hence the need to sustain the momentum through the Establishment of a government agency for the sector (Fishery);

Observes that the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is perpetually underfunded and poorly administered and receives less than 9% of the budget for the Ministry. This puts the development of the sector in a state of jeopardy; a sector that has so much potential in creating employment, providing food security and generating foreign exchange for the government - the focal points of the Economic Recovery Plan of the Federal Government for the Post- Pandemic Phase of reviving the economy;

Aware that the volume of global trade in the aquaculture value chain is more than \$200 billion and that the Fisheries Departments in the top ten leading aquaculture countries like China, Japan, Norway, Egypt, Morocco and Namibia have more or less created exclusive entities for fisheries or autonomous Bureau of Fisheries;

Believes that Nigeria can set an ambitious goal of becoming a leading country in fisheries and aquaculture in Sub-Sahara Africa; specifically in the productive development of its coastal marine environment by taking a more serious interest in the development of its fisheries and aquaculture sector and providing equitable funding, incentivize the over 1 million indigenous artisanal fishermen and small-scale fish farmers using old equipment and outdated practices and scale them up into a diverse set of industrial fisheries practices using modern technologies for the growth and sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture;

Submits that to reduce unemployment through fishery/fish farming, and boost fish production to stop importation and enhance exportation of fish and fish products, thus increasing the country's foreign exchange earnings, there is an urgent need for the Establishment of a Ministry of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Resources;

Also believes that establishing a separate Ministry to drive this sector will not only save Nigeria the excess of \$2.06 billion yearly but create employment opportunities for local fish farmers and other stakeholders in the value chain to thrive, boost international trade, increase foreign exchange and revenue generation for the country;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm to establish the Ministry of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Resources to govern the fisheries and aquaculture sector, formulate plans, strategies, policies and programmes for fisheries development to guide fisheries economic reform;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Agricultural Production and Services, and Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Awaji-Inombek Dagomie Abiante — Andoni/Opobo Nkoro Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that despite having a coastline of 853 kilometres bordering the Atlantic Ocean, as well as fresh and mangrove swamps, creeks, coastal rivers, estuaries, bays, and near and offshore waters with the capacity to feed the entire country and export, Nigeria is and has remained the fourth largest importer of fish in the world for its teeming population of over 200 million people;

Noted that the 2016 Nigeria Fisheries Statistics report puts our annual fish demand at an estimated 3.32 million metric tons and domestic production at about 1.12 million metric tons, while the 2018 World Bank report puts Nigeria's annual fish demand at about 3.4 million metric tons, and domestic production at 1.17 million metric tons. These leave a deficit of 2.2 million metric tons in 2016, and a deficit of 2.23 million metric tons in the 2018 report, thus domestic production in Nigeria only meets about 40% of the demand for fish. This deficit is responsible for the over \$1.2 billion loss of revenue through the importation of fish and fishery products during the aforementioned years;

Also noted that to fully meet the wholesome demand of Nigerians for fish, the country spent about ₦500 billion on fish import between January and November 2021 (the Nation Newspaper, December 20, 2021). Findings according to the Newspaper also revealed that Nigeria imported over ₦1 trillion (\$2.06 billion) of fish from major nine countries between 2019 and 2021, thus taking a toll on the Country's foreign exchange and negatively affecting the country's GDP;

Further noted that Fisheries is a major economic sector; estimated to employ over 8.6 million people directly and a further 19.6 million indirectly, 70 per cent of whom are women. Owing to recent significant investments of private capital and a renewed political will to empower the private sector in the area of aquaculture development, Nigeria is the largest aquaculture producer in Sub-Saharan Africa and this importance is steadily increasing, hence the need to sustain the momentum through the Establishment of a government agency for the sector (Fishery);

Observed that the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is perpetually underfunded and poorly administered and receives less than 9% of the budget for the Ministry. This puts the development of the sector in a state of jeopardy; a sector that has so much potential in creating employment, providing food security and generating foreign exchange for the government - the focal points of the Economic Recovery Plan of the Federal Government for the Post- Pandemic Phase of reviving the economy;

Aware that the volume of global trade in the aquaculture value chain is more than \$200 billion and that the Fisheries Departments in the top ten leading aquaculture countries like China, Japan,

