



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA FIRST VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 15 June, 2023

1. The House met at 11.24 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, 14 June, 2023.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcement**

(a) **Bereavement:**

Mr Speaker read the following communications from:

- (i) Hon. Olumide Osoba (*Abeokuta North/Obafemi Owode/Deda Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of His Royal Majesty, Oba Saburee Babajide Bakre Jamolu, the Agura of Gbagura, Ogun State.
- (ii) Hon. Emmanuel Uguru (*Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of his mother, Mrs Lydia Ugurunwanyi Uguru, which occurred on Friday, 9 June, 2023.

(b) **Constitution of Ad-hoc Committees:**

Mr Speaker announced the constitution and membership of the following *Ad-hoc* Committees:

(i) **Committee on Selection:**

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|---|-----------------|
| (1) | Hon. Tajudeen Abbas | — | Chairman |
| (2) | Hon. Benjamin Kalu Okezie | — | Deputy Chairman |

Mr Speaker directed the State Caucuses to submit names of their representatives in the Committee on Selection to the Clerk of the House.

- (ii) ***Ad-hoc Committee on Internal Security of the National Assembly:***
 (1) Hon. Mohammed Danjuma Hassan — *Chairman*
 (2) Hon. Alao Olamijuwonlo Ayodeji — *Deputy Chairman*

- (iii) ***Ad-hoc Committee on Welfare:***
 (1) Hon. Wale Raji — *Chairman*
 (2) Hon. Abdullahi El-Rasheed — *Deputy Chairman*

Mr Speaker directed the State Caucuses to submit names of their representatives in the Committee on Welfare to the Clerk of the House.

- (iv) ***Ad-hoc Committee on Media and Public Affairs:***
 (1) Hon. Khadijah Bukar Abba Ibrahim — *Chairman*
 (2) Hon. Ikeagwuonu Onyinye Ugochinyere — *Deputy Chairman*
 (3) Hon. Akinola Alabi — *Member*
 (4) Hon. Ojema Ojotu — *Member*
 (5) Hon. Irhiatake Ibori-Suenu — *Member*
 (6) Hon. Al-Mustapha Ibrahim Rabah — *Member*

- (v) ***Ad-hoc Committee on Legislative Agenda:***
 (1) Hon. Julius O. Ihonvbere — *Chairman*
 (2) Hon. Hamisu Ibrahim — *Deputy Chairman*
 (3) Hon. Rotimi Akintunde Oluwaseun — *Member*
 (4) Hon. Aliyu Wakili Boya — *Member*
 (5) Hon. Musa Agah Avia — *Member*
 (6) Hon. Chimaobi Atu Sam — *Member*

- (vi) ***Ad-hoc Committee on Review of the Standing Orders:***
 (1) Hon. Igariwey Iduma Enwo — *Chairman*
 (2) Hon. Yusuf Shittu Galambi — *Deputy Chairman*
 (3) Hon. Festus Adefiranye Ayodele — *Member*
 (4) Hon. Esin Martins Etim — *Member*
 (5) Hon. Kabiru Yusuf Alhaji — *Member*
 (6) Hon. Jeremiah Umaru — *Member*

- (vii) ***Ad-hoc Committee on Review of Members' Code of Conduct:***
 (1) Hon. Raheem Tunji Olawuyi — *Chairman*
 (2) Hon. Umezuruike Manuchim — *Deputy Chairman*
 (3) Hon. Obiageli Orugbo — *Member*
 (4) Hon. Onanuga Adewunmi Oriyomi — *Member*
 (5) Hon. Koki Sagir Ibrahim — *Member*
 (6) Hon. Ahmadu Jaha Usman — *Member*

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

- (i) ***Need for Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC Ltd) to Suspend the Issuance of Import Permit to Dangote Refinery as a Sole Importer of Petroleum Products:***
 Hon. Ghali Mustapha Tijjani (*Alabsu/Gaya/Ajingi Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Need for Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC Ltd) to Suspend the Issuance of Import Permit to Dangote Refinery as a Sole Importer of Petroleum Products:

The House:

Notes the recent issuance of Petroleum Import License to Dangote by the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC Ltd), weeks after the launch of Dangote Refinery;

