



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA FIRST VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 21 November, 2024

1. The House met at 11.18 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, 20 November, 2024.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcement**

(i) ***Visitors in the Gallery:***

Mr Speaker announced the presence of the following:

- (i) Members of the National Association of Political Science Students (North East Region (NAPSS), University of Maiduguri, Borno State;
- (ii) Staff and Students of Footsteps International School Limited, Gwarimpa, Abuja;
- (iii) Staff and Students of Victoria Salem International School, Ado, Karu, Nasarawa State.

(iii) ***Conference Committee on the South West Development Commission Bill, 2024:***

Mr Speaker announced the membership of the Conference Committee as follows:

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|-----|-----------------------------|---|-----------------|
| (1) | Hon. Faleke James Abiodun | — | <i>Chairman</i> |
| (2) | Hon. Felix Nwaeke | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (3) | Hon. Harris Uchenna Okonkwo | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (4) | Hon. Isah Bello Ambarura | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (5) | Hon. Midala Usman Balami | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (6) | Hon. Ojema Ojotu | — | <i>Member</i> |

(iv) Conference Committee on the South South Development Commission Bill, 2024:

Mr Speaker announced the membership of the Conference Committee as follows:

(1)	Hon. Frederick Agbedi	—	<i>Chairman</i>
(2)	Hon. Adebayo Adedeji	—	<i>Member</i>
(3)	Hon. Chike John Okafor	—	<i>Member</i>
(4)	Hon. Aminu Ahmed	—	<i>Member</i>
(5)	Hon. Usman Zanna	—	<i>Member</i>
(6)	Hon. Jeremiah Umaru	—	<i>Member</i>

5. Petitions

- (i) A petition from O.C.O. Emmanuel Chambers (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Olubidemi Adebayo, on the termination of her appointment from the service of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), was presented and laid by Hon. Chinedu Ogah (*Ikwo/Ezza South Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) A petition from Gab Agu & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Clustergate Nigeria Limited and 2 others, on alleged non-payment of the contract sum of ₦46.43 Million by Anambra - Imo River Basin Development Authority, Owerri, Imo State, was presented and laid by Hon. Lilian Orogbu (*Akwa North/Akwa South Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) A petition from Udo Nnamdi Iweala, on behalf of the Allottees of 13A Mac Donald Road, Ikoyi, Lagos State, on alleged illegal demarcation of their landed property by the Nigeria Electricity Liability Management Company (NELMCO), was presented and laid by Hon. Fom Dalyop Chollom (*Barkin Ladin/Riyom Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

- (i) ***International Day for the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women:***
Hon. Kalifat Ogbara Adetola (*Kosofe Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
 - (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

International Day for the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women:

The House:

Notes that the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is observed annually on November 25th, serving as a global reminder of the need to eradicate violence against women in all its form;

Also notes that violence against women is a pervasive violation of human rights that affects millions of women and girls around the world, manifesting in physical, sexual, and psychological harm;

Aware that the United Nations has identified the elimination of violence against women as a critical component of achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls;

Worried that systemic discrimination, cultural norms, and societal attitudes contribute to the perpetration of violence against women, necessitating comprehensive strategies for prevention and response;

Also worried that violence against women and girls remains largely unreported due to the impunity, silence, stigma and shame surrounding it;

Alarmed that Violence against Women continues to be an obstacle to achieving equality, development, peace as well as to the fulfilment of women and girls' human rights. The promise of the sustainable development goals to leave no one behind cannot be fulfilled without putting an end to violence against women and girls;

Informed that it is crucial to raise awareness about the various forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, trafficking, and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriage;

Also informed that it is important that support services for survivors of violence, such as legal aid, counselling, and shelter must be strengthened and made accessible to all women in need; meanwhile, education and community engagement are essential in changing societal attitudes and promoting respect for women's rights;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Orientation Agency (NOA) to raise awareness campaigns to educate the public on the VAPP Act (2015) across the thirty-six (36) States and FCT;
- (ii) also urge the Ministry of Budget and National Planning to increase funding to the Ministry of Women Affairs in order to establish survivors shelter homes ensuring they have access to necessary care and support;
- (iii) further urge the State Houses of Assembly to push for motions on the domestication and implementation of the VAPP Act (2015);
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Women Affairs and Social Development to establish mechanisms to monitor progress on the effectiveness of the VAPP Act (2015) (*Hon. Kafilat Ogbara Adetola — Kosofo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is observed annually on November 25th, serving as a global reminder of the need to eradicate violence against women in all its form;

Also noted that violence against women is a pervasive violation of human rights that affects millions of women and girls around the world, manifesting in physical, sexual, and psychological harm;

Aware that the United Nations has identified the elimination of violence against women as a critical component of achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls;

Worried that systemic discrimination, cultural norms, and societal attitudes contribute to the perpetration of violence against women, necessitating comprehensive strategies for prevention and response;

Also worried that violence against women and girls remains largely unreported due to the impunity, silence, stigma and shame surrounding it;

Alarmed that Violence against Women continues to be an obstacle to achieving equality, development, peace as well as to the fulfilment of women and girls' human rights. The promise of the sustainable development goals to leave no one behind cannot be fulfilled without putting an end to violence against women and girls;

Informed that it is crucial to raise awareness about the various forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, trafficking, and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriage;