Norway, Egypt, Morocco and Namibia have more or less created exclusive entities for fisheries or autonomous Bureau of Fisheries;

Believed that Nigeria can set an ambitious goal of becoming a leading country in fisheries and aquaculture in Sub-Sahara Africa; specifically in the productive development of its coastal marine environment by taking a more serious interest in the development of its fisheries and aquaculture sector and providing equitable funding, incentivize the over 1 million indigenous artisanal fishermen and small-scale fish farmers using old equipment and outdated practices and scale them up into a diverse set of industrial fisheries practices using modern technologies for the growth and sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture;

Submitted that to reduce unemployment through fishery/fish farming, and boost fish production to stop importation and enhance exportation of fish and fish products, thus increasing the Country's foreign exchange earnings, there is an urgent need for the Establishment of a Ministry of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Resources;

Also believed that establishing a separate Ministry to drive this sector will not only save Nigeria the excess of \$2.06 billion yearly but create employment opportunities for local fish farmers and other stakeholders in the value chain to thrive, boost international trade, increase foreign exchange and revenue generation for the country;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to establish the Ministry of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Resources to govern the fisheries and aquaculture sector, formulate plans, strategies, policies and programmes for fisheries development to guide fisheries economic reform;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Agricultural Production and Services, and Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (**HR. 74/07/2023**).

13. Need to Investigate the Allegation of Abuse of Tax Incentives, Tax Breaks and Tax Waivers by Public Institutions and Companies benefiting from Tax Incentives

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that it is within the ambits of the powers of the Federal Government to exercise executive and legislative jurisdiction over items in the Exclusive Legislative List contained in the Second Schedule to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999. Items like taxation of incomes, profits and capital gains, export and imports are exclusively within the control of the Federal Government;

Also notes that in line with the above, the Federal Government of Nigeria exercise monetary and fiscal controls over the economy to stabilize both micro and macro-economic conditions and fundamentals; Some of the tools available to monetary and fiscal policy authorities to tinker with the economy and stimulate economic activities in some sectors of the economy are tax waivers, tax breaks, tax exemptions and tax incentives. Hence, when the government needs to attract investments and activities in a sector of the economy, it grants incentives in that sector;

Recalls historically that the Federal Government had issued policy documents in line with its fiscal goals and strategy, for example, the annual issuance for the Fiscal Policy Measures by the Ministry of Finance, the periodic issuance of the Value Added Tax Modification Order, etc. Some of these policy interventions had been effective in the past in achieving part of its objectives;

Further notes that available data also shows that while the Federal Government has good intentions, these practices have continued to create a major black hole in the purse of the Government of the

Federation. These losses are occasioned and driven primarily by abuses by Companies that have been granted tax-based waivers and incentives;

Again notes that based on available data, Nigeria continues to lose about 8 Trillion Naira annually to tax incentives and waivers. About 6 Trillion is lost to companies that abuse the system, while 2 Trillion worth of waivers achieve' the objective of the Federal Government. Most of the abuses arising from fiscal items like capital allowances, Investment Allowances, Pioneer Status Incentives, Free Trade Zone exemptions, Value Added Tax Exemptions, etc.;

Observes that these gaps have negatively affected the Nigeria Tax to-GDP ratio of Nigeria, which stands at 10.6%, being one of the lowest in Africa. The gap created in the revenue profile of the Government of the Federation has also contributed to the Federal Government seeking loans, grants and aides to fund our budget deficit;

Concerned that if urgent steps are not taken to investigate the situations, Nigeria may not only be hanging on a fiscal cliff, it may fall off the cliff and be heading to Venezuela, which is a situation where a country has huge resources but is in deep economic crisis, recession and depression;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the allegations and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Oluwole Busayo Oke — Obokun/Oriade Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In the Prayer immediately after the word “allegations”, *insert* the words “between 2019 - 2022” (*Hon. Sada Soli — Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

- (ii) In the Prayer immediately after the word “allegations”, *insert* the words “between 2017 to date” (*Hon. Oluwole Busayo Oke — Obokun/Oriade Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that it is within the ambits of the powers of the Federal Government to exercise executive and legislative jurisdiction over items in the Exclusive Legislative List contained in the Second Schedule to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999. Items like taxation of incomes, profits and capital gains, export and imports are exclusively within the control of the Federal Government;