Also notes that the said license entitles Dangote Refinery to solely import and refine Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) into Nigeria;

Concerned that the action which amounts to making Dangote Refinery a monopoly in the industry will entitle it to dictate the market price for the products to the exclusion of every other individual or organisation;

Worried that the action by the NNPC Ltd will not permit for competition and best practices in the industry;

Regrets that other competitors who had provided infrastructural facilities and development in Nigeria have been shut out from contributing to effective refining of oil products.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC Ltd) to suspend the issuance of import Permit to Dangote Refinery as a sole Importer of Petroleum Product;
- (ii) urge the NNPC Plc to open up the Issuance of Import Permit to other qualified companies in order to encourage competition and best practices in the industry.

Debate.

Negatived.

(ii) Demarcation and Ceding of Danare and Biajua Communities in Boki Local Government Area in Cross River State through Pillar 113A to the Republic of Cameroon:

Hon. Victor Bisong Abang (*Boki/Ikom Federal Constituency and 7 Others*) 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 — Negatived.

Matter to stand over till the next legislative day.

6. Need to Rehabilitate Ikot Akpa Nkuk/Nyak Iba/Usung Atiat/Ikot Akpa Idem/Ikot Udo Mbang Road in Ukanafun, Akwa Ibom State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Ikot Akpa Nkuk/Nyak, Iba/Usung, Atiat/Ikot, Akpa Idem/Ikot Udo, Mbang road in Ukanafun, Akwa Ibom State plays a paramount role in the economic development of the Ukanafun communities, the environs and by extension the neighbouring States;

Also notes that the road has been in a dilapidated state over the years thus, requiring urgent government intervention;

Aware that the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing under its emergency intervention program commenced the rehabilitation of about 2.8 Km Ikot Akpa, Nkuk/Nyak, Iba/Usung, Atiat/Ikot, Akpa Idem/Ikot Udo Mbang Road in Ukanafun in 2022 but abandoned less than halfway;

Worried that the bad state of the road has caused hardships to the inhabitant of the villages and adjoining communities, the road has become a death trap for motorists and impassable for farmers to transport farm produce to the neighbouring towns;

Also worried that the deteriorated condition of the road has not only aggravated the present sufferings of the thereby affecting the economic activities and movement of the people, goods and services which has led to loss of earnings and resources.

Concerned that apart from the inaccessibility and neglect of the road, the people are left to seek alternative means of transporting their farm produce from the hinterland to cities at a high cost, thus leading to the high cost of goods.

Cognizant that the people of the area have appealed to the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to urgently intervene to ameliorate their sufferings;

Resolves to:

Urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to urgently complete Ikot Akpa Nkuk/Nyak Iba/Usung Atiat/Ikot Road (*Hon. Unyime Josiah Idem — Ukanafun/Oruk Anam Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 05/06/2023).

Motion referred to the Committee on Works (when constituted), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

7. Need to Declare Emigration of Young Nigerians Abroad as a National Emergency

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House

Notes that according to statistics from the Nigerian Economic Summit a growing number of young Nigerians are relocating abroad;

Also notes that the recent Reports by African Polling Institute indicate that 69% of young people would opt to relocate abroad if given the chance or if the opportunity presents itself;

Aware that there is a 40% increase in the number of young Nigerians leaving the nation compared

to the number captured in 2019, as the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs reported that international emigration from Nigeria in 2020 total 1.7million, which is a substantial increase from 990,000 in 2010.

Concerned that the growing statistics of young Nigerians leaving Nigeria and securing permanent residence in the United Kingdom, the USA, and Canada portends a grave danger for our nation in many ways from Economic to intellectual and Social aspects;

Also concerned that the Nigerian population is made of two-thirds of persons under the age of 30 and a good number of these persons are already afflicted with what today is acceptably referred to as the "JAPA SYNDROME", as estimates indicate a staggering tens of thousands have relocated to the USA, Canada, South Africa, and even Gambia over the last two years;