Also informed that it is important that support services for survivors of violence, such as legal aid, counselling, and shelter must be strengthened and made accessible to all women in need; meanwhile, education and community engagement are essential in changing societal attitudes and promoting respect for women's rights;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the National Orientation Agency (NOA) to raise awareness campaigns to educate the public on the VAPP Act (2015) across the thirty-six (36) States and FCT;
 - (ii) also urge the Ministry of Budget and National Planning to increase funding to the Ministry of Women Affairs in order to establish survivors shelter homes ensuring they have access to necessary care and support;
 - (iii) further urge the State Houses of Assembly to push for motions on the domestication and implementation of the VAPP Act (2015);
 - (iv) mandate the Committee on Women Affairs and Social Development to establish mechanisms to monitor progress on the effectiveness of the VAPP Act (2015) (**HR. 175/11/2024**).
- (ii) ***Restoration of Electricity in Badagry West and other Affected Communities within Badagry Local Government Area of Lagos State:***
Hon. Sesi Oluwaseun Whingan (*Badagry Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Restoration of Electricity in Badagry West and other Affected Communities within Badagry Local Government Area of Lagos State:

The House:

Notes that the entire Badagry West and other communities within the Badagry Federal Constituency, a region of deep cultural and historical importance have been without electricity for over four years, forcing residents to rely on costly and unsustainable fuel-powered generators. This financial burden, compounded by surging fuel prices, has caused widespread hardship for households, small businesses, and essential services;

Also notes that this devastating blackout has crippled essential services across the constituency, with far-reaching effects on healthcare, education, and agriculture. Healthcare centers struggle to keep essential vaccines and medicines refrigerated, medical facilities cannot power crucial equipment, and schools are left without conducive learning environments. Local farmers also face challenges in irrigation and produce preservation, leading to financial loss and limited agricultural productivity;

Recognizes that Badagry, as a coastal and historic city, holds enormous tourism and economic potential, yet the prolonged blackout has deterred both local and international visitors, reducing the area's revenue-generating capacity and stifling job creation. Additionally, the absence of electricity exacerbates security risks, particularly in a border community like Badagry, where poor lighting and limited resources increase vulnerability to criminal activities, intensifying the fears and struggles of residents;

Aware that this blackout not only hinders equitable development but is also a pressing humanitarian concern. Access to reliable electricity is vital to public safety, improved quality of life, and economic empowerment, directly aligning with the Federal Government's commitments to sustainable development, reduced fuel dependency, and enhanced citizen well-being;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Power and the Rural Electrification Agency to allocate emergency resources and prioritize funding for the restoration of electricity in Badagry West and surrounding communities. This includes expediting repairs and upgrades to transmission lines, transformers, and distribution networks to ensure a swift restoration of stable power supply, thereby reducing reliance on unsustainable and costly fuel-powered generators;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Power, Rural Development and Rural Electrification to ensure compliance with this directive and report progress within eight (8) weeks (*Hon. Sesi Oluwaseun Whingan — Badagry Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the entire Badagry West and other communities within the Badagry Federal Constituency, a region of deep cultural and historical importance have been without electricity for over four years, forcing residents to rely on costly and unsustainable fuel-powered generators. This financial burden, compounded by surging fuel prices, has caused widespread hardship for households, small businesses, and essential services;

Also noted that this devastating blackout has crippled essential services across the constituency, with far-reaching effects on healthcare, education, and agriculture. Healthcare centers struggle to keep essential vaccines and medicines refrigerated, medical facilities cannot power crucial equipment, and schools are left without conducive learning

environments. Local farmers also face challenges in irrigation and produce preservation, leading to financial loss and limited agricultural productivity;

Recognized that Badagry, as a coastal and historic city, holds enormous tourism and economic potential, yet the prolonged blackout has deterred both local and international visitors, reducing the area's revenue-generating capacity and stifling job creation. Additionally, the absence of electricity exacerbates security risks, particularly in a border community like Badagry, where poor lighting and limited resources increase vulnerability to criminal activities, intensifying the fears and struggles of residents;

Aware that this blackout not only hinders equitable development but is also a pressing humanitarian concern. Access to reliable electricity is vital to public safety, improved quality of life, and economic empowerment, directly aligning with the Federal Government's commitments to sustainable development, reduced fuel dependency, and enhanced citizen well-being;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Power and the Rural Electrification Agency to allocate emergency resources and prioritize funding for the restoration of electricity in Badagry West and surrounding communities. This includes expediting repairs and upgrades to transmission lines, transformers, and distribution networks to ensure a swift restoration of stable power supply, thereby reducing reliance on unsustainable and costly fuel-powered generators;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Power, Rural Development and Rural Electrification to ensure compliance with this directive and report progress within eight (8) weeks (**HR. 176/11/2024**).
- (iii) ***Need to Deploy Security Agents to Itsukwi, Imiegba, Okpekpe and Imiakebu Communities in Etsako East Local Government Area of Edo State:***
Hon. Billy Favour Osawaru (*Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
 - (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Need to Deploy Security Agents to Itsukwi, Imiegba, Okpekpe and Imiakebu Communities in Etsako East Local Government Area of Edo State:

The House:

Notes that Section 14 (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that the people's security and welfare shall be the government's primary responsibility;

Also notes that Chapter 4 of the nation's Constitution in Section 33 (1) provides that "Every person has a right to life, and no one shall be deprived intentionally of his life, save in execution of the sentence of a court in respect of a criminal offence of which he has been found guilty in Nigeria";

Aware that "Every individual is entitled to respect for the dignity of his person" and accordingly, "No person shall be subjected to torture or inhuman or degrading treatment";

Worried that on Monday, October 28, 2024, herdsmen invaded Ugbereke, a popular farmland known for its fertility and destroyed completely the yam plantation of a youth leader in Itsukwi community (Ward 9, Etsako East Local Government Area, Edo State), Mr Samuel Igbeneghu;