Also noted that in line with the above, the Federal Government of Nigeria exercise monetary and fiscal controls over the economy to stabilize both micro and macro-economic conditions and fundamentals; Some of the tools available to monetary and fiscal policy authorities to tinker with the economy and stimulate economic activities in some sectors of the economy are tax waivers, tax breaks, tax exemptions and tax incentives. Hence, when the government needs to attract investments and activities in a sector of the economy, it grants incentives in that sector;

Recalled historically that the Federal Government had issued policy documents in line with its fiscal goals and strategy, for example, the annual issuance for the Fiscal Policy Measures by the Ministry of Finance, the periodic issuance of the Value Added Tax Modification Order, etc. Some of these policy interventions had been effective in the past in achieving part of its objectives;

Further noted that available data also shows that while the Federal Government has good intentions, these practices have continued to create a major black hole in the purse of the Government of the Federation. These losses are occasioned and driven primarily by abuses by Companies that have been granted tax-based waivers and incentives;

Again noted that based on available data, Nigeria continues to lose about 8 Trillion Naira annually to tax incentives and waivers. About 6 Trillion is lost to companies that abuse the system, while 2 Trillion worth of waivers achieve the objective of the Federal Government. Most of the abuses arising from fiscal items like capital allowances, Investment Allowances, Pioneer Status Incentives, Free Trade Zone exemptions, Value Added Tax Exemptions, etc;

Observed that these gaps have negatively affected the Nigeria Tax to-GDP ratio of Nigeria, which stands at 10.6%, being one of the lowest in Africa. The gap created in the revenue profile of the Government of the Federation has also contributed to the Federal Government seeking loans, grants and aides to fund our budget deficit;

Concerned that if urgent steps are not taken to investigate the situations, Nigeria may not only be hanging on a fiscal cliff, it may fall off the cliff and be heading to Venezuela, which is a situation where a country has huge resources but is in deep economic crisis, recession and depression;

Resolved to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the allegations, between 2017 to date and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 75/07/2023**).

14. Need to Provide a Lasting Solution to the Water Scarcity Menace in Dukku Town, Dukku Local Government Area, Gombe State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Dukku Local Government Area was created in 1976 and one of the few oldest communities in North Eastern Nigeria that have over the years grown in terms of population and size and according to available historic facts is believed to have been founded in the 18th century when it served as a settlement for Fulani people who originally migrated from the West African sub-region;

Also notes that geographically, Dukku Local Government is made up of plains and valleys as well as hosting the Wawa Zange Grazing Reserve;

Aware that Dukku Local Government Area has an age long history of water scarcity that has continued to be a huge problem to the people and have also negatively impacted on their economic prosperity as it affects farming and animal husbandry with the worst affected areas situated on the upper part of river Gongola;

Recall that in 2010, the United Nations General Assembly explicitly recognized the human right to water and sanitation where everyone has the right to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use;

Concerned that successive governments particularly at State and Local Government levels have demonstrated unwavering commitment towards bringing a lasting solution to the water scarcity problem in Dukku, but to no avail thereby leaving majority of the people without access to safe, potable and available water for their consumption and farming activities;

Further Concerned that the various water tributaries that pass through the grazing reserve have not been utilized to create sustainable earth dams that can provide adequate water reserves all year round;

Also recalls that due to the water scarcity menace in Dukku in the late 70s and 80s, the people were hit hard by the epidemic of guinea worm disease that was widely spread until the intervention of the Jimmy Carter Foundation (the guinea worm eradication program) headed by the former Nigerian Head of State, Gen. Yakubu Gowon (*rtd*) that the disease was eradicated and strongly recommended the provision of portable drinking water to the people of Dukku;

Worried that if adequate measures are not put in place to bring a lasting solution to the water scarcity problem in Dukku, the people and their herds will be left with no alternative than to migrate to other areas with availability of water which will lead to food insecurity as it will greatly affect farming activities;

Aware also that the North-East Development Commission (NEDC) is a government intervention agency established to among other things to tackle the menace of poverty, illiteracy level, ecological problems and any other related environmental or developmental challenges in the North-East states to provide sustainable economic stability and growth in the region;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the North-East Development Commission (NEDC) to:
 - (a) construct an all-encompassing water supply project comprising of boreholes, boosting stations and collection/distribution channel from Mayo-Lamido 8km away from Dukku for Dukku town and its environs,
 - (b) construct modern Earth Dams in the most vulnerable villages and communities in Dukku Local Government Area that are on water channels that run to the River Gongola particularly in Waziri South; Waziri North; Zange and Kunde Wards;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on North-East Development Commission (NEDC), and Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Abdullahi El-Rasheed — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency and 10 Others*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 76/07/2023).