Worried that the eagerness to migrate to countries that offer hope seems to have compelling influence, and this was aptly captured in the Business Day Newspaper of 4 June, 2023 by one Timothy Oyegoke under an article titled: "The Desertion of Nigeria by Nigerians, Lack of Patriotism or Need for a Better Life" by the observation of the writer that "it is disheartening to see the rate at which brilliant and resourceful Nigerians are eager to leave the country";

Also worried that those leaving Nigeria are not just the poor but middle class who possess skills/workforce including Bankers, Lecturers, Health care practitioners, Doctors, Nurses, trained manpower, all of whom were trained in Nigeria and emigrating at a time when their services are needed to build a strong and vibrant economy in Nigeria;

Disturbed that if this scenario continues with our able minds, brains and skilled personnel leaving, Nigeria may fall into grave crisis in our critical sectors from education to healthcare, thereby making a bad situation worse;

Cognizant that in line with the RENEWED HOPE theme of the President Bola Tinubu administration, the triggers that predispose young Nigerians to find the choice to leave the country attractive, such as uncertainty of the duration of stay in higher institutions, poor living wages, growing unemployment, poor living condition, insensitive leadership, insecurity, post-graduation realities and among others, which makes young people frustrated, demands a declaration of a state of emergency in order to address the JAPA SYNDROME;

Conscious that our young population remains one of our greatest assets, and although the prospects of a growing Nigerians in the Diaspora could be beneficial in a way, it should not be at the expense of our needed manpower, also as it bothers on National pride when our young bright minds leave the country in droves, conveying an impression that "Nigeria is a sinking ship that everyone is rushing to get out of";

Also cognizant that life-changing decisions whether to stay in one's country or emigrate should not be anchored challenges ranging from insecurity to poor health sector, poor educational system and poor economy among other things;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to convene a national summit with key stakeholders to effectively address the JAPA SYNDROME;
- (ii) declared a state of Emergency on the factors that predispose young Nigerians to give up on Nigeria in preference for other nations (*Hon. Philip Agbese — Ado/Ogbadibo/Okpokwu Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (i), *leave out* the word “JAPA” and anywhere it occurs in the Motion (*Hon. Bamisile Olufemi Richard — Gboyin/Ekiti East/Emure Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

Question on the Motion — Negatived.

8. **Need to Intervene in the Persistent Community Clashes between the Residents of Ngbo in Ohaukwu, Ebonyi State and Agila in Igumale, Local Government Area of Benue State**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the persistent community clashes between the residents of Ngbo in Ohaukwu Local Government Area of Ebonyi State and Agila in Igumale LGA of Benue State, dating back to more than a century;

Also notes that the unfortunate outcome of such crisis results in loss of lives and damage to properties worth millions of Naira;

Concerned that the States which hitherto lived in peace as neighbors, inter- married and farmed together are presently at daggers drawn with each other;

Also concerned that since the outbreak of the crisis in 1930, the peace and tranquility which hitherto existed amongst the residents of the area and its neighboring regions are no longer available;

Perturbed that due to the prevailing crisis in the state, coupled with the prevailing crisis in the area there exist unprecedented poverty, hunger and starvation within those communities;

Also perturbed that till date there's no evidence of commerce, agricultural activities and socio-economic development within those communities;

Worried about the increasing prevalence crisis and dispute at the slightest provocation, as well as occasional break out of war within the neighboring communities;

Also worried that the socio-economic development and security situation of citizens of the areas have come to a halt;

Aware that the two communities' roads serves as the only link between the North and South- Eastern part the country;

Also aware of efforts by community leaders as well as leaders of thought in the area to bring back peace in conscious of another crisis between the residents of the two States war-torn areas;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to provide remedial measures to the roads leading to the two communities to serve as a clear developmental impetus and access in the interest of the majority of the Nigerian people, pending the 2024 budget estimates;
- (ii) also urge the National Boundary Commission to conclude the ongoing boundary adjustment between the two states as a remedy to bring the crisis to an end and to forestall further reoccurrence;
- (iii) further urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to quickly supply relief

materials to the people affected by the clashes;

- (iv) mandate the Committee on Works (*when constituted*) to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to include Okwo Ngbo-Ekwashi Agila-Otukpo-Spur, Umuimame-Egedegede Road in the 2024 Budget estimates as a final solution to restore peace in the two States (*Hon. Eze Nwachukwu Eze — Ebonyi/Ohuakwu Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (v) as follows:

“Urge community leaders such as Traditional Rulers, Stakeholders, and security agencies, to be involved in the settlement of the crises” (*Hon. Abass A. Adigun — Ibadan North East/Ibadan South East Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the persistent community clashes between the residents of Ngbo in Ohaukwu Local Government Area of Ebonyi State and Agila in Igumale LGA of Benue State, dating back to more than a century;

Also noted that the unfortunate outcome of such crisis results in loss of lives and damage to properties worth millions of Naira;

Concerned that the States which hitherto lived in peace as neighbors, inter- married and farmed together are presently at daggers drawn with each other;

Also concerned that since the outbreak of the crisis in 1930, the peace and tranquility which hitherto existed amongst the residents of the area and its neighboring regions are no longer available;

Perturbed that due to the prevailing crisis in the state, coupled with the prevailing crisis in the area there exist unprecedented poverty, hunger and starvation within those communities;

Also perturbed that till date there's no evidence of commerce, agricultural activities and socio-economic development within those communities;

Worried about the increasing prevalence crisis and dispute at the slightest provocation, as well as occasional break out of war within the neighboring communities;

Also worried that the socio-economic development and security situation of citizens of the areas have come to a halt;

Aware that the two communities' roads serves as the only link between the North and South- Eastern part the country;

Also aware of efforts by community leaders as well as leaders of thought in the area to bring back peace in conscious of another crisis between the residents of the two States war-torn areas;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to provide remedial measures to the roads leading to the two communities to serve as a clear developmental impetus and access

in the interest of the majority of the Nigerian people, pending the 2024 budget estimates;

- (ii) also urge the National Boundary Commission to conclude the ongoing boundary adjustment between the two states as a remedy to bring the crisis to an end and to forestall further reoccurrence;
- (iii) further urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to quickly supply relief materials to the people affected by the clashes;
- (iv) Urge community leaders such as Traditional Rulers, Stakeholders, and security agencies, to be involved in the settlement of the crises
- (v) mandate the Committee on Works (*when constituted*) to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to include Okwo Ngbo-Ekwashi Agila-Otukpo-Spur, Umuimame-Egedegede Road in the 2024 Budget estimates as a final solution to restore peace in the two States (**HR. 06/06/2023**).

9. Need to Address the Lingering Issue of Gas Flaring by Oil and Gas Companies

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Nigeria is blessed with vast oil and natural gas resources and due to inadequate management of resources most of the natural gas is flared;

Aware a Report on National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency, (NOSDRA), which states that in 2022, Nigeria flared 216.5 billion standard cubic feet of gas in about eleven months despite its commitment in November 2021 to reach net zero by 2060;

Also aware that the report states that 12 million tonnes of CO₂ were emitted into the atmosphere, thus contributing to global warming while useful natural gas valued at \$0.79 billion was burned by the Nigerian oil and gas industry equivalent to the value of \$450 million, many of which were said not to be collected;

Concerned that in 2022, 22,500 Gigawatts hours of potential power generation went to waste, equivalent to the annual electricity use of 511 million Nigerian citizens;

Also concerned that in 2021, an estimated \$761.19 million was lost to gas flaring, a total of ₦316.5 billion monetary value would have accrued to the government if it had captured this volume and repurposed it. This sum would have helped the country provide basic amenities, as stated in the 2022 fiscal budget. The amount would have financed the total expenditure for Primary Health Centres (PHCs), rural electrification projects, and the maintenance of all road and bridge projects by the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA). These have a collective figure of ₦227.13 billion. A breakdown shows that N24.4 billion was budgeted for PHCs, ₦113.96 billion for rural electrification, and ₦88.76 billion for FERMA;

Worried that in 2023 the trend continues as 150 billion Naira value of gas was flared within the month of January to April 2023. In the last decade, approximately \$9.05 billion has been lost to gas flaring. This money would have offset 23.62% of the country's total foreign debt of \$38.32 billion;