Also worried that on Tuesday November 5, 2024, three farmers by the names Umuagene Obey, Emuesugheli Obi and Ogbitabu Imoudumhe (all from Okpekpe community in Ward 10, Etsako East Local Government Area of Edo State) were ambushed on the way to their farms and brutally murdered by suspected herdsmen;

Further worried that same day, the killers made their way to Ugbereke, and killed one Undyar Aondongu, male, while about five women were beaten and left to flee with various degrees of injuries;

Concerned that as a result of these violent campaigns, farmers in these communities no longer visit their farms for fear of being attacked or killed;

Disturbed that if the Federal Government fails to take the necessary steps to protect the lives and property of the people; acute hunger owing to food scarcity would be the natural consequence, not just for the people of the area but the entire Etsako East Local Government Area and by extension, Edo State and the country in general;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of those that lost their lives during these unprovoked attacks by herdsmen;
- (ii) urge the Inspector General of Police and other relevant security agencies to investigate this tragic incident and fish-out the perpetrators for prosecution, while also tasking them to immediately step up the security surveillance so as to contain escalation of insecurity within Itsukwi, Imiakebu, Imiegba and Okpekpe communities and beyond;
- (iii) also urge the Inspector General of Police, Chief of Defence Staff, Director General, Department of State Services (DSS), the General Officer Commanding (GOC) 2 Division of Nigerian Army (NA) and the Commander, 4 Mechanized Brigade Nigerian Army in Edo State to deploy their personnel to Itsukwi, Imiakebu, Imiegba and Okpekpe communities to safeguard the lives and property of the people;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, Army and National Security and Intelligence to ensure compliance and report within four (4) (*Hon. Billy Favour Osawaru — Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Section 14 (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that the people's security and welfare shall be the government's primary responsibility;

Also noted that Chapter 4 of the nation's Constitution in Section 33 (1) provides that "Every person has a right to life, and no one shall be deprived intentionally of his life, save in execution of the sentence of a court in respect of a criminal offence of which he has been found guilty in Nigeria";

Aware that "Every individual is entitled to respect for the dignity of his person" and accordingly, "No person shall be subjected to torture or inhuman or degrading treatment";

Worried that on Monday, October 28, 2024, herdsmen invaded Ugberoke, a popular farmland known for its fertility and destroyed completely the yam plantation of a youth leader in Itsukwi community (Ward 9, Etsako East Local Government Area, Edo State), Mr Samuel Igbeneghu;

Also worried that on Tuesday November 5, 2024, three farmers by the names Umuagene Obey, Emuesugheli Obi and Ogbitabu Imoudumhe (all from Okpekpe community in Ward 10, Etsako East Local Government Area of Edo State were ambushed on the way to their farms and brutally murdered by suspected herdsmen;

Further worried that same day, the killers made their way to Ugberoke, and killed one Undyar Aondongu, male, while about five women were beaten and left to flee with various degrees of injuries;

Concerned that as a result of these violent campaigns, farmers in these communities no longer visit their farms for fear of being attacked or killed;

Disturbed that if the Federal Government fails to take the necessary steps to protect the lives and property of the people; acute hunger owing to food scarcity would be the natural consequence, not just for the people of the area but the entire Etsako East Local Government Area and by extension, Edo State and the country in general;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of those that lost their lives during these unprovoked attacks by herdsmen;
- (ii) urge the Inspector General of Police and other relevant security agencies to investigate this tragic incident and fish-out the perpetrators for prosecution, while also tasking them to immediately step up the security surveillance so as to contain escalation of insecurity within Itsukwi, Imiakebu, Imiegba and Okpekpe communities and beyond;
- (iii) also urge the Inspector General of Police, Chief of Defence Staff, Director General, Department of State Services (DSS), the General Officer Commanding (GOC) 2 Division of Nigerian Army (NA) and the Commander, 4 Mechanized Brigade Nigerian Army in Edo State to deploy their personnel to Itsukwi, Imiakebu, Imiegba and Okpekpe communities to safeguard the lives and property of the people;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, Army and National Security and Intelligence to ensure compliance and report within four (4) (HR. 177/11/2024).

A minute silence observed in honour of the deceased.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (4) to enable it take more than 3 matters of urgent public importance" (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

(iv) *Recurrent Fire Incidences in the Katako Market, Plateau State:*

Hon. Daniel Asama Ago (*Bassa/Jos North Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
- (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Recurrent Fire Incidences in the Katako Market, Plateau State:

The House;

Notes with great concern the recent fire outbreak at Laranto Katako Market in Jos, Plateau State, which has become a yearly occurrence. This incident has resulted in the destruction of properties worth billions of naira, causing hardship to property owners and traders in the market;

Aware that the Laranto Katako Market is one of the largest markets in Jos, providing livelihoods to thousands of people. The frequent fire outbreaks in the market have caused significant economic losses and hardship to the people;

Concerned on the non-investigation into the causes of the fire outbreak with a view to finding a lasting solution to prevent future occurrences. The investigation should be conducted by a team of experts from the Federal and State Governments, including the Federal Fire Service, the State Fire Service, and other relevant agencies;

Resolves to:

- (i) call the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction to provide relief support to the victims of the fire outbreak. This support should include financial assistance, food, shelter, and other essential items to help the victims recover from the loss;
- (ii) also call on the Federal Fire Service to identify sections of the Market needing Firefighting installations, provide firefighting equipment and training of market traders and stakeholders on fire safety and enforcement of safety standards in the market to forestall future occurrences;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Management, and Interior to ensure compliance (*Hon. Daniel Asama Ago — Bassa/Jos North Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Prayer (ii) (Hon. Ahmadu Usman Jaha — Chibok/Damboa/Gwoza Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House;