Motion referred to the Committees on North-East Development Commission (NEDC), and Legislative Compliance (when constituted), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

15. Need to Limit Crude Oil Lifting Contracts to Companies Quoted on the Nigerian Exchange Group

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Aware that the oil and gas sector is the backbone of Nigeria's economy and its global prominence and contributions cannot be overemphasised;

Notes that the sector lacks effective governance and falls short of transparency and accountability, due to the operations of briefcase companies which add no tangible value to our economy;

Also notes that these briefcase companies are inexperienced and without the required financial, commercial capacity and expertise in the crude oil business;

Conscious that the widely publicised Nuhu Ribadu-led Petroleum Revenue Special Task Force found among other things, that Nigeria losses billions of Dollars monthly due to activities of the briefcase companies that lift Nigeria's crude oil;

Cognizant that the facts have been corroborated by other credible bodies including the Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiatives (NEITI), Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI), Chatham House Report of 2013, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) and the Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO);

Observes that these companies and their collaborators have become resistant and adamant, and have continued to operate unabated to short-change Nigerians, despite many recommendations to do away with them;

Concerned that only a negligible number of oil and gas companies registered with the Nigerian Exchange Group, despite the global prominence of Nigeria's oil and gas industry;

Envisaged that listing these companies on the Stock Exchange will curb the incessant revenue loss and will create capital availability to the economy. Furthermore, it will allow the regulatory authorities to have greater control over their activities;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate and identify Oil and Gas Companies favoured to lift Nigeria's Crude Oil and put in place effective mechanisms to which companies will be quoted in the Nigeria Exchange Group (NEG) and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Ghali Mustapha Tijjani — Alabsu/Gaya/Ajingi Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that the oil and gas sector is the backbone of Nigeria's economy and its global prominence and contributions cannot be overemphasised;

Noted that the sector lacks effective governance and falls short of transparency and accountability, due to the operations of briefcase companies which add no tangible value to our economy;

Also noted that these briefcase companies are inexperienced and without the required financial, commercial capacity and expertise in the crude oil business;

Conscious that the widely publicised Nuhu Ribadu-led Petroleum Revenue Special Task Force found among other things, that Nigeria losses billions of Dollars monthly due to activities of the briefcase companies that lift Nigeria's crude oil;

Cognizant that the facts have been corroborated by other credible bodies including the Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiatives (NEITI), Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI), Chatham House Report of 2013, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) and the Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO);

Observed that these companies and their collaborators have become resistant and adamant, and have continued to operate unabated to short-change Nigerians, despite many recommendations to do away with them;

Concerned that only a negligible number of oil and gas companies registered with the Nigerian Exchange Group, despite the global prominence of Nigeria's oil and gas industry;

Envisaged that listing these companies on the Stock Exchange will curb the incessant revenue loss and will create capital availability to the economy. Furthermore, it will allow the regulatory authorities to have greater control over their activities;

Resolved to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate and identify Oil and Gas Companies favoured to lift Nigeria's Crude Oil and put in place effective mechanisms to which companies will be quoted in the Nigeria Exchange Group (NEG) and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 77/07/2023**).

16. Need to Investigate the Utilization of Ecological Funds Released for the Great Green Wall from 2015 to Date

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Aware that the Great Green Wall Initiative for the Sahara and Sahel Programme was initiated and adopted by the Head of Governments and States of the African Union in 2005 to address the issues of desertification, land degradation, Bio-diversity loss, promote climate change resilience by ecosystems and communities and improve food security in about 21 countries of the Sahel region in Africa;

Also aware that the National Agency for the Great Green Wall (NAGGVW) is a Nigerian federal agency under the Federal Ministry of Environment, established to address land degradation and desertification and support communities to adapt to climate change in the Nigeria States of Sokoto, Kebbi, Katsina, Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Jigawa, Yobe and Zamfara;