Also worried that in addition to wasting a valuable source of energy, flaring has a negative impact on human health, Climate and the environment;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge NOSDRA within 2 weeks to provide the House with specified information on companies

involved in flaring to include amount flared and penalty cost in the last decade for both local and international oil companies (IOCs) so that outstanding debts are fully recovered;

- (ii) also urge key and relevant government agencies of the petroleum sector NNPC, NOSDRA under the Ministry of Environment, NERC under the Ministry of Power to avoid working in silos and strengthen synergy to produce a practical and unified multi-level governance and policy coherence analysis that will stem gas flaring, protect the environment and boost energy supply;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Petroleum Upstream, Gas, Power, Environment and Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (i), line 1, immediately after the word “within”, *leave out* figure “2”, and *insert* figure “6” (*Hon. Onwusibe Ginger Obinna — Isiala Ngwa North/South Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Nigeria is blessed with vast oil and natural gas resources and due to inadequate management of resources most of the natural gas is flared;

Aware a Report on National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency, (NOSDRA), which states that in 2022, Nigeria flared 216.5 billion standard cubic feet of gas in about eleven months despite its commitment in November 2021 to reach net zero by 2060;

Also aware that the report states that 12 million tonnes of CO₂ were emitted into the atmosphere, thus contributing to global warming while useful natural gas valued at \$0.79 billion was burned by the Nigerian oil and gas industry equivalent to the value of \$450 million, many of which were said not to be collected;

Concerned that in 2022, 22,500 Gigawatts hours of potential power generation went to waste, equivalent to the annual electricity use of 511 million Nigerian citizens;

Also concerned that in 2021, an estimated \$761.19 million was lost to gas flaring, a total of ₦316.5 billion monetary value would have accrued to the government if it had captured this volume and repurposed it. This sum would have helped the country provide basic amenities, as stated in the 2022 fiscal budget. The amount would have financed the total expenditure for Primary Health Centres (PHCs), rural electrification projects, and the maintenance of all road and bridge projects by the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA). These have a collective figure of ₦227.13 billion. A breakdown shows that N24.4 billion was budgeted for PHCs, ₦113.96 billion for rural electrification, and ₦88.76 billion for FERMA;

Worried that in 2023 the trend continues as 150 billion Naira value of gas was flared within the month of January to April 2023. In the last decade, approximately \$9.05 billion has been lost to gas flaring. This money would have offset 23.62% of the country's total foreign debt of \$38.32 billion;

Also worried that in addition to wasting a valuable source of energy, flaring has a negative impact on human health, Climate and the environment.

Resolved to:

- (i) urge NOSDRA within 6 weeks to provide the House with specified information on companies involved in flaring to include amount flared and penalty cost in the last decade for both local and international oil companies (IOCs) so that outstanding debts are fully recovered
- (ii) also urge key and relevant government agencies of the petroleum sector NNPC, NOSDRA under the Ministry of Environment, NERC under the Ministry of Power to avoid working in silos and strengthen synergy to produce a practical and unified multi-level governance and policy coherence analysis that will stem gas flaring, protect the environment and boost energy supply;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Petroleum Upstream, Gas, Power, Environment and Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (**HR. 07/06/2023**).

Mr Speaker ordered the setting of an Ad-hoc Committee to address the matter.

Ad-Hoc Committee on the Need to Address the Lingering Issue of Gas Flaring by Oil and Gas Companies in Nigeria (HR. 07/06/2023):

Mr Speaker announced the membership of the Committee as follows:

- | | | | |
|------|-------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| (1) | Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir | — | <i>Chairman</i> |
| (2) | Hon. Kadeja Ibrahim | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (3) | Hon. Mansur Manu Soro | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (4) | Hon. Akpatason Ohiozogh Peter | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (5) | Hon. Mutu Nicholas | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (6) | Hon. Miriam Onuoha | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (7) | Hon. Nnoli Nnaji John | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (8) | Hon. Philip Agbase | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (9) | Hon. Tijani Ismail | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (10) | Hon. Sada Soli | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (11) | Hon. Kabiru Alhassan Rurum | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (12) | Hon. Bamidele Salam | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (13) | Hon. Osoba Olumide | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (14) | Hon. Dickson Turkigher | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (15) | Hon. Tukura Kabir Ibrahim | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (16) | Hon. Idem Unyime Josiah | — | <i>Member</i> |

10. Need to Control Gully Erosion in Nkwor-Mmiri and Isunjaba in Nkwere/Nwangele/Njaba Federal Constituency of Imo State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the negative impacts of gully erosions are humongous in Nigeria with attendant loss of farmlands and basic sources of livelihoods, loss of properties and lives, disconnect and separation of families and neighbouring villages, pothole traps and loss of soil;

Aware that sections of Umuoizu in Community Nkwere/Isu/Nwangele/Njaba Federal Constituency harbouring the important Nkwor-Mmiri market has been submerged and wiped out by ferocious gully erosion measuring about 42 meters in depth and 4 kilometres;

Also aware that the erosions in sections of the Isunjaba Community have created big gullies stretching from Isu to Njaba Local Government Areas in Nkwere/Isu/Nwangele/Njaba Federal Constituency;

Also notes that the inhabitants of these affected communities have lost their farmlands and cannot access the markets and cities to sale or exchange their farm produce for other economic items;

Worried that the erosions have destroyed buildings and rendered residents homeless, those in the urban areas find it difficult to visit their families in the village, while some family and ancestral lands are Kilometers in length are completely wiped out by these gully erosions;

Also worried that if nothing is done urgently within this rainy season, the suffering and casualties will increase and eventually wipe away villages;

Convinced that the urgent control of these gully erosions shall bring succour and relief to the people of Nkwere/Isu/Nwangele/Njaba Federal Constituency, most especially families and communities directly affected by these gully erosions;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Ecological Fund Office under the Secretary to the Government of the Federation to immediately commence the control of Nkwere-Mmiri and Isunjaba gully erosions at Nkwere/Isu/Nwangele/Njaba Federal Constituency;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning to release funds for the control of Nkwere-Mmiri and Isunjaba gully erosions at Nkwere/Isu/Nwangele/Njaba Federal Constituency;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Ecological Funds (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Ugonna Ozurigbo — Nkwere/Isu/Nwangele/Njaba Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayers (i) and (ii), immediately after the words “Federal Constituency”, *insert* the words “and the entire South West region of the country” (*Hon. Abass Adekunle Adigun — Ibadan North East/Ibadan South East Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the negative impacts of gully erosions are humongous in Nigeria with attendant loss of farmlands and basic sources of livelihoods, loss of properties and lives, disconnect and separation of families and neighbouring villages, pothole traps and loss of soil;

Aware that sections of Umuozu in Community Nkwere/Isu/Nwangele/Njaba Federal Constituency harbouring the important Nkwere-Mmiri market has been submerged and wiped out by ferocious gully erosion measuring about 42 meters in depth and 4 kilometres;

Also aware that the erosions in sections of the Isunjaba Community have created big gullies stretching from Isu to Njaba Local Government Areas in Nkwere/Isu/Nwangele/Njaba Federal Constituency;

Also noted that the inhabitants of these affected communities have lost their farmlands and cannot access the markets and cities to sale or exchange their farm produce for other economic items;

Worried that the erosions have destroyed buildings and rendered residents homeless, those in the urban areas find it difficult to visit their families in the village, while some family and ancestral lands are Kilometers in length are completely wiped out by these gully erosions;

Also worried that if nothing is done urgently within this rainy season, the suffering and casualties will increase and eventually wipe away villages;

Convinced that the urgent control of these gully erosions shall bring succour and relief to the people of Nkwere/Isu/Nwangele/Njaba Federal Constituency, most especially families and communities directly affected by these gully erosions;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Ecological Fund Office under the Secretary to the Government of the Federation to immediately commence the control of Nkwere-Mmiri and Isunjaba gully erosions at Nkwere/Isu/Nwangele/Njaba Federal Constituency, and the entire South West region of the country;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning to release funds for the control of Nkwere-Mmiri and Isunjaba gully erosions at Nkwere/Isu/Nwangele/Njaba Federal Constituency, and the entire South West region of the country.
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Ecological Funds (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (**HR. 08/06/2023**).

11. Need for the control of Gully Erosion along Ikot Ekang - Obiobom Bridge in Abak Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that there is gully erosion on the Ikot Ekang, Obiobom Bridge in Abak Local Government Area;

Also notes that the strategic importance of the Ikot Ekang, Obiobom Bridge to the economy of the South-South States and the country in general cannot be underestimated as the bridge enables humans and vehicular activities including transportation of goods and services to markets within and to neighboring States;

Further notes that the adverse effects of erosion in the past 22 years since Idim Okpok river was dredged in 2001 has reached its peak and if it continues unchecked may cut off access to 16 communities namely: Ikot Ekang, Obiobom, Abak Itege, Utu Abak, Afaha Obong, Ikot Imo, Ikot Ntuk, Nsehe, Ikpa Irod, Ikot Asukpong, Nto Obo, Uruk Ata Nsidung, Ntotok, Ikot Ebo, Atan and Afaha Odon communities and 6 Local Government Areas namely: Abak, Ukanafun, Oruk Anam, Etim Ekpo, Ika and Essien Udim, respectively;

Worried that Ikot Ekang, Obiobom Bridge has remained a death trap resulting in the loss of lives, goods and services worth millions of naira on daily basis;

Cognizant of the provisions of Section 2 (1) and (2) of the National Environmental (Soil Erosion and Flood Control) Regulations, 2011 on the objectives of the regulation which protect human lives and the environment;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs through Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to complete the reconstruction of Ikot Ekang, Obiobom Bridge to prevent total disconnections from the communities;

- (ii) also urges the Federal Ministry of Environment and other relevant agencies to remedy the menace of gully erosion in Ikot Ekang, Obiobom communities in Abak Local Government Area;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Environment, and Niger Delta Development Commission (*when constituted*) to investigate the immediate and remote causes of gully erosion in Ikot Ekang, Obiobom communities in Abak Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State (*Hon. Jimbo Ernest Clement — Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:

“Set up an Ad-hoc Committee to tackle the issue of gully erosion in its entirety” (Hon. Okonkwo Uchenna Harris — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

Question on the Motion — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that there is gully erosion on the Ikot Ekang, Obiobom Bridge in Abak Local Government Area;

Also noted that the strategic importance of the Ikot Ekang, Obiobom Bridge to the economy of the South-South States and the country in general cannot be underestimated as the bridge enables humans and vehicular activities including transportation of goods and services to markets within and to neighboring States;

Further noted that the adverse effects of erosion in the past 22 years since Idim Okpok river was dredged in 2001 has reached its peak and if it continues unchecked may cut off access to 16 communities namely: Ikot Ekang, Obiobom, Abak Itenge, Utu Abak, Afaha Obong, Ikot Imo, Ikot Ntuk, Nsehe, Ikpa Irod, Ikot Asukpong, Nto Obo, Uruk Ata Nsidung, Ntotok, Ikot Ebo, Atan and Afaha Odon communities and 6 Local Government Areas namely: Abak, Ukanafun, Oruk Anam, Etim Ekpo, Ika and Essien Udim, respectively;

Worried that Ikot Ekang, Obiobom Bridge has remained a death trap resulting in the loss of lives, goods and services worth millions of naira on daily basis;

Cognizant of the provisions of Section 2 (1) and (2) of the National Environmental (Soil Erosion and Flood Control) Regulations, 2011 on the objectives of the regulation which protect human lives and the environment;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs through Niger Delta Development Commission, (NDDC) to complete the reconstruction of Ikot Ekang, Obiobom Bridge to prevent total disconnections from the communities;
- (ii) also urges the Federal Ministry of Environment and other relevant agencies to remedy the menace of gully erosion in Ikot Ekang, Obiobom communities in Abak Local Government Area;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Environment, and Niger Delta Development Commission (*when constituted*) to investigate the immediate and remote causes of gully erosion in Ikot Ekang,

Obiobom communities in Abak Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State (**HR. 09/06/2023**).

12. Adjournment of First Sitting

That the House do adjourn the First Sitting till 1.15 p.m. (Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.10 p.m.

Tajudeen Abbas
Speaker