Noted with great concern the recent fire outbreak at Laranto Katako Market in Jos, Plateau State, which has become a yearly occurrence. This incident has resulted in the destruction of properties worth billions of naira, causing hardship to property owners and traders in the market;

Aware that the Laranto Katako Market is one of the largest markets in Jos, providing livelihoods to thousands of people. The frequent fire outbreaks in the market have caused significant economic losses and hardship to the people;

Concerned on the non-investigation into the causes of the fire outbreak with a view to finding a lasting solution to prevent future occurrences. The investigation should be conducted by a team of experts from the Federal and State Governments, including the Federal Fire Service, the State Fire Service, and other relevant agencies;

Resolved to:

- (i) call the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction to provide relief support to the victims of the fire outbreak. This support should include financial assistance, food, shelter, and other essential items to help the victims recover from the loss;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Management, and Interior to ensure compliance (**HR. 178/11/2024**).

7. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Nigerian Research Institutes Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1845).
- (2) Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1849).
- (3) Scholarship Regulation Bill, 2024 (HB.1843).
- (4) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (Political Affiliation, Physical Appearance, Race, Skin Colour) (HB.1857).
- (5) Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1858).
- (6) Child's Rights Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1859).
- (7) Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1860).
- (8) Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1864).
- (9) Whistle Blowing Bill, 2024 (HB.1563).
- (10) Advanced Healthcare Development Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2024. (HB.1813).
- (11) National Guards Bill, 2024. (HB.1828).
- (12) State Internally Generated Revenue (Disbursement) Bill, 2024. (HB.1854).
- (13) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1911).

- (14) Federal Universities of Agriculture Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1912).
- (15) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1913).
- (16) Electoral Act (Amendment) (Off Season Legislative Elections) Bill (HB.1914).
- (17) National Senior Secondary Education Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1834).
- (18) FCT Displaced Original Inhabitants Resettlement and Integrated Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1707).
- (19) National Assembly Financial Management (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1926).
- (20) Headquarter Situation and Relocation (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1927).
- (21) Federal College of Animal husbandry, Kaoje, Kebbi State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1929).

8. Presentation of Reports

(i) **Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management:**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management on Request for Approval for the Implementation of New External Borrowing of ₦ 1,767,610,321,779.00 (USD2.209B Equivalent) in the 2024 Appropriation Act through the Issuance of Eurobonds and other Sources” (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Nalaraba — Awe/Doma/Keana Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) **Committee on Health Institutions:**

Report of the Committee on Health Institutions on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Epe, Lagos State and for Related Matters (HB. 1449)

Order read, deferred by leave of the House.

(iii) **Committee on Health Institutions:**

Report of the Committee on Health Institutions on a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Hawul, Borno State and for Related Matters (HB 280).

Order deferred by leave of the House.

(iv) **Committee on Health Institutions:**

Report of the Committee on Health Institutions on a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of the Federal College of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Sciences, Damagum, Fune, Yobe State and for Related Matters. (HB.1022).

Order deferred by leave of the House.

(v) **Committee on Health Institutions:**

Report of the Committee on Health Institutions on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres, Act to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Okehi, Kogi State to Provide Primary to Tertiary Healthcare Services in all Ramifications and for Related Matters (HB.776)

Order deferred by leave of the House.

(vi) Committee on Health Institutions:

Report of the Committee on Health Institutions on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Achi, Enugu State and for Related Matters (HB.1220).

Order deferred by leave of the House.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act, 2021 (as amended) to make Provisions for Establishment of Federal College of Agricultural Technology, Opialu-Ojapo, Benue State to contribute to the Development of Nigeria through Training of Qualitative Manpower in Agriculture by adequate exposure to Sound Theoretical Background, Practical Farm and field Demonstration and for Related Matters (SB.212) — Third Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act, 2021 (as amended) to make Provisions for Establishment of Federal College of Agricultural Technology, Opialu-Ojapo, Benue State to contribute to the Development of Nigeria through Training of Qualitative Manpower in Agriculture by adequate exposure to Sound Theoretical Background, Practical Farm and field Demonstration and for Related Matters (SB.212) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Universities of Agriculture Act, Cap. F22, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2024 and Establish Federal University of Agricultural, Kabba, Kogi State and for Related Matters (HB. 1520) — Third Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Universities of Agriculture Act, Cap. F22, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2024 and Establish Federal University of Agricultural, Kabba, Kogi State and for Related Matters (HB. 1520) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the University Teaching Hospitals (Reconstitution of Boards, etc.) Act, Cap. U15, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Related Matters (HB.962) — Third Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the University Teaching Hospitals (Reconstitution of Boards, etc.) Act, Cap. U15, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Related Matters (HB.962) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Acts and Establish Federal Medical Centre, Kwale, Delta State and for Related Matters (HB. 680) — Third Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Acts and Establish Federal Medical Centre, Kwale, Delta State and for Related Matters (HB. 680) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

13. Consolidation of Bill:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act, Cap. C15, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2024 to insulate Judicial Officers from Prosecution before being Lawfully removed from Office and for Related Matters (HB. 1178); and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act 2004 to Enable Public Officers maintain foreign Bank Account outside Nigeria for the Purpose of Accessing Funds while on Official Duties to facilitate Transactions for pressing family needs and auxiliary expenses and for Related Matters (HB.1894) be now consolidated (*Hon. Waive Ejiroghene Francis — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

14. A Bill for an Act to Alter the Second Schedule to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Act, 1999 (as amended) to transfer Mines and Minerals, Including Oil Fields, Oil Mining, Geological Surveys and Natural Gas from the Exclusive Legislative List to the Concurrent Legislative List and for Related Matters (HB. 1545) — Second Reading

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

15. A Bill for an Act to Amend the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja (Number of Judges) Cap. H6, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for Increase in the Number of Judges in the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and for Related Matters (HB.1635) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja (Number of Judges) Cap. H6, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for Increase in the Number of Judges in the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and for Related Matters (HB.1635) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu — Bende Federal Constituency and Seven others*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committees on Federal Capital Territory Judiciary, and Constitution Review.

16. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Colleges of Education Act, No. 43 to Establish the Federal College of Education (Technical), Uzebba-Iuleha, Edo State and for Related Matters (HB 1852) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Colleges of Education Act, No. 43 to Establish the Federal College of Education (Technical), Uzebba-Iuleha, Edo State and for Related Matters (HB 1852) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Colleges of Education.

17. A Bill for an Act to Amend the North West Development Commission Act, 2024 to provide for Geo-Political Representation in the Governing Board of the Commission and for Related Matters (SB. 567) — Second Reading

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

18. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the South East Development Commission Act, 2024 to provide for fair representation of member States, Geo-Political Representation in the Governing Board of the Commission and for Related Matters (SB. 568) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

19. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act and Establish Federal Medical Centre, Ankpa, Kogi State and for Related Matters (HB. 1855) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act and Establish Federal Medical Centre, Ankpa, Kogi State and for Related Matters (HB. 1855) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Health Institutions.

20. **A Bill for an Act to Alter the Provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) to create a single term of six years for the office of President and State Governors, recognize the division of Nigeria into the six Geopolitical zones, provide for the rotation of the office of President, State Governor and chairman of a Local Government Council among the Inherent regions and zones, and provide that all elections be held on a single day and for Related Matters (HB. 1511) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Alter the Provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) to create a single term of six years for the office of President and State Governors, recognize the division of Nigeria into the six Geopolitical zones, provide for the rotation of the office of President, State Governor and chairman of a Local Government Council among the Inherent regions and zones, and provide that all elections be held on a single day and for Related Matters (HB. 1511) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Ikeagwuonu Onyinye Ugochinyere — Ideato North/Ideato South Federal Constituency and Thirty - Three Others*).

Debate.

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

21. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) Act to Change the Use of the Word National Interest to Public Benefit and to Increase the Period Provided for a term of Contract as Prerequisite to Registration of the Document under this Act from 10 years to 20 years and strengthen the capacity of the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion to Monitor, on a continual basis, the transfer of Foreign Technology to Nigeria, to encourage, regulate, and Commercialize Inventions, Innovations and Research and Development Results more effectively and enhanced diversified Representation in its governance for broader sectorial coverage and for Related Matters (HB.1788 & HB. 1846) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) Act to Change the Use of the Word National Interest to Public Benefit and to Increase the Period Provided for a term of Contract as Prerequisite to Registration of the Document under this Act from 10 years to 20 years and strengthen the capacity of the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion to Monitor, on a continual basis,

the transfer of Foreign Technology to Nigeria, to encourage, regulate, and Commercialize Inventions, Innovations and Research and Development Results more effectively and enhanced diversified Representation in its governance for broader sectorial coverage and for Related Matters (HB.1788 & HB. 1846) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Tijjani Zannah Zakariya — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa Federal Constituency and One other*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Science and Technology.

22. A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and for Related Matters (HB.1138) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and for Related Matters (HB.1138) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Olamijuwonlo Ayodeji Alao Akala — Ogbomosho North/Ogbomosho South/Orire Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Constitution Review.

23. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Highways Act to empower the Minister of Works to direct, authorise and instruct every Agency, Ministry, Parastatals and Department of the Federal Government involved in the design and Construction of Federal Roads to include the Construction of Public Utilities on the shoulder/side of all Federal Roads across the Federation and for Related Matters (HB. 779) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Highways Act to empower the Minister of Works to direct, authorise and instruct every Agency, Ministry, Parastatals and Department of the Federal Government involved in the design and Construction of Federal Roads to include the Construction of Public Utilities on the shoulder/side of all Federal Roads across the Federation and for Related Matters (HB. 779) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Sesi Olusegun Whinghan — Badagry Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Works.

24. Illegal Harvesting and Commercialization of Human Eggs in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the commercialization of human eggs, particularly in the context of illegal harvesting, poses significant ethical, legal, and health concerns globally, in Nigeria, the issue has gained prominence due to a growing demand for assisted reproductive technologies amid insufficient regulations;

Also notes that Nigeria's healthcare system, particularly reproductive health, is still evolving coupled with increasing infertility rates among couples seeking assisted reproductive treatments, thus leading to a flourishing market for human eggs;

Concerned that the demand for human eggs has led to exploitative practices such as illegal egg harvesting and commercialization, often targeting vulnerable women, particularly poor teenagers unaware of the risks involved;

Aware that in 2021, Nigerian authorities discovered an illegal egg harvesting scheme in Lagos, where a network of medical professionals and agents lured young women, mostly students or low-income earners, with the assurance of monetary rewards for their eggs, reportedly, women received between ₦200,000 and ₦500,000, or \$120 to \$300, for their participation which is below international pricing standards;

Also concerned that a large number of women had little knowledge about the medical procedures, potential health risks, and ethical implications of egg donation, some experienced ovarian hyper stimulation syndrome (OHSS) and other serious health issues after harvest; a woman's complications during an operation at a local clinic led to an investigation by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP);