Notes that 100 households are targeted for this programme and about 16,800 women and youths would be beneficiaries of the initiative to combat the effect of climate change as Nigeria worked toward the 2060 target of zero carbon emission that pollutes air;

Cognizant of Nigeria's commitment to global environmental sustainability and achievement of the country's Nationally Determined Contribution's (NDC) has been pegged at 20 per cent emissions reduction, this was an unconditional commitment by Nigeria, to the world while it strived to meet the globally set standard of 47per cent emission reduction conditionally adopted as a target by 2030;

Informed that the 2021 report by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization countries claimed to have spent about \$200m in the Great Green Wall since the project began;

Also informed that the barricaded garden contract was to raise over 76,000 assorted seedlings and the projects were awarded by NAGGW to Dabellfari Nigeria Limited (₦6,390,932.08) and KLGM International Limited (₦2,689,442.5) in 2017, aside from the lump sum, there was EU and FAO support of 20m Euros (₦8.2 billion) and \$4 billion (₦1.4 trillion) from the United Nations which totals (₦1,452,260,000,000);

Concerned that from the findings, \$4 billion commitment was joint support from France, African Development Bank (AFDB), Global Environment Facility (\$115, million), World Bank (\$1.9 billion) and aid from some African Leaders, in 2015 during COP 21, the (AFDA) President, Dr Akinwumi Adesina revealed that the Bank has so far released \$22 billion for the project and pledged to mobilize an additional \$50 billion to provide clean energy for Africa including the Sahara-Sahel region;

Also concerned that the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (NNCCD) through Joint Support Commitment made available \$8 billion to support all 20 African countries including the 11 primary nations and Nigeria's 11 front-line States;

Further informed that the federal government had through the National Agency for the Great Green Wall (NAGGW) earmarked expenditure of ₦182,988,974 for the communities and another ₦200 million for what it termed the "Starter Pack" for women in the areas;

Worried that all the funds released from International Organizations, foreign donors and Nigerian

government through yearly budgetary allocations, nothing tangible is on ground to justify the release made so far;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate:

- (i) the utilization of ecological funds released to the Great Green Wall by the International Organizations from 2015 to date;
- (ii) all federal allocations to the National Agency for the Great Green Wall (NAGGW) as well as contracts awarded to various contractors for the project from 2015 to date;
- (iii) investigate the total sum received through the policy and the level of compliance with the goals and objectives of the project and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Ali Lawan Shettima — Busari/Geidam/Yunusari Federal Constituency and 3 Others*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that the Great Green Wall Initiative for the Sahara and Sahel Programme was initiated and adopted by the Head of Governments and States of the African Union in 2005 to address the issues of desertification, land degradation, Bio-diversity loss, promote climate change resilience by ecosystems and communities and improve food security in about 21 countries of the Sahel region in Africa;

Also aware that the National Agency for the Great Green Wall (NAGGVW) is a Nigerian federal agency under the Federal Ministry of Environment, established to address land degradation and desertification and support communities to adapt to climate change in the Nigeria States of Sokoto, Kebbi, Katsina, Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Jigawa, Yobe and Zamfara;

Noted that 100 households are targeted for this programme and about 16,800 women and youths would be beneficiaries of the initiative to combat the effect of climate change as Nigeria worked toward the 2060 target of zero carbon emission that pollutes air;

Cognizant of Nigeria's commitment to global environmental sustainability and achievement of the country's Nationally Determined Contribution's (NDC) has been pegged at 20 per cent emissions reduction, this was an unconditional commitment by Nigeria, to the world while it strived to meet the globally set standard of 47per cent emission reduction conditionally adopted as a target by 2030;

Informed that the 2021 report by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization countries claimed to have spent about \$200m in the Great Green Wall since the project began;

Also informed that the barricaded garden contract was to raise over 76,000 assorted seedlings and the projects were awarded by NAGGW to Dabellfari Nigeria Limited (₦6,390,932.08) and KLGM International Limited (₦2,689,442.5) in 2017, aside from the lump sum, there was EU and FAO support of 20m Euros (₦8.2 billion) and \$4 billion (₦1.4 trillion) from the United Nations which totals (₦1,452,260,000,000);