Further concerned that in 2022, an Abuja-based fertility clinic was found involved in the illegal commercialization of human eggs to foreign clients, enrolling women under false claims of being part of legitimate egg donation programs. Reports suggest the clinic's online platform is inflating egg prices for international couples, underscoring the need for robust Nigerian regulatory frameworks to regulate fertility practices;

Worried that the absence of comprehensive legislation governing reproductive health in Nigeria has allowed these illegal activities to thrive. While the National Health Act provides some guidelines for reproductive health, specific regulations regarding egg donation and commercialization are lacking;

Further worried that due to the effects of the worsening economic situation in the country, this illegal practice has thrived, with many young women seeking financial relief falling prey to unscrupulous practitioners who exploit their desperation for financial relief, ignoring the health risks associated with egg retrieval procedures as well as the unethical commodification of human life and the psychological impact on donors;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Development, and the Ministry of Women Affairs and to create support systems for women who have participated in egg donation to help address health complications and psychological impacts;
- (ii) also urge the Ministry of Health and Social Development, and the Ministry of Information and National Orientation to intensify public awareness initiatives focusing on the risks and ethical considerations of egg donation to help inform potential donors and discourage exploitation;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to investigate the spate of illegal egg donation and practice of assisted reproductive health technologies in Nigeria, recommend measures to prevent further incidents and report within four (4) weeks;
- (iv) also mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Kwamoti Bitrus La'ori — Demsa/Lamurde/Numan.Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the commercialization of human eggs, particularly in the context of illegal harvesting, poses significant ethical, legal, and health concerns globally, in Nigeria, the issue has gained prominence due to a growing demand for assisted reproductive technologies amid insufficient regulations;

Also noted that Nigeria's healthcare system, particularly reproductive health, is still evolving coupled with increasing infertility rates among couples seeking assisted reproductive treatments, thus leading to a flourishing market for human eggs;

Concerned that the demand for human eggs has led to exploitative practices such as illegal egg harvesting and commercialization, often targeting vulnerable women, particularly poor teenagers unaware of the risks involved;

Aware that in 2021, Nigerian authorities discovered an illegal egg harvesting scheme in Lagos, where a network of medical professionals and agents lured young women, mostly students or low-income earners, with the assurance of monetary rewards for their eggs, reportedly, women received between ₦200,000 and ₦500,000, or \$120 to \$300, for their participation which is below international pricing standards;

Also concerned that a large number of women had little knowledge about the medical procedures, potential health risks, and ethical implications of egg donation, some experienced ovarian hyper stimulation syndrome (OHSS) and other serious health issues after harvest; a woman's complications during an operation at a local clinic led to an investigation by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP);

Further concerned that in 2022, an Abuja-based fertility clinic was found involved in the illegal commercialization of human eggs to foreign clients, enrolling women under false claims of being part of legitimate egg donation programs. Reports suggest the clinic's online platform is inflating egg prices for international couples, underscoring the need for robust Nigerian regulatory frameworks to regulate fertility practices;

Worried that the absence of comprehensive legislation governing reproductive health in Nigeria has allowed these illegal activities to thrive. While the National Health Act provides some guidelines for reproductive health, specific regulations regarding egg donation and commercialization are lacking;

Further worried that due to the effects of the worsening economic situation in the country, this illegal practice has thrived, with many young women seeking financial relief falling prey to unscrupulous practitioners who exploit their desperation for financial relief, ignoring the health risks associated with egg retrieval procedures as well as the unethical commodification of human life and the psychological impact on donors;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Development, and the Ministry of Women Affairs and to create support systems for women who have participated in egg donation to help address health complications and psychological impacts;
- (ii) also urge the Ministry of Health and Social Development, and the Ministry of Information and National Orientation to intensify public awareness initiatives focusing on the risks and ethical considerations of egg donation to help inform potential donors and discourage exploitation;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to investigate the spate of illegal egg donation and practice of assisted reproductive health technologies in Nigeria, recommend measures to prevent further incidents and report within four (4) weeks;

- (iv) also mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 179/11/2024**).

25. Need to Investigate the Activities of Anti-Corruption and Transparency Units (CTUs) in Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government in the Country

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House

Recalls that the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission requested the establishment of an Anti-Corruption Transparency Unit, popularly referred to as ACTU, in all MDAs to help in the fight against corruption;

Notes that on October 2, 2001, and April 16, 2003, two circulars were issued for the establishment and funding of the units, respectively;

Also notes that another circular was issued on October 5, 2016, re-emphasizing both the establishment and funding of the units in all MDAs;

Further notes that the ACTUs in each organization are expected to operate as an autonomous outfit of which its independence and protection shall be guaranteed;

Aware that the unit is supposed to be the watchdog or an anti-corruption division saddled with the responsibility of monitoring the activities of Federal Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies and reporting any matter that is regarded as a corrupt practice to the ICPC for further action;

Worried that despite these circulars and efforts, corrupt practices still persist in most MDAs, and if not checked, corruption will continue forever;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Anti-Corruption to investigate the activities of Anti-Corruption Transparency Units (ACTU) in all Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) in the country and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Shehu Umar Ajilo — Markafi/Kudan Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House

Recalled that the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission requested the establishment of an Anti-Corruption Transparency Unit, popularly referred to as ACTU, in all MDAs to help in the fight against corruption;

Noted that on October 2, 2001, and April 16, 2003, two circulars were issued for the establishment and funding of the units, respectively;

Also noted that another circular was issued on October 5, 2016, re-emphasizing both the establishment and funding of the units in all MDAs;

Further noted that the ACTUs in each organization are expected to operate as an autonomous outfit of which its independence and protection shall be guaranteed;

Aware that the unit is supposed to be the watchdog or an anti-corruption division saddled with the responsibility of monitoring the activities of Federal Government Ministries, Departments and

Agencies and reporting any matter that is regarded as a corrupt practice to the ICPC for further action;

Worried that despite these circulars and efforts, corrupt practices still persist in most MDAs, and if not checked, corruption will continue forever;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Anti-Corruption to investigate the activities of Anti-Corruption Transparency Units (ACTU) in all Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) in the country and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 180/11/2024**).