Concerned that from the findings, \$4 billion commitment was joint support from France, African Development Bank (AFDB), Global Environment Facility (\$115, million), World Bank (\$1.9 billion) and aid from some African Leaders, in 2015 during COP 21, the (AFDA) President, Dr Akinwumi Adesina revealed that the Bank has so far released \$22 billion for the project and pledged to mobilize an additional \$50 billion to provide clean energy for Africa including the Sahara-Sahel region;

Also concerned that the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (NNCCD) through Joint Support Commitment made available \$8 billion to support all 20 African countries including the 11 primary nations and Nigeria's 11 front-line States;

Further informed that the federal government had through the National Agency for the Great Green Wall (NAGGW) earmarked expenditure of ₦182,988,974 for the communities and another ₦200 million for what it termed the "Starter Pack" for women in the areas;

Worried that all the funds released from International Organizations, foreign donors and Nigerian government through yearly budgetary allocations, nothing tangible is on ground to justify the release made so far;

Resolved to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate:

- (i) the utilization of ecological funds released to the Great Green Wall by the International Organizations from 2015 to date;
- (ii) all federal allocations to the National Agency for the Great Green Wall (NAGGW) as well as contracts awarded to various contractors for the project from 2015 to date;
- (iii) investigate the total sum received through the policy and the level of compliance with the goals and objectives of the project and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 78/07/2023**).

17. Call on the Federal Government of Nigeria to Honor the Court Judgment on Ministerial Slot for FCT Indigenes

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) which guarantees equal treatment and rights to all citizens of Nigeria;

Also notes the judgment by the Court of Appeal sitting in Abuja on 15 January, 2018, between HRH Musa Baba Panya vs President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and which affirmed that the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) is entitled to a ministerial slot in the Federal Executive Council (FEC);

Aware of the combined effect of Sections 147 (1), (3), 14 (3) and 299 of the 1999 Constitution, that indigenes of the FCT-Abuja are entitled to Ministerial appointment into the Federal Executive Council;

Also aware that the Hon. Minister of the FCT is appointed by the President under the aforementioned section of the constitution to represent the interests and aspirations of the residents of the FCT in the Federal Government;

Concerned that despite the clear provisions of the Constitution and the court judgment, indigenes of FCT have not been represented in the FEC, causing alienation, marginalization, and under representation;

Cognizant that the equitable representation of all regions, communities and groups in government are necessary for national cohesion, stability and development;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm to comply with the judgment of the Court of Appeal on the ministerial slot for FCT indigenes in the Federal Executive Council;

- (ii) also urge the President to appoint an indigene of FCT as a Minister in the next cabinet appointments, in line with the constitutional obligation to treat all Nigerians equitably;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Federal Capital Territory, Federal Character and Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance;
- (iv) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the rationale behind the exclusion of FCT indigenes from Ministerial Nominees by successive governments despite the ruling of the Court of Appeal on this matter and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Abdulrahman Ajiya — Kuje/Abaji/Gwagwalada/Kwali Federal Constituency and 1 other*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Prayer (iv) (Hon. Chijoke Okereke — Aninri/Awgu/Oji River Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) which guarantees equal treatment and rights to all citizens of Nigeria;

Also noted the judgment by the Court of Appeal sitting in Abuja on 15 January, 2018, between HRH Musa Baba Panya *vs* President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and which affirmed that the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) is entitled to a ministerial slot in the Federal Executive Council (FEC);

Aware of the combined effect of Sections 147 (1), (3), 14 (3) and 299 of the 1999 Constitution, that indigenes of the FCT-Abuja are entitled to Ministerial appointment into the Federal Executive Council;

Also aware that the Hon. Minister of the FCT is appointed by the President under the aforementioned section of the constitution to represent the interests and aspirations of the residents of the FCT in the Federal Government;

Concerned that despite the clear provisions of the Constitution and the court judgment, indigenes of FCT have not been represented in the FEC, causing alienation, marginalization, and under representation;

Cognizant that the equitable representation of all regions, communities and groups in government are necessary for national cohesion, stability and development;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to comply with the judgment of the Court of Appeal on the ministerial slot for FCT indigenes in the Federal Executive Council;
- (ii) also urge the President to appoint an indigene of FCT as a Minister in the next cabinet appointments, in line with the constitutional obligation to treat all Nigerians equitably;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Federal Capital Territory, Federal Character, and Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (**HR. 79/07/2023**).

18. Call on the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) to Restore Street Lights in Abuja Metropolis

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the perpetual darkness on major roads and streets within the Metropolis of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) at night, as a result of inadequate lighting from street lights;

Further notes that the constant darkness on the major roads and streets in the FCT creates avenues for some criminal-minded elements to perpetrate crime, touting and intimidating of innocent law abiding Nigerians and also makes the city unsafe for residents and visitors;

Aware that most of the street lights installed on many Highways and streets in the FCT are moribund and not functional. On major roads like Herbert Macaulay Way, Muhammadu Buhari Way, Jabi area, Aminu Kano Crescent, Ahmadu Bello Way and Independence Avenue; which houses the Three Arms Zone, National Assembly, Supreme Court and the Presidential Villa. Also from the Federal Secretariat to Louis Edet House (Police Headquarters), the street lights are comatose;

Further aware that despite the prevailing darkness in most areas of the Federal Capital Territory at night, there is minimal and inadequate presence of stationary policemen or police patrol vans along some dangerous stretches of roads and under the bridges;

Concerned that the Federal Capital Territory; the nation's capital, ought to have been maintained with modern facilities and should have alternative sources of power Like standby generators at strategic positions on the main roads, as a backup power supply in cases of power outage;

Further concerned that most States of the Federation that do not have the huge yearly budgetary allocation Like the FCT, maintain constant power supply in their various state capitals, therefore, the administrative headquarters of Nigeria should be more attractive to visitors and investors at night;

Informed that in those days driving around the Abuja Metropolis at night was the delight of motorists, when the street Lighting system in the city was very functional, you could hardly differentiate between night and day because the city was well illuminated;

Worried that despite the budgets that have been committed to providing the facilities and ensuring their maintenance, the once brilliantly Lit city is creeping into darkness as many of the street Lights have collapsed;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Capital Territory Administration to as a matter of urgency restore the street Lights in Abuja Metropolis and ensure maintenance as the Federal Capital and Administrative Headquarters of Nigeria;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Federal Capital Territory (FCT) (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Okpolupm Etteh Ikpong — Eket/Esit Eket/Ibeano/Onna Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:

“Urge the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to make provision to restore stolen manholes with concrete replacement while restoring street lights” (*Hon. Blessing Onyeche Onuh — Otukpo/Ohimini Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the perpetual darkness on major roads and streets within the Metropolis of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) at night, as a result of inadequate lighting from street lights;

Further noted that the constant darkness on the major roads and streets in the FCT creates avenues for some criminal-minded elements to perpetrate crime, touting and intimidating of innocent law abiding Nigerians and also makes the city unsafe for residents and visitors;

Aware that most of the street lights installed on many Highways and streets in the FCT are moribund and not functional. On major roads like Herbert Macaulay Way, Muhammadu Buhari Way, Jabi area, Aminu Kano Crescent, Ahmadu Bello Way and Independence Avenue; which houses the Three Arms Zone, National Assembly, Supreme Court and the Presidential Villa. Also from the Federal Secretariat to Louis Edet House (Police Headquarters), the street lights are comatose;

Further aware that despite the prevailing darkness in most areas of the Federal Capital Territory at night, there is minimal and inadequate presence of stationary policemen or police patrol vans along some dangerous stretches of roads and under the bridges;

Concerned that the Federal Capital Territory; the nation's capital, ought to have been maintained with modern facilities and should have alternative sources of power Like standby generators at strategic positions on the main roads, as a backup power supply in cases of power outage;

Further concerned that most states of the Federation that do not have the huge yearly budgetary allocation Like the FCT, maintain constant power supply in their various state capitals, therefore, the administrative headquarters of Nigeria should be more attractive to visitors and investors at night;

Informed that in those days driving around the Abuja Metropolis at night was the delight of motorists, when the street Lighting system in the city was very functional, you could hardly differentiate between night and day because the city was well illuminated;

Worried that despite the budgets that have been committed to providing the facilities and ensuring their maintenance, the once brilliantly Lit city is creeping into darkness as many of the street Lights have collapsed;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Capital Territory Administration to as a matter of urgency restore the street Lights in Abuja Metropolis and ensure maintenance as the Federal Capital and Administrative Headquarters of Nigeria;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Federal Capital Territory (FCT) (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance;
- (iii) urge the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to make provision to restore stolen manholes with concrete replacement while restoring street lights (**HR. 80/07/2023**).

19. Consideration of Report

Committee of Supply:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Committee of Supply on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Supplementary Appropriation Act, 2022 to Provide for the Extraction of Fund from the Supplementary Appropriation Act for provision of Palliatives to Cushion

the Effects of the Removal of Fuel Subsidy in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.101)” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY)

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF THE SUM OF ₦819,536,937,815.00 (EIGHT HUNDRED AND NINETEEN BILLION, FIVE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SIX MILLION, NINE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SEVEN THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN NAIRA) ONLY, FROM THE 2022 SUPPLEMENTARY ACT, FOR THE PROVISIONS OF PALLIATIVES AND OTHER ITEMS TO NIGERIANS TO CUSHION THE EFFECT OF SUBSIDY REMOVAL AND OTHER MATTERS (HB. 101)

Clause 1: Amendment of the Supplementary Appropriation Act, 2022.

The Supplementary Appropriation Act, 2022 (in this Bill referred to as "the Principal Act") is amended as set out in this Bill.

Committee's Recommendation:

That the provision in Clause 1 be retained (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*) — *Agreed to.*

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

Clause 2: Amendment of Schedule.

The Schedule to the Principal Act is hereby amended as follows:

(i)	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	₦19,200,000,000.00
(ii)	Federal Ministry Works and Housing	₦185,236,937,815.00
(iii)	Federal Capital Territory Administration	₦10,000,000,000.00
(iv)	Federal Ministry of Water Resources	₦100,000,000.00
(v)	Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning	₦500,000,000,000.00
(vi)	National Assembly	₦70,000,000,000.00
(vii)	National Judicial Council	₦35,000,000,000.00
Total		₦819,536,937,815.00

Committee's Recommendation:

That the provision in Clause 2 be retained (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*) — *Agreed to.*

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

Clause 3: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the 2022 Supplementary Appropriation (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

Committee's Recommendation:

That the provision in Clause 3 be retained (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*) — *Agreed to.*

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks amend the Supplementary Appropriation Act, 2022 to authorize the issuance of the sum of ₦819,536,937,815.00 (Eight Hundred and Nineteen Billion, Five Hundred and Thirty Six Million, Nine Hundred and Thirty Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifteen Naira) only, from the 2022 Supplementary Act, for the Provisions of Palliatives and Other Items to Nigerians to Cushion the Effect of Subsidy Removal (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Authorize the Issuance of the Sum of ₦819,536,937,815.00 (Eight Hundred and Nineteen Billion, Five Hundred and Thirty Six Million, Nine Hundred and Thirty Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifteen Naira) only, from the 2022 Supplementary Act, for the Provisions of Palliatives and Other Items to Nigerians to Cushion the Effect of Subsidy Removal and Other Matters (HB. 101) (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of Supply considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Supplementary Appropriation Act, 2022 to Authorize the Issuance of the Sum of ₦819,536,937,815.00 (Eight Hundred and Nineteen Billion, Five Hundred and Thirty Six Million, Nine Hundred and Thirty Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifteen Naira) only, from the 2022 Supplementary Act, for the Provisions of Palliatives and Other Items to Nigerians to Cushion the Effect of Subsidy Removal and Other Matters (HB.101) and approved Clauses 1 - 3, the Explanatory Memorandum and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

20. **A Bill for an Act to Authorize the Issuance of the Sum of ₦819,536,937,815.00 (Eight Hundred and Nineteen Billion, Five Hundred and Thirty Six Million, Nine Hundred and Thirty Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifteen Naira) only, from the 2022 Supplementary Act, for the Provisions of Palliatives and Other Items to Nigerians to Cushion the Effect of Subsidy Removal and Other Matters (HB.101) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Authorize the Issuance of the Sum of ₦819,536,937,815.00 (Eight Hundred and Nineteen Billion, Five Hundred and Thirty Six Million, Nine Hundred and Thirty Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifteen Naira) only, from the 2022 Supplementary Act, for the Provisions of Palliatives and Other Items to Nigerians to Cushion the Effect of Subsidy Removal and Other Matters (HB.101) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

21. Adjournment of First Sitting

That the House do adjourn the First Sitting till 2.20 p.m. (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.08 p.m.

Tajudeen Abass
Speaker