26. Call to Investigate and Prosecute Age Falsification in Nigeria's Civil Service

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Civil Service of the Federation is the heartbeat of the Public Service Administration in the Executive, Legislative, and Judiciary;

Also notes that the roles of civil servants constitute the foundation of nation-building; consequently, a strong and viable public service system is needed to promote an effective and efficient public service to the country;

Aware that the primary responsibility of the Legislative Arm of Government in Nigeria is to monitor and investigate violations of laws enacted by it, which include matters pertaining to age falsification and other matters related to the public service in Nigeria;

Also aware that the rising number of unemployment caused by age falsification is highly of concern and requires urgent investigation and prosecution;

Concerned that in the last quarter of 2024, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) report indicated that the unemployment rate has risen by 5.3%, making Nigeria one of the countries with the most unemployed populace in the African continent;

Also concerned that the number of graduates without jobs is extremely worrying, requiring swift action to address the issue through investigation and prosecution of age falsification offenders in order to create space for bright new minds to impart in the productivity and prosperity of the public service in Nigeria.

Resolves to:

- (i) mandate the Committees on Public Service Matters, Special Duties, Federal Character, and National Planning and Economic Development to invite the Head of Service of the Federation to provide comprehensive details of all civil servants assigned to the Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) for verification to track down the offenders;
- (ii) also mandate the Committees on Public Service Matters, Special Duties, Federal Character, and National Planning and Economic Development to investigate the Head of Civil Service of the Federation's Report and report within six (6) weeks; and
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Yusuf Ahmed Badau — Shanono/Bagwai Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (ii), immediately after the word “within”, *leave out* the word and figure “six (6)”, and *insert* the word and figure “four (4)” (*Hon. Ahmadu Usman Jaha — Chibok/Damboia/Gwoza Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Federal Civil Service of the Federation is the heartbeat of the Public Service Administration in the Executive, Legislative, and Judiciary;

Also noted that the roles of civil servants constitute the foundation of nation-building; consequently, a strong and viable public service system is needed to promote an effective and efficient public service to the country;

Aware that the primary responsibility of the Legislative Arm of Government in Nigeria is to monitor and investigate violations of laws enacted by it, which include matters pertaining to age falsification and other matters related to the public service in Nigeria;

Also aware that the rising number of unemployment caused by age falsification is highly of concern and requires urgent investigation and prosecution;

Concerned that in the last quarter of 2024, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) report indicated that the unemployment rate has risen by 5.3%, making Nigeria one of the countries with the most unemployed populace in the African continent;

Also concerned that the number of graduates without jobs is extremely worrying, requiring swift action to address the issue through investigation and prosecution of age falsification offenders in order to create space for bright new minds to impart in the productivity and prosperity of the public service in Nigeria.

Resolved to:

- (i) mandate the Committees on Public Service Matters, Special Duties, Federal Character, and National Planning and Economic Development to invite the Head of Service of the Federation to provide comprehensive details of all civil servants assigned to the Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) for verification to track down the offenders;
- (ii) also mandate the Committees on Public Service Matters, Special Duties, Federal Character, and National Planning and Economic Development to investigate the Head of Civil Service of the Federation's Report and report within four (4) weeks; and
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure implementation (**HR. 181/11/2024**).

27. Devastating Effect of the 2022 and 2024 Floods: Need to Mitigate the Effects of the Impending Flood due to the Release of Water from the Lagdo Dam

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Nigeria experiences rainy season between June and September annually, and most States, including Rivers, have been severely affected by flooding during this period, resulting in destroyed infrastructure, crops, and livelihoods, and displacement of communities;

Also notes that between November 26 and December 4, 2022, the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) of the United Nations International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NCRS) identified 28 locations in Rivers State affected by floods, with Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA having the highest number of affected persons numbering 186,610 individuals, followed by Ahoda West Local Government Area with 45, 690 individuals;

Aware that on September 17, 2024, the Nigerian Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA) alerted the public about the release of water from the Lagdo Dam in Cameroon, which previously caused the 2022 flooding and devastation in Ahoada-West/Ogba-Egbema-Ndoni, the release submerged over 60% of the land mass, displacing people, destroying livelihoods, damaged farmlands and infrastructure;

Also aware of the NIHSA 2024 Flood Outlook Report, which placed Ahoada-West/Ogba-Egbema-Ndoni in the High-Risk Area/Red Zone and recommended desilting waterways, building embankments, and developing flood mitigation infrastructure, the Ndoni River, as a tributary of the Niger-Benue system, channels massive water flows, exacerbating the flood risk in the constituency;

Recalls that in 2012, President Goodluck Jonathan promised to complete a 208-kilometer dredging project for the Orashi River to reduce flood risks and protect communities, but the project remains incomplete;

Concerned that despite the World Bank's Disaster-Resilience Analytics, the Global Rapid (Post Disaster) Damage Estimation (GRADE) Assessment, and multiple reports recommending proactive measures, relevant agencies have delayed action to prepare for potential 2024 floods;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Ministries of Water Resources, Environment, Inland Waterways Agency, Works, and the NDDC to commence the desilting and dredging of the Ndoni Creek, Orashi River, Omoku Creek, and Sombreiro River to increase their capacity for managing excess water and include same in the 2025 budget estimates ;
- (ii) also urge the Ministry of Works to construct buffer dams at strategic inlets Ndoni to mitigate overflow from the Niger River into the Orashi and Sombreiro Rivers;
- (iii) further urge National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief material including healthcare services, to the affected communities and implement flood-early-warning systems to enhance community resilience;
- (iv) again urge the Ministry of Environment to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in Ahoada-West/Ogba-Egbema-Ndoni to evaluate the pollution caused by oil and gas exploration, exacerbated by flood events;
- (v) also urge the Ecological Fund Office to undertake river embankments and shoreline protection projects in affected communities of Odieroke, Oshiobele, Akinnima, Omoku, and Ndoni, to halt riverbank erosion and improve water transportation; and
- (vi) mandate the Committee on Water Resources to ensure compliance and report progress within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Obuzor Victor — Ahoada West/Ogba Egbemi Ndoni Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 182/11/2024).

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

28. Rehabilitation of Nsukka-Nkpologu-Adani Road

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the forty-Kilometre Nsukka-Nkpologu-Adani Road is a Federal Road extending through other towns in Anambra State to Onitsha towns;

Also notes that Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area is a major food basket in the South - East, housing Adani Farm Settlement and Adarice Project, a joint project between Enugu State Government and Federal Government;

Also notes that recently, the Nigeria Navy commenced the Construction of a Jetty at Ogrugu Town, a neighbouring community to Adani in the same Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area;

Concerned that Nsukka-Nkpologu-Adani Road is in a deplorable state and major parts of the road have become impassable, thereby preventing farmers, traders and other users from plying and benefitting from the business opportunities that abound in the area;

Worried that Nsukka-Nkpologu-Adani roads linking to agrarian communities in the State is in a dilapidated state and currently experiencing kidnappings and robbery attacks, leading to loss of lives and properties, and ultimately, having detrimental effects on food production and distribution in Enugu State and Nigeria at large;

Also worried that the deplorable state of the road has caused immense hardship and undermined the Federal Government's efforts to achieve food security and protect lives and properties;

Cognizant that rehabilitation and reconstruction of the road will stimulate sustainable agricultural production in the area and improve the socioeconomic status of the people and the country as a whole;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to include the rehabilitation of the Nsukka-Nkpologu-Adani Road in the 2025 budget estimates; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Works, and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Martins Oke — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 183/11/2024).

Motion referred to the Committees on Works and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 10 (5).

29. Consideration of Report

Committee on Aids Loans and Debts Management:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report of Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management on Request for Approval for the Implementation of New External Borrowing of ₦1,767,610,321,779.00 (USD2.209B Equivalent) in the 2024 Appropriation Act through the Issuance of Eurobonds and other Sources” (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Nalaraba — Awe/Doma/Keana Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

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

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do suspend Order Seven, Rule 2 (2) to enable the Deputy Speaker preside in the Committee of Supply” (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Recommendation(i):

“Approve the implementation of the New External Borrowing of one trillion, seven hundred and sixty-seven billion, six hundred and ten million, three hundred twenty-one thousand, seven hundred and seventy-nine Naira (₦1,767,610,321,779.00) (equivalent of USD2,209,512,902.22b) at the Budget Exchange rate of USD1.00/₦ 800 in the 2024 Appropriation Act and that the amount should be raised from one or more sources. Namely; issuance of Eurobonds in the ICM, Issuance of debut sovereign Sukuk in the ICM, & Bridge/syndicated loans, subject to market conditions” (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Nalaraba — Awe/Doma/Keana Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation(ii):

“That based on availability and cost, to issue Eurobonds in the sum of USD1.70 billion or more, but not more than USD2,209,512,902.22b, approved as New External Borrowing in the 2024 Act” (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Nalaraba — Awe/Doma/Keana Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation(iii):

“Given the significant increase in the official exchange rate from USD1.00/₦800 to approximately ₦1,640, it is recommended that the exchange rate excess resulting from this adjustment be exclusively utilized for implementation of capital projects in 2024, to ensure that additional funds are directed to impactful infrastructure & developmental projects that will contribute to the Nation's long term growth and stability” (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Nalaraba — Awe/Doma/Keana Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (iv):

“Approve the Promissory Note Programme and Bond Issuance to settle outstanding claims and liabilities of the Federal Government. This approval prioritizes the issuance of Promissory Notes to address outstanding reimbursement debts owed to States, high-priority judgment debts, and other liabilities incurred by Federal Ministries, Departments, and Agencies. This measure is critical to preventing additional interest costs, mitigating further increases in the Federal Government's debt profile, and reducing the debt-to-GDP ratio” (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Nalaraba — Awe/Doma/Keana Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (v):

“That the Hon. Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, working with the Debt Management Office are authorised to take all necessary actions required to give effect to this Resolution” (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Nalaraba — Awe/Doma/Keana Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report proceedings.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of Supply considered the Report of Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management on Request for Approval for the Implementation of New External Borrowing of ₦1,767,610,321,779.00 (USD2.209B Equivalent) in the 2024 Appropriation Act through the Issuance of Eurobonds and other Sources and approved Recommendation (i) - (v) of the Report.

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

30. Order of the Day[

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do set down items 22 - 26 on the Order Paper till another legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (3)” (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

31. Adjournment of First Sitting

That the House do adjourn the First Sitting till 2.00 p.m. (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.45 p.m.

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker