



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA FIRST VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 31 October, 2024

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1. The House met at 11.18 a.m. Mr Deputy Speaker read the Prayers.
 2. The House recited the National Pledge.
 3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Wednesday, 30 October, 2024.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.
 4. **Announcement**
Visitors in the Gallery:
Mr Deputy Speaker announced the presence of Staff and Students of the GAAT International School, Gaduwa District, Abuja;
 5. **Petitions**
 - (i) A petition from Lambert Emenugha and 6 others, on alleged non-payment of their gratuities by Addax Petroleum Sinopec/NNPC ANTAN Producing Limited, was presented and laid by Hon. Murphy Osaro Omoruyi (*Egor/Ikpoba-Okha Federal Constituency*);
 - (ii) A petition from Cyril Obiyekwu Aronu, on alleged stoppage of his pension by the Nigerian Army, was presented and laid by Hon. Peter Uzokwe Ifeanyi (*Nnewi North/Nnewi South/Ekwusigo Federal Constituency*);
 - (iii) A petition from Ogbunike Progress Union, Nigeria, on behalf of Oyi Local Government Council, Anambra State, on alleged abandonment of Kisa Ogbunike Bridge construction by Daniels Construction Company Limited, was presented and laid by Hon. Gwacham Maureen Chinwe (*Oyi/Ayamelum Federal Constituency*);
 - (iv) A petition from Chilos A. C. Godsent, on behalf of Igbo National Council, on alleged extortion of motorists and humiliation of road users by the Joint Task Force in the South East zone, was presented and laid by Hon. Jesse Okey - Joe Onuakalusi (*Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency*).
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- (v) A petition from Uwem Atat and 1 other, on behalf of Miners Association of Nigeria, Akwa Ibom State Chapter, on alleged illegal mining operations by Sterling Global, was presented and laid by Hon. Patrick Umoh (*Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

- (i) ***Need to Address the Abandoned Ulasi River Bridge Linking Okija in Ihiala Local Government Area, Umunuko Ukpok in Nnewi South Local Government Area and Ihembosi in Ekwusigo Local Government Area of Anambra State:***

Hon. Peter Ifeanyi Uzokwe (*Nnewi North/Nnewi South/Ekwusigo 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 Address the Abandoned Ulasi River Bridge Linking Okija in Ihiala Local Government Area, Umunuko Ukpok in Nnewi South Local Government Area and Ihembosi in Ekwusigo Local Government Area of Anambra State:

The House:

Notes that the wooden bridge which has served the community for decades collapsed in 2010 and through the National Assembly special intervention, contract of the bridge was awarded to Fodiak Construction Company. Unfortunately, the bridge which is about 65% completed has been abandoned since the past 10 years, while the road which serves as critical route for transportation, connecting agrarian communities, promoting economic activities within the area is completely cut off with severe erosion;

Cognizant that if the erosion is not controlled, and the water properly channeled, not only that the previous efforts and millions of naira already sunk into the project will amount to nothing, it will threaten life and properties of residents in the nearby communities as well as agricultural produce from those communities reputed as food basket in the heart of Igbo land;

Worried that the surrounding communities are host to schools, farms, markets and healthcare facilities, therefore the continued abandonment of the project will significantly increase the hardship and slow down economic activities of the citizenry in the three local government areas that now resort to makeshift boat and other precarious means to move goods and services especially food stuff across the Ulasi river on daily basis;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to immediately conduct a technical assessment of the project across Ulasi bridge linking Okija in Ihiala Local Government Area and Umunuko Ukpok in Nnewi South Local Government to prevent further damage and speedy completion of the project;
- (ii) mandate the House Committee on Works and FERMA to make adequate provision

for the completion of the bridge linking Ihiala Local Government Area and Nnewi South Local Government Area in 2025 budget estimates (*Hon. Peter Ifeanyi Uzokwe — Nnewi North/Nnewi South/Ekwusigo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the wooden bridge which has served the community for decades collapsed in 2010 and through the National Assembly special intervention, contract of the bridge was awarded to Fodiak Construction Company. Unfortunately, the bridge which is about 65 % completed has been abandoned since the past 10 years, while the road which serves as critical route for transportation, connecting agrarian communities, promoting economic activities within the area is completely cut off with severe erosion;

Cognizant that if the erosion is not controlled, and the water properly channeled, not only that the previous efforts and millions of naira already sunk into the project will amount to nothing, it will threaten life and properties of residents in the nearby communities as well as agricultural produce from those communities reputed as food basket in the heart of Igbo land;

Worried that the surrounding communities are host to schools, farms, markets and healthcare facilities, therefore the continued abandonment of the project will significantly increase the hardship and slow down economic activities of the citizenry in the three local government areas that now resort to makeshift boat and other precarious means to move goods and services especially foods stuff across the Ulasi river on daily basis;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to immediately conduct a technical assessment of the project across Ulasi bridge linking Okija in Ihiala Local Government Area and Umunuko Ukpok in Nnewi South Local Government to prevent further damage and speedy completion of the project;
 - (ii) mandate the House Committee on Works and FERMA to make adequate provision for the completion of the bridge linking Ihiala Local Government Area and Nnewi South Local Government Area in 2025 budget estimates (**HR. 157/10/2024**).
- (ii) ***Need to Stop the Extortion, Inhumane Treatment, and Hardship Inflicted on the People of Ukana West I, Essien Udim Local Government Areas, Akwa Ibom State by the Joint Task Force:***
Hon. Patrick Umoh (*Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara 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 Stop the Extortion, Inhumane Treatment, and Hardship Inflicted on the People of Ukana West I, Essien Udim Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State by the Joint Task Force:

The House:

Notes the deployment of the Joint Task Force to Ukana West I in Essien Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State to maintain law and order;

Worried that the Joint Task Force has deviated from its primary duty of maintaining law and order to becoming perpetrators of oppression, exploitation and intimidation;

Also worried by the several complaints from the people of Ukana West I, that the Joint Task Force have been extorting money from residents and travellers; verbally and physically abusing people including the elderly and women; placing the community under curfew at about 6:30pm, thereby limiting people from transacting businesses; converting people's residential houses to poultry farms; and engaging in other forms of degrading and extorting activities;

Disturbed that the extortion and abuse by the Joint Task Force has further plunged the people of Ukana West I into poverty and economic hardship as traders, owners of small businesses, farmers and other residents are being drained of their lean resources, thereby affecting their abilities to carter for their families;

Conscious of the fundamental rights of people of Ukana West I to human dignity, liberty and freedom of movement;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Chief of Army Staff, Inspector General of Police, Commandant-General of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps to stop their officials from extorting money, abusing fundamental rights, and restricting the movement of the people of Ukana West I in Essien Udim of Akwa Ibom State;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Army, Police Affairs, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and report within six (6) weeks (*Hon. Patrick Umoh — Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the deployment of the Joint Task Force to Ukana West I in Essien Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State to maintain law and order;

Worried that the Joint Task Force has deviated from its primary duty of maintaining law and order to becoming perpetrators of oppression, exploitation and intimidation;

Also worried by the several complaints from the people of Ukana West I, that the Joint Task Force have been extorting money from residents and travellers; verbally and physically abusing people including the elderly and women; placing the community under curfew at about 6:30pm, thereby limiting people from transacting businesses; converting people's residential houses to poultry farms; and engaging in other forms of degrading and extorting

activities;

Disturbed that the extortion and abuse by the Joint Task Force has further plunged the people of Ukana West I into poverty and economic hardship as traders, owners of small businesses, farmers and other residents are being drained of their lean resources, thereby affecting their abilities to cater for their families;

Conscious of the fundamental rights of people of Ukana West I to human dignity, liberty and freedom of movement;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Chief of Army Staff, Inspector General of Police, Commandant-General of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps to stop their officials from extorting money, abusing fundamental rights, and restricting the movement of the people of Ukana West I in Essien Udim of Akwa Ibom State;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Army, Police Affairs, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and report within six (6) weeks (**HR. 158/10/2024**).
- (iii) ***Need to Address the Gridlock on the Suleja - Lambata - Bida Highway, Niger State:***
Hon. Saidu Musa Abdullahi (*Bida/Gbako/Katcha Federal Constituency and 9 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 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 Address the Gridlock on the Suleja-Lambata-Bida Highway, Niger State:

The House:

Notes that for the past six days, an unprecedented 18-kilometer gridlock between Lambata and Suleja has crippled the flow of traffic on Suleja-Lambata-Bida highway in Niger State, holding vehicles - tankers, lorries, trucks, and trailers - and motorists hostage;

Also notes that this road is one of the busiest and most critical federal highways in the nation connecting and facilitating the movement of people, goods, and services, including essential and perishable items between Northern and Western States;

Informed that the gridlock is caused by some major potholes along Maje to Dikko Junction, a key artery to the nation's capital city, Abuja;

Also informed that in light of this situation, small vehicles on emergency journeys have been compelled to take alternative bushy routes via Izom to Suleja; a route fraught with security threats;

Worried that the current situation has resulted in huge losses in valuable man-hours, impacted negatively on perishable goods especially Agricultural produce posing severe implications on the economy of the nation and has also heightened the risk of accidents and has made the

area prone to criminal activities, thereby compromising the safety of commuters and residents alike;

Also worried that road users have been subjected to hunger, poor health condition and untold hardship due to their inability to access quality food, healthcare and transport themselves and goods effectively;

Disturbed that reports from credible sources indicated that a corpse was discovered abandoned along this alternative route yesterday;

Also disturbed that the ugly situation poses a serious threat to national security and the well-being of Nigerian citizens;

Acknowledged that the Executive Arm of Government awarded the contract for the reconstruction and dualization of the first phase of this vital road since 2010 and the second phase in 2015 but even efforts to provide alternative funding through the Presidential Tax Credit Scheme has not yielded the desired result as the pace of work has been alarmingly slow;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Federal Ministry of Works, Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA), Federal Road Safety Corps to immediately deploy personnel and resources to complement the efforts of Niger State Government which has so far constituted a Task Force to alleviate the situation and restore free flow of traffic;
- (ii) also call on the Federal Ministry of Works to conduct an emergency assessment of the condition of the road, engage the contractor handling the project to ascertain reasons for delay in execution in a bid to proffer long-term solutions to prevent future occurrences;
- (iii) urge the Federal Ministry of Works to collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including Niger State Government, Security Agencies, and Transport Unions to ensure sustained effective traffic management;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Works, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Saidu Musa Abdullahi - Bida/Gbako/Katcha Federal Constituency and 9 Others*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that for the past six days, an unprecedented 18-kilometer gridlock between Lambata and Suleja has crippled the flow of traffic on Suleja-Lambata-Bida highway in Niger State, holding vehicles - tankers, lorries, trucks, and trailers - and motorists hostage;

Also noted that this road is one of the busiest and most critical federal highways in the nation connecting and facilitating the movement of people, goods, and services, including essential and perishable items between Northern and Western States;

Informed that the gridlock is caused by some major potholes along Maje to Dikko Junction, a key artery to the nation's capital city, Abuja;

Also informed that in light of this situation, small vehicles on emergency journeys have been compelled to take alternative bushy routes via Izom to Suleja; a route fraught with security threats;

Worried that the current situation has resulted in huge losses in valuable man-hours, impacted negatively on perishable goods especially Agricultural produce posing severe implications on the economy of the nation and has also heightened the risk of accidents and has made the area prone to criminal activities, thereby compromising the safety of commuters and residents alike;

Also worried that road users have been subjected to hunger, poor health condition and untold hardship due to their inability to access quality food, healthcare and transport themselves and goods effectively;

Disturbed that reports from credible sources indicated that a corpse was discovered abandoned along this alternative route yesterday;

Also disturbed that the ugly situation poses a serious threat to national security and the well-being of Nigerian citizens;

Acknowledged that the Executive Arm of Government awarded the contract for the reconstruction and dualization of the first phase of this vital road since 2010 and the second phase in 2015 but even efforts to provide alternative funding through the Presidential Tax Credit Scheme has not yielded the desired result as the pace of work has been alarmingly slow;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the Federal Ministry of Works, Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA), Federal Road Safety Corps to immediately deploy personnel and resources to complement the efforts of Niger State Government which has so far constituted a Task Force to alleviate the situation and restore free flow of traffic;
- (ii) also call on the Federal Ministry of Works to conduct an emergency assessment of the condition of the road, engage the contractor handling the project to ascertain reasons for delay in execution in a bid to proffer long-term solutions to prevent future occurrences;
- (iii) urge the Federal Ministry of Works to collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including Niger State Government, Security Agencies, and Transport Unions to ensure sustained effective traffic management;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Works, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance **(HR. 159/10/2024)**.

7. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Political Parties (Registration and Regulation) Bill, 2024 (HB.1862).
- (2) National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1846).
- (3) National College of Laboratory Technology, Health Sciences and Medical Imaging Agaie, Niger State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1340).

- (4) Federal Polytechnics Act (Amendment) (HB.1736).
- (5) Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skills Acquisition, Rumuekini, Rivers State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1742).
- (6) Federal University of Science and Technology, Rukpokwu, Rivers State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1743).
- (7) Federal University of Oil and Gas Technology, Ibaa/Obele, Rivers State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1744).
- (8) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1735).
- (9) Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiatives (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1752).
- (10) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1727).
- (11) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1728).
- (12) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1784).
- (13) National Rice Production, Processing and Research Institute, Aji Igbo- Eze, Enugu State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1786).
- (14) Federal Universities of Agriculture Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1787).
- (15) National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1788).
- (16) National Board for Geography Education (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1809).
- (17) National Artificial Intelligence Regulatory Authority Bill, 2024 (HB.1810).
- (18) Execution of Federal Government Contracts (Offence) Bill, 2024 (HB.1790).
- (19) Federal Colleges of Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1803).
- (20) Victims' Rights Bill, 2024 (HB.1801).

8. Presentation of Reports

(i) *Report of the Conference Committee:*

Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act, Cap. N30, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Related Matters

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

(ii) *Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility:*

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility on a Bill for an Act to Regulate Corporate Social Responsibility in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 242)” (*Hon. Oby Lilian Orogbu — Awka North/Awka South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Content in Programmes, Contracts, Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation (NOPCESTI) and It's Council for Planning and Execution of Projects, Promotion of Nigerian Content in Programmes, Contracts, Science, Engineering, Technology, Innovation and Monitoring, Evaluating and Oversight and for Related Matters (HB.1167) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Content in Programmes, Contracts, Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation (NOPCESTI) and It's Council for Planning and Execution of Projects, Promotion of Nigerian Content in Programmes, Contracts, Science, Engineering, Technology, Innovation and Monitoring, Evaluating and Oversight and for Related Matters (HB.1167) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Soli Sada — Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Health Sciences and Technology, Tsafe, Zamfara State to Provide Full-Time Courses in Health Sciences and Technology and Other Fields of Study and produce high quality Medical Professionals with broad knowledge, skills and value, strengthen institutional capacity for Disease Control and Surveillance as well as bridging the gap in Medical Research and make provision for the General Administration of the University and for Related Matters (SB. 161) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Upgrade the College of Health Sciences and Technology, Tsafe, Zamfara State to Federal University of Health Sciences and Technology, Tsafe, Zamfara State to Provide Full-Time Courses in Health Sciences and Technology and Other Fields of Study and produce high quality Medical Professionals with broad knowledge, skills and value, strengthen institutional capacity for Disease Control and Surveillance as well as bridging the gap in Medical Research and make provision for the General Administration of the University and for Related Matters (SB. 161) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Soli Sada — Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Reconstitute the Metallurgical Training Institute, Onitsha by Establishing the National Metallurgical Training Institute, Onitsha to Provide Training, Information, Supervision, Guidance and Advice to Students, Researchers And Personnel in Iron and Steel, and Oil and Gas Industries for National Development and for Related Matters (HB.966) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Reconstitute the Metallurgical Training Institute, Onitsha by Establishing the National Metallurgical Training Institute, Onitsha to Provide Training, Information, Supervision, Guidance and Advice to Students, Researchers And Personnel in Iron and Steel, and Oil and Gas Industries for National Development and for Related Matters (HB.966) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Soli Sada — Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act, Cap. A12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (as amended) to make provision for Establishment of Federal College of Agriculture, Usung Atiat, Ukanafun LGA, Akwa Ibom State and for Related Matters (HB.971) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act, Cap. A12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (as amended) to make provision for Establishment of Federal College of Agriculture, Usung Atiat, Ukanafun LGA, Akwa Ibom State and for Related Matters (HB.971) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Soli Sada — Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

13. **A Bill for an Act to Provide Guidelines for the Payment of Judgment Debt owed by the Federal Government and its Agencies and for Related Matters (HB. 344) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide Guidelines for the Payment of Judgment Debt owed by the Federal Government and its Agencies and for Related Matters (HB. 344) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Miriam Onuoha — Isiala Mbano/Okigwe/Onuimo Federal Constituency and 1 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 Justice.

14. **A Bill for an Act to Prohibit Gas Flaring, Encourage Gas Utilization, and Provide for Penalties and Remedies for Gas Flaring Violations and for Other Related Matters (HB.1819) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

15. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Land Use Act, Cap. L5, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2024 to vest all Land in the Territory of each State solely in the Governor of the State and to Establish the Land Use Allocation Committee for each Local Government and for Related Matters (HB.1749) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Land Use Act, Cap. L5, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2024 to vest all Land in the Territory of each State solely in the Governor of the State and to Establish the Land Use Allocation Committee for each Local Government and for Related Matters (HB.1749) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Adebayo Olusegun Balogun — Ibeju Lekki Federal Constituency and 22 others*).

Debate.

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

16. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act and Provide for Establishment of Federal Medical Centre, Danbatta, Kano State and for Related Matters (HB.495) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act and Provide for Establishment of Federal Medical Centre, Danbatta, Kano State and for Related Matters (HB.495) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Ibrahim Hamisu — Dambatta/Makoda 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.

17. **A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to Provide for the Mandatory inclusion of Portfolio(s) in the Nomination(s) of Minister(s) of the Government of the Federation and the Commissioner(s) of the Government of a State prior to submission to the National Assembly and the House of Assembly of a State and for Related Matters (HB. 1552) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to Provide for the Mandatory inclusion of Portfolio(s) in the Nomination(s) of Minister(s) of the Government of the Federation and the Commissioner(s) of the Government of a State prior to submission to the National Assembly and the House of Assembly of a State and for Related Matters (HB. 1552) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Eugene Okechukwu Dibiagwu — Oguta/Ohaji-Egbema/Oru 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 Constitution Review.

18. **A Bill for an Act to make Provision for the Retirement Age of Health Workers in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.1577) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to make Provision for the Retirement Age of Health Workers in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.1577) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Adewale Hammed Waheed — Agege 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 Healthcare Services.

19. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Child Rights and Welfare Commission for the Protection of Children's Rights and for Related Matters (HB. 558) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Child Rights and Welfare Commission for the Protection of Children's Rights and for Related Matters (HB. 558) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Jesse Okey - Joe Onuakalusi — Oshodi/Isolo II 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 Women Affairs.

20. Need to Investigate The Abuse Of Service Wide Vote in Nigeria

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

21. Need to Reform and Regulate Nigerian Petroleum Production Activities to Integrate Artisanal Refiners in the Production Value Chain

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that it is incumbent to abide by the Constitutional dictate to harness the resources of the Nation and to promote National prosperity and an efficient, dynamic, and self-reliant economy;

Also notes that lives and revenues have been lost due to Government's inability to recognize, regulate, and control artisanal refining of petroleum products, which is prevalent in the Niger Delta region for decades;

Aware that in 2016, the Federal Government proposed the integration of artisanal refiners into mainstream operations in the Oil and Gas sector to promote the inclusion of more local content in the industry and advance the use of home-grown technology in the refining of petroleum products in the region;

Worried that after seven decades of massive devastation and environmental degradation of the Niger Delta with its ecosystem, policymakers are still oblivious to the crucial need to encourage artisanal refining and lay a foundation for the local technology that will salvage us from energy poverty;

Also worried that the demonization of the indigenous artisanal refiners as "oil thieves" and deployment of the Nigerian Navy and other Security Agencies to destroy artisanal refineries in an unprofessional manner further degrade the environment which provides the energy needs of communities in the Niger Delta;

Concerned that the policy has left Nigeria with four (4) moribund refineries for decades, a globally rated exporter of crude oil and chronic importer of finished petroleum products with a litany of woes as confirmed by the ongoing fuel crisis and validated by the alleged conspiracy against the Dangote Refinery;

Cognizant that the historic reference of industrialization and technological growth affirms the support and protection of indigenous technology as exemplified by Japan, China, and other Asian economies and even the United States;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) to study and articulate a regulatory legal framework to integrate artisanal refiners into the formal crude oil production value chain; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Petroleum Resources (Downstream), Petroleum Resources (Upstream), Petroleum Resources (Midstream), and Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. George Ibezimako Ozodinobi — Njikoka/Dunukofia/Anaocha Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that it is incumbent to abide by the Constitutional dictate to harness the resources of the Nation and to promote National prosperity and an efficient, dynamic, and self-reliant economy;

Also noted that lives and revenues have been lost due to Government's inability to recognize, regulate, and control artisanal refining of petroleum products, which is prevalent in the Niger Delta region for decades;

Aware that in 2016, the Federal Government proposed the integration of artisanal refiners into mainstream operations in the Oil and Gas sector to promote the inclusion of more local content in the industry and advance the use of home-grown technology in the refining of petroleum products in the region;

Worried that after seven decades of massive devastation and environmental degradation of the Niger Delta with its ecosystem, policymakers are still oblivious to the crucial need to encourage artisanal refining and lay a foundation for the local technology that will salvage us from energy poverty;

Also worried that the demonization of the indigenous artisanal refiners as "oil thieves" and deployment of the Nigerian Navy and other Security Agencies to destroy artisanal refineries in an unprofessional manner further degrade the environment which provides the energy needs of communities in the Niger Delta;

Concerned that the policy has left Nigeria with four (4) moribund refineries for decades, a globally rated exporter of crude oil and chronic importer of finished petroleum products with a litany of woes as confirmed by the ongoing fuel crisis and validated by the alleged conspiracy against the Dangote Refinery;

Cognizant that the historic reference of industrialization and technological growth affirms the support and protection of indigenous technology as exemplified by Japan, China, and other Asian economies and even the United States;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) to study and articulate a regulatory legal framework to integrate artisanal refiners into the formal crude oil production value chain; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Petroleum Resources (Downstream), Petroleum Resources (Upstream), Petroleum Resources (Midstream), and Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 160/10/2024**).

22. Need to Investigate the Modernisation Project of the Nigeria Customs Service (e-Customs) Concessioned to the Trade Modernisation Project (TMP) and the Role of Webb Fontaine in the e-Customs Initiative

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that at the twilight of the tenure of former Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Col. Hameed Ali (Rtd.), the NCS concessioned the modernization of its operations, referred to as "e-Customs," with the company known as Trade Modernisation Project (TMP);

Also notes that the concession of the e-Customs project to TMP effectively ended engagements with previous service providers, heightening expectations for improved efficiency and effectiveness in customs operations;

Further notes that Webb Fontaine Ltd. was engaged in 2006 to automate all NCS systems to replace manual processes in terms of being able to generate customs documents like Form M and the Pre-Arrival Assessment Report (PAAR), formerly known as the Risk Assessment Report (RAR), under a Service Level Agreement set to terminate in December 2016;

Observes that despite this stipulated termination date, Webb Fontaine continues to operate alongside TMP, suggesting overlapping roles within the e-Customs framework;

Concerned that contrary to expectations of improved services and network, the implementation of the e-Customs projects has been plagued by frequent network failures over reports of frequent network failures within the e-Customs project, sometimes lasting up to two weeks, resulting in substantial revenue losses to the Federation Account;

Alarmed that these network disruptions have a substantial and unjust burden of increased operational costs for manufacturers, traders, and other stakeholders at the ports, which, in turn, forces them to incur demurrage and detention fees, ultimately passing these increased costs on helpless Nigerian consumers, thereby exacerbating the cost of goods and services;

Worried that the engagement of both TMP and Webb Fontaine on overlapping responsibilities within the same project potentially creates waste and redundancies leading to inefficiency and a lack of transparency in public resource utilization;

Convinced that a thorough investigation into these issues is essential for enhancing service delivery, restoring public confidence, and safeguarding public resources.

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Customs and Excise to investigate the:

- (a) concession of the Nigeria Customs Service modernization project and examine the frequent network disruptions currently impacting the e-Customs service delivery; and
- (b) rationale behind engaging two concessionaires-Trade Modernisation Project (TMP) and Webb Fontaine Ltd. on overlapping responsibilities when such tasks could potentially be managed by a single organization, using the Service Level Agreement (SLA) as a guiding reference and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Muhammed Bello Shehu — Fagge Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In the Prayer, immediately after the words “Customs and Excise”, *insert* the words “and Digital and Information Technology” (*Hon. Kabiru Amadu Mai-Palace — Gusaau/Tsafe Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

Question on the Motion — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that at the twilight of the tenure of former Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Col. Hameed Ali (Rtd.), the NCS concessioned the modernization of its operations, referred to as "e-Customs," with the company known as Trade Modernisation Project (TMP);

Also noted that the concession of the e-Customs project to TMP effectively ended engagements with previous service providers, heightening expectations for improved efficiency and effectiveness in

customs operations;

Further noted that Webb Fontaine Ltd. was engaged in 2006 to automate all NCS systems to replace manual processes in terms of being able to generate customs documents like Form M and the Pre-Arrival Assessment Report (PAAR), formerly known as the Risk Assessment Report (RAR), under a Service Level Agreement set to terminate in December 2016;

Observed that despite this stipulated termination date, Webb Fontaine continues to operate alongside TMP, suggesting overlapping roles within the e-Customs framework;

Concerned that contrary to expectations of improved services and network, the implementation of the e-Customs projects has been plagued by frequent network failures over reports of frequent network failures within the e-Customs project, sometimes lasting up to two weeks, resulting in substantial revenue losses to the Federation Account;

Alarmed that these network disruptions have a substantial and unjust burden of increased operational costs for manufacturers, traders, and other stakeholders at the ports, which, in turn, forces them to incur demurrage and detention fees, ultimately passing these increased costs on helpless Nigerian consumers, thereby exacerbating the cost of goods and services;

Worried that the engagement of both TMP and Webb Fontaine on overlapping responsibilities within the same project potentially creates waste and redundancies leading to inefficiency and a lack of transparency in public resource utilization;

Convinced that a thorough investigation into these issues is essential for enhancing service delivery, restoring public confidence, and safeguarding public resources.

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Customs and Excise to investigate the:

- (a) concession of the Nigeria Customs Service modernization project and examine the frequent network disruptions currently impacting the e-Customs service delivery; and
- (b) rationale behind engaging two concessionaires-Trade Modernisation Project (TMP) and Webb Fontaine Ltd. on overlapping responsibilities when such tasks could potentially be managed by a single organization, using the Service Level Agreement (SLA) as a guiding reference and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 161/10/2024**).

23. Call for Utilization of the Adada River Dam and Need for the Provision of Access Road for the Dam

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Adada River Dam is located at the Adada River origin, a natural boundary between Igbo-Etiti and Uzo-Uwani LGAs, which make up Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency, Enugu State, the construction of the dam by the Federal Government was completed in 2016 and proposed to be a significant supplier of water for the Greater Nsukka Water Scheme (GNWS), providing potable water to Nsukka town, University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN), and the surrounding communities;

Concerned that the Adada River Dam is nearly inaccessible, remote, and underutilised due to the Aku-Adada River-Nkpologu road's terrible state of decay and impassability;

Aware that poor access to potable water in Nigeria remains a key contributing factor to high rates of

morbidity and mortality among children due to their greater susceptibility to water-borne diseases, including diarrhea, which continues to be the primary cause of death of over 70,000 children under five years annually in Nigeria;

Also aware that the project, costing over four billion Naira, was completed in 2016, but the dam is yet to serve the purpose for which it was constructed;

Worried that despite several promises of provision of potable water from the project, the Adada River Dam has remained non-functional, failing to address the sufferings of the people as envisaged at Project Conceptualization Point;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and other associated stakeholders in the Project to put Adada River Dam to use to the advantage of the communities it was provided for, including the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN);
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to provide an access road to the Adada River Dam by constructing the fourteen-kilometre Aku-Adada River-Nkpologu road; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Water Resources, and Rural Development to ensure compliance (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (i), immediately after the words “University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN)”, *insert* the words “and provide access road to the Dam” (*Hon. Sada Soli — Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Leave out* Prayer (ii), (*Hon. Sada Soli — Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) In Prayer (iii), immediately after the words “Water Resources”, *leave out* the words “and Rural Development” (*Hon. Sada Soli — Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iv) In Prayer (iii) as amended, immediately after the words “Water Resources”, *insert* the words “and Works” (*Hon. Alao Olamijuwonlo Ayodeji — Ogbomosho North/Ogbomosho South/Orire Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Adada River Dam is located at the Adada River origin, a natural boundary between Igbo-Etiti and Uzo-Uwani LGAs, which make up Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency, Enugu State, the construction of the dam by the Federal Government was completed in 2016 and proposed to be a significant supplier of water for the Greater Nsukka Water Scheme (GNWS), providing

potable water to Nsukka town, University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN), and the surrounding communities;

Concerned that the Adada River Dam is nearly inaccessible, remote, and underutilised due to the Aku-Adada River-Nkpologu road's terrible state of decay and impassability;

Aware that poor access to potable water in Nigeria remains a key contributing factor to high rates of morbidity and mortality among children due to their greater susceptibility to water-borne diseases, including diarrhea, which continues to be the primary cause of death of over 70, 000 children under five years annually in Nigeria;

Also aware that the project, costing over four billion Naira, was completed in 2016, but the dam is yet to serve the purpose for which it was constructed;

Worried that despite several promises of provision of potable water from the project, the Adada River Dam has remained non-functional, failing to address the sufferings of the people as envisaged at Project Conceptualisation Point;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and other associated stakeholders in the Project to put Adada River Dam to use to the advantage of the communities it was provided for, including the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN), and provide access road to the Dam;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Water Resources, and Works to ensure compliance (**HR. 162/10/2024**).

24. Need to Ban the Sale of Alcohol and Psychoactive Drugs in and Around Motor Parks in Nigeria
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the Federal Road Safety Commission reports that 90% of road accidents in the country are caused by consumption of alcoholic drinks and hard drugs, among other factors;

Also notes that the consumption of psychoactive drugs and alcohol increases the risk of motor accidents, leading to loss of driving coordination, poor judgement, poor vision and consequently loss of life and property;

Aware that it is the global practice that alcohol and other substances that could be abused are limited to the pubs and not in parks and not public transport area;

Worried that motor parks have become sale points of alcohol and illicit drugs where drivers, prior to take-off consume these substances thereby endangering the lives of passengers;

Also worried that alcoholic beverages are freely available and openly displayed at motor parks except for narcotic drugs that are traded and consumed clandestinely;

Disturbed that many drivers take alcohol or hard drugs before embarking on their journey simply because they are being sold at the motor parks thereby endangering the lives of passengers and pedestrians;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge Federal, States and Local Governments to immediately ban the sale of alcoholic drinks

and other drug related substances in and around motor parks in Nigeria;

- (ii) also urge the Federal Road Safety Commission to extend its services to the parks and carry out random test for drivers to ensure that they are not under any influence;
- (iii) further urge transport business owners in private parks to discourage the sale of alcoholic drinks in the parks;
- (iv) again urge the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) to beam its searchlight on motor parks across the country to arrest and prosecute dealers and consumers of illicit drugs; and
- (v) mandate the Committee on Drugs and Narcotic to ensure compliance (*Hon. Abbas Adekunle Adigun — Ibadan North East/Ibadan South East Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words in Prayer (iii), and *insert* as follows:

“urge the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) to completely stop the sale of alcoholic drinks in motor parks” (*Hon. Muktar Umar Zakari — Tarauni Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the Federal Road Safety Commission reports that 90% of road accidents in the country are caused by consumption of alcoholic drinks and hard drugs, among other factors;

Also noted that the consumption of psychoactive drugs and alcohol increases the risk of motor accidents, leading to loss of driving coordination, poor judgement, poor vision and consequently loss of live and property;

Aware that it is the global practice that alcohol and other substances that could be abused are limited to the pubs and not in parks and not public transport area;

Worried that motor parks have become sale points of alcohol and illicit drugs where drivers, prior to take-off consume these substances thereby endangering the lives of passengers;

Also worried that alcoholic beverages are freely available and openly displayed at motor parks except for narcotic drugs that are traded and consumed clandestinely;

Disturbed that many drivers take alcohol or hard drugs before embarking on their journey simply because they are being sold at the motor parks thereby endangering the lives of passengers and pedestrians;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge Federal, States and Local Governments to immediately ban the sale of alcoholic drinks and other drug related substances in and around motor parks in Nigeria;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Road Safety Commission to extend its services to the parks and carry out random test for drivers to ensure that they are not under any influence;

- (iii) further urge the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) to:
 - (a) completely stop the sale of alcoholic drinks in motor parks,
 - (b) beam its searchlight on motor parks across the country to arrest and prosecute dealers and consumers of illicit drugs; and
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Drugs and Narcotic to ensure compliance (**HR. 163/10/2024**).

25. Need to Increase Allocation of the Nigerian Correctional Service for Effective Delivery of the Nigerian Correctional System

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Nigerian Correctional Service bears the responsibility of safeguarding, fostering, and rehabilitating inmates, however, frequent jail breaks and severe infractions have emerged as persistent national security challenges;

Also notes that the overcrowded facilities and natural disasters have led to jail breaks, allowing criminals to escape and integrate back into society, subsequently increasing crime rates and social vices;

Worried that the trajectory is linked to the Federal Government's negligence in providing adequate budget allocations to the Nigerian Correctional Service has led to concerns about its effectiveness;

Observes that the capital budget is used globally as a devilment and management tool to reflect the values and priorities of governments and concretize such priorities in line with goals set for the nation;

Also observes that the capital budget allocation to the Nigerian Correctional Service is abysmally low to execute meaningful projects within the timeline of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, while about 80% of these projects are either ongoing or abandoned due to funding;

Further notes that the feeding ratio for inmates should be increased from ₦1,125 to ₦4,000 to reflect current market realities and prevent further protests or violations of correctional centers in the country;

Concerned that the 2024 capital budget allocation of ₦14 billion to the service is inadequate to accommodate critical expenditure items as such Renovation of Custodial Centres nationwide, which cost about ₦120 million each, Construction of 3,000 capacity Medium Security Custodial Centres as detailed in the Budget, Procurement of Security Gadgets and Equipment, Skill Acquisition Programmes/Psychology Support Service Systems, construction and rehabilitation of staff quarters, amongst others;

Also concerned that the current state of custodial Centre across the country is unfit to rehabilitate inmates, thereby leading to increased recidivism and crime recurrence;

Cognizant of the need for an upward review of the Nigerian Correctional Service capital budget allocation to ₦30 billion in 2025 budget estimates to complete ongoing and abandoned projects;

Also worried that the lack of increased capital budget allocation to the Service could lead to an inevitable increase in jail breaks due to overcrowded facilities, poor living conditions, and inadequate Vocational Skill Acquisition Training Programmes;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Finance and Budget Office of the Federation to increase capital budget allocations to the Nigerian Correctional Service to ₦30 billion in the 2025 budget estimate to enable it complete all critical ongoing and abandoned projects and to increase ratio feeding per inmate from ₦1,125 to ₦4,000;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Reformatory Institutions, and Appropriations to ensure compliance (*Hon. Chinedu N. Ogah — Ezza South/Ikwo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (i), immediately after the figure and word “₦1,125 to”, *leave out* the figure “₦4,000”, and *insert* the figure “₦6,000” (*Hon. Abdullahi Ahmed Kalambaina — Kware/Wamakko Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) ***Further amendment to Prayer (i):***

Leave out all the words in Prayer (i) as amended, and *insert* as follows:

“urge the Federal Ministry of Finance and Budget Office of the Federation to increase capital budget allocations to the Nigerian Correctional Service substantially in the 2025 budget estimates to enable it complete all critical ongoing and abandoned projects and to increase the ratio feeding per inmate in line with the economic realities” (*Hon. Hart Cyril Godwin — Degema/Bonny Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Nigerian Correctional Service bears the responsibility of safeguarding, fostering, and rehabilitating inmates, however, frequent jail breaks and severe infractions have emerged as persistent national security challenges;

Also noted that the overcrowded facilities and natural disasters have led to jail breaks, allowing criminals to escape and integrate back into society, subsequently increasing crime rates and social vices;

Worried that the trajectory is linked to the Federal Government's negligence in providing adequate budget allocations to the Nigerian Correctional Service has led to concerns about its effectiveness;

Observed that the capital budget is used globally as a devilment and management tool to reflect the values and priorities of governments and concretize such priorities in line with goals set for the nation;

Also observed that the capital budget allocation to the Nigerian Correctional Service is abysmally low to execute meaningful projects within the timeline of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework, while about 80% of these projects are either ongoing or abandoned due to funding;

Further noted that the feeding ratio for inmates should be increased from ₦1,125 to ₦4,000 to reflect current market realities and prevent further protests or violations of correctional centers in the country;

Concerned that the 2024 capital budget allocation of N14 billion to the service is inadequate to accommodate critical expenditure items as such Renovation of Custodial Centres nationwide, which cost about ₦120 million each, Construction of 3,000 capacity Medium Security Custodial Centres as detailed in the Budget, Procurement of Security Gadgets and Equipment, Skill Acquisition Programmes/Psychology Support Service Systems, construction and rehabilitation of staff quarters, amongst others;

Also concerned that the current state of custodial Centre across the country is unfit to rehabilitate inmates, thereby leading to increased recidivism and crime recurrence;

Cognizant of the need for an upward review of the Nigerian Correctional Service capital budget allocation to N30 billion in 2025 budget estimates to complete ongoing and abandoned projects;

Also worried that the lack of increased capital budget allocation to the Service could lead to an inevitable increase in jail breaks due to overcrowded facilities, poor living conditions, and inadequate Vocational Skill Acquisition Training Programmes;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Finance and Budget Office of the Federation to increase capital budget allocations to the Nigerian Correctional Service substantially in the 2025 budget estimates to enable it complete all critical ongoing and abandoned projects and to increase the ratio feeding per inmate in line with the economic realities;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Reformatory institutions and Appropriations to ensure compliance (**HR. 164/10/2024**).

26. Need to Ensure Public Debt Oversight on the Federal and State Governments Loans and Proper Utilization of Borrowed Funds

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that according to recently released data by the Debt Management Office of Nigeria as of March 31, 2024, Nigeria's public debt profile, which includes both external and domestic debt, has grown significantly over the years, currently at ₦121.67 trillion (\$91.46 billion) with loans sourced from both domestic and international lenders by the Federal and State Governments to fund various projects and budget deficits;

Also notes that Nigeria's debt rose by ₦24.33 trillion in three months from ₦97.34 trillion (\$108.23 billion) in December 2023 to ₦121.67 trillion (\$91.46 billion), according to the same report;

Further notes that although borrowing is a vital means for financing development, unchecked debt accumulation poses serious risks to Nigeria's fiscal stability and future economic growth;

Aware that the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended, the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007, and the Debt Management Office Establishment Act (2003) mandates the National Assembly to approve all government loans and ensure their proper utilization;

Also aware that over 40% of developing countries, including Nigeria, currently spend more on debt services and repayments of loans, leading to inefficiencies in government finances at the expense of funding critical sectors of the economy such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, and social policy;

Concerned that there are growing concerns regarding the lack of proper oversight and transparency in the management and utilisation of borrowed funds by both the Federal and State Governments;

Disturbed that many loans from state governments are drawn from commercial banks and certified by the Federal Ministry of Finance are contracted without full compliance with constitutional requirements for National Assembly approval. Additionally, there are instances where borrowed funds are not effectively utilised for their intended purposes, undermining the benefits of such loans to the citizen;

Worried that contrary to the illusory image of an oil rich country, Nigeria is a heavily indebted country with a huge debt portfolio;

Cognizant of the need for a strong financial oversight to ensure effective use of sourced loans and an effective delivery of public services through thorough and transparent utilisation of funds;

Also cognizant that debt is a cleverly managed re-conquest of Africa aimed at subjugating its growth and development and prolonging increasing debt services is not favourable for the overall wellbeing of the economy;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management to carry out a comprehensive audit and oversight of all loans obtained by the Federal and State Governments since the inception of the current democratic dispensation and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Lanre Okunlola — Surulere II Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that according to recently released data by the Debt Management Office of Nigeria as of March 31, 2024, Nigeria's public debt profile, which includes both external and domestic debt, has grown significantly over the years, currently at N121.67 trillion (\$91.46 billion) with loans sourced from both domestic and international lenders by the Federal and State Governments to fund various projects and budget deficits;

Also noted that Nigeria's debt rose by N24.33 trillion in three months from N97.34 trillion (\$108.23 billion) in December 2023 to N121.67 trillion (\$91.46 billion), according to the same report;

Further noted that although borrowing is a vital means for financing development, unchecked debt accumulation poses serious risks to Nigeria's fiscal stability and future economic growth;

Aware that the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended, the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007, and the Debt Management Office Establishment Act (2003) mandates the National Assembly to approve all government loans and ensure their proper utilization;

Also aware that over 40% of developing countries, including Nigeria, currently spend more on debt services and repayments of loans, leading to inefficiencies in government finances at the expense of funding critical sectors of the economy such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, and social policy;

Concerned that there are growing concerns regarding the lack of proper oversight and transparency in the management and utilisation of borrowed funds by both the Federal and State Governments;

Disturbed that many loans from state governments are drawn from commercial banks and certified by the Federal Ministry of Finance are contracted without full compliance with constitutional requirements for National Assembly approval. Additionally, there are instances where borrowed

funds are not effectively utilised for their intended purposes, undermining the benefits of such loans to the citizen;

Worried that contrary to the illusory image of an oil rich country, Nigeria is a heavily indebted country with a huge debt portfolio;

Cognizant of the need for a strong financial oversight to ensure effective use of sourced loans and an effective delivery of public services through thorough and transparent utilisation of funds;

Also cognizant that debt is a cleverly managed re-conquest of Africa aimed at subjugating its growth and development and prolonging increasing debt services is not favourable for the overall wellbeing of the economy;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management to carry out a comprehensive audit and oversight of all loans obtained by the Federal and State Governments since the inception of the current democratic dispensation and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 165/10/2024**).

27. Consideration of Reports

(i) Report of the Conference Committee:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House consider the Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Nigerian Maritime University, Okerenkoko and for Related Matters” (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NIGERIA MARITIME UNIVERSITY, OKERENKOKO (ESTABLISHMENT) BILL, 2004

Clause 19: Exclusion of discretion on account of race, religion, etc.

No person shall be required to satisfy requirements as to any of the following matters. that is to say, race (including ethnic grouping), sex, place of birth or of family origin, or religious or political persuasion, as a condition of becoming or continuing to be a student at the university, the holder of any degree of the University or of any appointment or employment at the University, or a member of anybody established by virtue of this Bill; and no person shall be subject to any disadvantage or accorded any advantage relating to the University, by reference to any of those matters (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report proceedings.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered

the Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Nigerian Maritime University, Okerenkoko and for Related Matters and adopted the Conference Report.

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

(ii) Report of the Conference Committee:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Domesticated and Enforce in Nigeria the International Convention against Doping in Sport, Establish the Nigeria Anti - Doping Centre to Implement Nigeria's Obligations to the World Anti - Doping Code, International Standards and for Related Matters” (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO DOMESTICATE AND ENFORCE IN NIGERIA THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST DOPING IN SPORT, ESTABLISH THE NIGERIA ANTI-DOPING CENTRE TO IMPLEMENT NIGERIA'S OBLIGATIONS TO THE WORLD ANTI-DOPING CODE, INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Clause 3: As from the commencement of this Bill, the provisions of the International Convention Against Doping in Sport, which was done at Paris on the 19th day of October, 2005 and signed by Nigeria on the 29th day of December, 2005 (“the Convention”), shall —

- (a) have the force of law in Nigeria;
- (b) be given full recognition and effect; and
- (c) be applied by all authorities and persons exercising legislative, executive and judicial powers (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Clause 6: (2) The Centre shall, in the performance of its functions under this Bill —

- (a) be operationally independent, as required by the Code, impartial, fair and act in the public interest; and
- (b) develop appropriate procedures to —
 - (i) reflect the needs of athletes and protected persons,
 - (ii) accommodate the challenges of persons with disabilities or other special concerns of athletes,
 - (iii) accommodate gender sensitivity, and

- (iv) protect the right to privacy of athletes (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Clause 7: The Centre shall have power to —

- (a) formulate and implement guidelines made pursuant to the provisions of this Act;
- (b) test any athlete participating in any sporting activity in Nigeria or representing Nigeria in any sporting activity as provided for in the Code;
- (c) establish a Registered Testing Pool for national-level athletes;
- (d) enter into reciprocal testing agreements with Anti-Doping Organisations on behalf of Nigeria;
- (e) liaise and collaborate with relevant establishments within and outside Nigeria in the implementation of its functions under this Act; and
- (f) exercise such other powers as may be necessary to give effect to the provisions of this Act (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Clause 14: (1) The Board shall —

- (a) formulate and provide general policy and strategic direction for the Centre;
- (b) advise the Authority in charge of sports on any matter relating to doping in sport;
- (c) ensure that the Executive Secretary, officers and employees of the Centre comply with the Anti-Doping Rules, the Code and International Standards on anti-doping;
- (d) approve Anti-Doping Rules developed by the Centre;
- (e) monitor and ensure the implementation of the policies and programmes of the Centre; and
- (f) perform such other functions as may be necessary and expedient to give effect to the provisions of this Bill.

(2) The Board shall have power to —

- (a) approve policies, ensure compliance with the Code, International Standards, Rules, regulations and procedures relating to the functions of the Centre;
- (b) monitor and ensure the implementation of the policies and programmes of the Centre;

- (c) in addition to the provisions of the Schedule to this Bill, regulate its proceedings and make standing orders with respect to the holding of its meetings, notices to be given, the keeping of minutes of its proceedings and such other matters as it may, from time to time, determine; and
- (d) exercise such other powers as may be necessary to give effect to the provisions of this Bill (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

- Clause 33:**
- (f) violates the guidelines relating to confidentiality, public disclosure and privacy,

commits an offence and liable on conviction, to a fine of ₦500,000 or imprisonment for a term of three months or both.
 - (2) (c) administers, attempts to administer or causes an athlete to use prohibited substances or methods,

commits an offence and liable on conviction to a fine of ₦1,000,000 or imprisonment for a term of three years or both.
 - (3) (c) aids, abets or in any way encourages the unlawful use of prohibited substances or prohibited methods in sport,

commits an offence and liable on conviction to a fine of ₦500,000 or to imprisonment for a term of one year or to both such fine and imprisonment, and may have his or her professional license revoked for a period of not less than one year.
 - (5) The imposition of any penalty provided for in this Section 33 shall not have any impact on the application of consequences provided for in the Code and Anti-Doping Rules for any anti-doping rule violation and shall not be considered as a justification to reduce or not impose any sanction provided for in the Code and Anti-Doping Rules (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

- Clause 38:**
- (1) (d) person having to perform a duty or is engaged in the administrations of this Bill, the Anti-Doping Rules or any other Regulations made under this Bill,

shall have regard and deal with all matters within their knowledge in the course of carrying out their duties as secret and confidential, subject to the provisions of this Bill.
 - (6) (b) pursuant to a court order,

commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction by a Magistrate Court to a fine not exceeding ₦500,000 (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Schedule.

4. (2) A committee appointed under this paragraph shall consist of such number of persons as the Board may determine, and not more than one-third of those persons may be appointed, who are not members of the Board (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to domesticate and enforce the International Convention Against Doping in Sport and establish the Nigeria Anti-Doping Centre (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report progress.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Domesticate and Enforce in Nigeria the International Convention against Doping in Sport, Establish the Nigeria Anti - Doping Centre to Implement Nigeria's Obligations to the World Anti - Doping Code, International Standards and for Related Matters and adopted the Conference Report.

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

- (iii) ***A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act, No.14 Of 2015 and Enact the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act, for the Purpose of Providing Additional Functions for the Organisation, Creating New Offences and Increasing Penalties for Offences Relating to Standardisation and for Related Matters (HB.481 and HB.627) (Committee of the Whole):***

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act, No.14 Of 2015 and Enact the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act, for the Purpose of Providing Additional Functions for the Organisation, Creating New Offences and Increasing Penalties for Offences Relating to Standardisation and for Related Matters (HB.481 and HB.627)” (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO REPEAL THE STANDARDS ORGANISATION OF NIGERIA ACT, NO.14 OF 2015 AND ENACT THE STANDARDS ORGANISATION OF NIGERIA ACT, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS FOR THE ORGANISATION, CREATING NEW OFFENCES AND INCREASING PENALTIES FOR OFFENCES RELATING TO STANDARDISATION; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 481 & HB. 627)

PART I — PROVISION

Clause 1: Establishment of the Standards Organisation of Nigeria.

- (1) There is hereby established the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (in this Bill referred to as "the Organisation").
- (2) The Organisation —
 - (a) shall be a Body Corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal;
 - (b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name;
 - (c) may acquire, hold or dispose of any property, whether movable or immovable (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 2: Power of the Minister to give directives to the Organisation.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Minister may give general directives to the Organisation and the Organisation shall comply with and give effect to such directives.
- (2) The Organisation shall give to the Minister such information and returns relating to its activities as the Minister may, from time to time, require (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

PART II — THE STANDARDS COUNCIL OF NIGERIA

Clause 3: The Standards Council of Nigeria.

- (1) There is established for the Organisation the Standards Council of Nigeria (in this Bill referred to as "the Council") which shall consist of —
 - (a) a chairman;
 - (b) one representative, each from the Federal Ministry of:
 - (i) Agriculture and Rural Development,
 - (ii) Defence,
 - (iii) Trade and Investment,
 - (iv) Finance,
 - (v) Works,
 - (vi) Health,
 - (vii) Science and Technology,
 - (viii) Petroleum Resources;

- (c) one representative, recommended by each of the following bodies, to be ratified by the Minister after consultation with the appropriate body, if any —
 - (i) National Universities Commission (NUC);
 - (ii) National Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA);
 - (iii) Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN);
 - (iv) Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN); and
 - (v) Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission; and
 - (d) the Director-General.
- (2) When recommending a person for appointment to represent a Ministry, the Minister shall recommend a Senior Officer not below the rank/level of Assistant Director from the Ministry or any statutory corporation for which that Ministry has overall control or responsibility to represent such Ministry.
- (3) The President, on the recommendation of the Minister shall appoint the Chairman and all the members of the Council. Provided no establishment shall have more than one representation in the Council at any given time.
- (4) Each member of the Council shall serve for a term of 5 years and may be eligible for reappointment for a further term of 5 years and no more.
- (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (I), a member of the Council ceases to hold office if he —
 - (a) becomes of unsound mind;
 - (b) becomes bankrupt or makes a compromise with creditors;
 - (c) is convicted of a felony or any offence involving dishonesty;
 - (d) is guilty of serious misconduct in relation to his duties; or
 - (e) is a person who has a professional qualification and is disqualified or suspended (other than at his own request) from practising his profession in any part of Nigeria by the order of any competent authority made in respect of him personally.
- (6) A member of the Council may resign his appointment by writing, under his hand, a letter addressed to the Minister, and his membership shall terminate on the date of receipt of his letter of resignation.
- (7) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the President may, at any time remove any member of the Council from office if he is of the opinion that it is not in the national interest or in the interest of the Organisation for such a member to continue in office and shall cause such member to be notified to that effect.

- (8) A member appointed to any vacant position resulting from the application of the provision of subsection (3), (4) or (5) shall represent the same interest which the predecessor represented, and shall only complete the term which, if the predecessor had continued in office, he would have completed.

Schedule.

- (9) The provision of the Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the meetings and proceedings of the Council and other matters therein mentioned (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 4: Functions of the Council, etc.

- (1) The functions of the Council shall include —
- (a) advising the Federal Government generally on the national policy on standards, standards specification, quality control and metrology;
 - (b) designating, establishing and approving standards in respect of metrology, materials, products, commodities, structures and processes for the certification of products in commerce and industry throughout Nigeria;
 - (c) providing the necessary measures for quality control of raw materials and products in conformity with the standard specification;
 - (d) authorizing the recognition and registration of quality certification bodies, inspection bodies, testing laboratories, calibration laboratories, accreditation bodies and qualified personnel related to these activities operating in Nigeria; and
 - (e) carrying out other functions imposed on it under this Bill or any other enactment.
- (2) Subject to this Bill, the Minister may give the Council directives of a general character or relating generally to matters with regard to the exercise by the Council of its functions, and the Council shall comply with the directives. Provided the directives shall not relate to any individual or case (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 5: Functions of the Organisation.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of section 4 of this Bill, and any other law in that regard, the Organisation shall —
- (a) organize tests and do everything necessary to ensure compliance with standards designated and approved by the Council;
 - (b) develop methods for testing materials, supplies and equipment, including items purchased, locally manufactured or imported, for use by departments of Government of the Federation or a State and private establishment;
 - (c) undertake investigation as necessary into the quality of facilities,

- systems, services, materials and products, whether imported or manufactured in Nigeria;
- (d) to undertake investigation and quality assurance of Petroleum Products;
 - (e) ensure the provision of reference standards for calibration and verification of measures and measuring instruments and shall, with respect to metrology —
 - (i) realize and disseminate the units of physical measurements based on the International System (SI Units).
 - (ii) establish, keep, maintain, develop and update the Nigerian National Primary and Reference (Secondary and Tertiary) Standards of Measurements for the SI Units traceable to international standards,
 - (iii) ensure that working standards used in Nigeria are traceable to the National Standards kept by the Organisation,
 - (iv) establish, develop and maintain a National Physical Laboratory for measurement expertise and infrastructure necessary to enable business, technology and academia to take advantage of the advances in the field of measurement, and
 - (v) provide measurement and calibration services to industry and government;
 - (e) compile an inventory of products in Nigeria requiring standardization;
 - (f) compile Nigerian National Standard specifications;
 - (g) undertake appropriate investigations into the production premises and raw materials and establish relevant quality assurance systems, including certification of the production sites for regulated products;
 - (h) evaluate quality assurance activities, including certification of systems, products and laboratories throughout Nigeria;
 - (i) establish a mandatory conformity assessment programme for locally manufactured products in Nigeria;
 - (j) impose fees, fines or penalties on a person who contravenes any Certification or Conformity Assessment Scheme;
 - (k) register and regulate standards, Marks and certifications;
 - (l) undertake registration of all manufactured products distributed, marketed and consumed throughout Nigeria;
 - (m) undertake preparation and distribution of standard samples;
 - (n) establish and maintain such number of laboratories or other

institutions as may be necessary for the performance of its functions under this Bill;

- (o) compile and publish general scientific or other data related to standardization;
- (p) advise departments of the Government of the Federation, State and Local (governments) on specific problems relative to standard specifications;
- (q) carry out training of training institutions and organizations for purposes of certification to international standards such as ITU, SMIIC, IEC, ISO, OIML, Codex or systems certification throughout Nigeria;
- (r) coordinate all activities relative to its functions throughout Nigeria and to cooperate with corresponding national or international organizations in such fields of activity as it considers necessary with a view to securing uniformity of standards;
- (s) establish a Register for National Standards, Standard Marks, Certification Systems and Licences into which all matters relating to standards referred to under this Bill shall be entered;
- (t) undertake appropriate investigations into the production premises and raw materials and establish relevant quality assurance systems, including certification of the production sites for regulated products;
- (u) undertake any other activity likely to assist in the performance of the functions imposed on it under this Bill;
- (v) administer and enforce the provisions of this Bill; and
- (w) establish and maintain a physical presence at all points of entry into the Country including, sea ports, air ports and land borders.

(2) Be responsible for Scientific, Legal and Industrial Metrology —

- (a) ensure the provision of reference standards for calibration and verification of measures and measuring instruments;
- (b) realize and disseminate the units of physical measurements based on the International System (SI Units).
- (c) establish, keep, maintain, develop and update the Nigerian National Primary and Reference (Secondary and Tertiary) Standards of Measurements for the SI Units traceable to international standards;
- (d) ensure that working standards used in Nigeria are traceable to the National Standards kept by the Organisation;
- (e) establish, develop and maintain a National Physical Laboratory for measurement expertise and infrastructure necessary to enable business, technology and academia to take advantage of the advances in the field of measurement, and

- (f) provide measurement and calibration services to industry and government;
 - (g) may nominate persons that have capability in specific fields of measurement for approval of by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) to keep and maintain primary standards in those areas where the Organisation does not cover.
- (3)
 - (a) Compile an inventory of products in Nigeria requiring standardization.
 - (b) Compile Nigerian National Standard specifications.
 - (c) Establish an import and export product surveillance, certification and conformity assessment scheme.
 - (d) Establish a mandatory conformity assessment programme for locally manufactured products in Nigeria.
 - (e) Impose fees, fines or penalties on a person who contravenes any Certification or Conformity Assessment Scheme.
 - (f) Register and regulate standards, Marks and certifications.
 - (g) Undertake registration of all manufactured products distributed, marketed and consumed throughout Nigeria.
 - (h) Undertake preparation and distribution of standard samples.
 - (i) Establish and maintain such number of laboratories or other institutions as may be necessary for the performance of its functions under this Bill.
 - (j) Compile and publish general scientific or other data related to standardization.
 - (k) Advise departments of the Government of the Federation, State and Local (governments) on specific problems relative to standard specifications.
 - (l) Carry out training of training institutions and organizations for purposes of certification to international standards such as ITU, SMIIC, IEC, ISO, OIML, Codex or systems certification throughout Nigeria.
 - (m) Coordinate all activities relative to its functions throughout Nigeria and to cooperate with corresponding national or international organizations in such fields of activity as it considers necessary with a view to securing uniformity of standards.
 - (n) Establish a Register for National Standards, Standard Marks, Certification Systems and Licences into which all matters relating to standards referred to under this Bill shall be entered.
 - (o) Undertake any other activity likely to assist in the performance of the functions imposed on it under this Bill.

- (p) Administer and enforce the provisions of this Bill.
- (4) For purposes of uniformity of standards in Nigeria, all Regulatory Agencies or Organisations dealing with matters pertaining to or related to standards shall do so in collaboration with the Standards Organisation of Nigeria.
- (5) The Organisation shall undertake such research as may be necessary for the performance of its functions under this Bill and for that purpose, it shall have powers to make use of research facilities available in other institutions, whether public or private upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between the Organisation and the institution concerned (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 6: Standard library.

The Organisation shall assemble, maintain and extend a collection of books and publications and such other matters as it considers appropriate for a standard library of the highest standing and may make the facilities of the library available to such categories of persons as it thinks fit and upon such terms and conditions as it considers necessary (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 7: Power to charge for services.

For all comparisons, tests or investigations performed by the Organisation under this Bill, except those performed for the Government of the Federation or a State, or such other public bodies or institutions a fee sufficient in each case to compensate the Organisation for the entire cost of the service rendered shall be charged by the Organisation (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

PART III — STAFF OF THE ORGANISATION

Clause 8: Appointment of Director-General.

- (1) The President, shall appoint the Director-General, subject to the confirmation by the Senate.
- (2) The Director-General shall —
 - (a) be the chief executive and accounting officer of the Organisation;
 - (b) be responsible for the execution of the policy and the day-to-day administration of the affairs of the Organisation.
- (3) Any person who may be appointed, as Director-General shall have such qualifications and experience as appropriate for a person required to perform the functions conferred on the Director-General by or under this Bill.
- (4) The Director-General shall —
 - (a) hold office for a period of 5 years, upon such terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of appointment; and

- (b) may be eligible for re-appointment for another period of 5 years and no more (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 9: Director General to be Administrative Head of Organisation.

The Director-General shall, subject to the Council's directives on financial, operational and administrative programmes, be free to manage the Organisation in order to obtain results in accordance with this Bill (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 10: Special responsibilities of the Director General.

Without prejudice to the generality of Section 9 of this Bill, the Director-General shall have responsibility for —

- (a) advising the Council in the formulation, implementation and review of national policies and programmes pertaining to standardization, quality control of products, science of measurement and all matters relating to metrology;
- (b) co-ordinating the activities of the Directors appointed under this Bill;
- (c) initiating the investigations to be conducted by the Organisation pursuant to the powers conferred by section 5 (1) (b) of this Bill;
- (d) representing the Organisation at national and international levels in all matters relating to standardisation, quality control and metrology; and
- (e) enforcing standards and discharging the powers and duties of the Organisation (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 11: Staff of the Organisation.

- (a) The number of Directors to be appointed under this Bill shall be determined by the Council, but such Directors shall carryout such duties as may be determined by the Director-General.
- (b) The Organisation shall appoint such number of employees as may be expedient and necessary for the proper and efficient performance of its functions under this Bill;
- (c) There shall be a Secretary for the Council who shall —
 - (i) be appointed by the Council from within the Organisation;
 - (ii) issue notices of meetings of the Council;
 - (iii) keep records of the proceedings of the Council; and
 - (iv) carry out such duties as the Director General or the Council may, from time to time, direct (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 12: Staff regulations.

- (1) The Director General with the approval of the Council shall determine or prescribe staff regulations relating generally to the conditions of service of management and other staff of the organization, and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing regulations, may provide for —
 - (a) the appointment, promotion and disciplinary control of all staff of the Organisation; and
 - (b) appeals by such members of staff against dismissal or other disciplinary measures.
- (2) Regulations made under sub-section (1) of this section may not be published in the Gazette but the Organisation shall bring such to the notice of all affected persons in such manner as it may, from time to time, determine (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 13: Pensions.

- (1) Service in the Organisation shall be approved for the purpose of the Pension Reform Act, and all persons employed in the Organisation shall be entitled to pensions, gratuities and other retirement benefits as are prescribed thereunder, and nothing in this Bill shall prevent the appointment of a person to any office on terms which preclude the grant of a pension, gratuity or other retirement benefits in respect of that office.
- (2) For the purposes of the application of the provisions of the Pension Reform Act, the power exercisable by a Minister or other authority of the Government of the Federation, other than the power to make regulations under Section 23 of that Act is vested in and shall be exercisable by the Council (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 14: Exemption from liability in the course of employment.

No staff of the organization shall be personally liable for any act or omission done or made by him in accordance with the terms of his engagement (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

PART IV — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Clause 15: Fund of the Organisation.

- (1) The Organisation shall maintain a fund from which shall be defrayed all expenditure incurred by it for the purposes of this Bill.
- (2) There shall be paid or credited to the Fund of the Organisation-
 - (a) appropriation from the Federal government;

- (b) all sums accruing to the Organisation by way of gifts, endowment or other voluntary contributions by persons or organizations;
- (c) foreign aid and assistance;
- (d) standards levy: 2% on all imports;
- (e) 0.2% of turnover of all companies per annum;
- (f) 0.2% of turnover of all MSMEs and cottage industries or a minimum of ₦10,000.00 per annum;
- (g) a minimum of ₦10,000.00 and a maximum of ₦200,000.00 per annum for all other registered entities certified by the Organisation; and
- (h) fees and penalties charged for services by the Organisation.

Evasion of Fees, Levies, etc.

- (3) A person who, by any means, evades or neglects or omits to pay any levy, charge or fee payable under this commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of not less than ₦1,000,000.00 or to imprisonment for a term of not less than 9 months or to both, and is, in addition, liable to pay to the Organisation a penalty double the amount of the levies, charges or fees he evaded or neglected or omitted to pay (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 16: Expenditure of the Organisation.

Subject to appropriation by the National Assembly, the Organisation shall, from time to time, apply the funds at its disposal to —

- (a) the cost of establishing and maintaining the Head and other Offices of the Organisation at the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and its other offices located in other places in Nigeria;
- (b) pay allowances and other benefits of members of the Council and of its Committees;
- (c) pay the emolument and entitlement of the Director-General and other members of staff of the Organisation;
- (d) pay the personnel, overhead, allowance, benefits and other administrative costs of the Organisation;
- (e) the training of members of staff of the Organisation;
- (f) provide scholarships and awards for specialized training of personnel;
- (g) publicize and promote the activities of the Organisation;
- (h) support national, international, scientific and professional organizations and pay annual and other contributions to such bodies; and
- (i) undertake any other activity in connection with all or any of the functions of

the Organisation (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 17: Annual estimates.

The Council shall submit to the Minister, not later than 30th June each year, its programme of work for the following year (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 18: Accounts and audits.

The accounts of the Organisation shall be audited, not later than six months after the end of the year to which it relates, by auditors appointed by the Organisation from the list approved by the Auditor-General of the Federation and in accordance with existing financial regulations (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 19: Annual report.

The Organisation shall prepare and submit to the Minister, not later than 30th August, in each year a report on the activities of the Organisation during the immediately preceding year, and shall include in such report a copy of the audited accounts of the Organisation for that year and the auditor's report therein (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 20: Power to borrow.

- (1) The Organisation may, from time to time, borrow, by overdraft, such sums as it may require for the performance of its functions under this Bill.
- (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this Section, where the sum to be borrowed is in foreign currency, the Organisation shall not borrow the sum without prior approval of the National Assembly (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 21: Power to accept gifts.

- (1) The Organisation may accept gifts of land, money or other property upon such terms and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the person or organization making the gift.
- (2) The Organisation shall not accept any gift if the conditions attached by the person or organization making the gift are inconsistent with the functions of the Organisation (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 22: Budget and expenditure.

The Organisation shall cause to be prepared, not later than 30th September in each year, an estimate of the expenditure and income of the Organisation during the next

succeeding year and when prepared, submitted, to the National Assembly for approval (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

PART V — NIGERIAN NATIONAL STANDARDS

Clause 23: Procedure for establishment of National Standards.

- (1) Whenever the Council intends to establish National standards it shall do so in accordance with the provision of this section and the Nigerian National Standardisation Strategy.
- (2) Before establishing any National standard under this section, the council shall —
 - (a) inform all parties having, in its opinion, sufficient interests in the standard in question; and
 - (b) thereafter constitute a committee to inquire into all the relevant aspects of the matter and make a report and, in constituting the said committee, the Council shall ensure as wide a representation on the committee as possible.
- (3) After considering the report of the committee, the Council may establish the National standard if, in its opinion, that standard is of significance to the national economy and conforms to the objectives of this Bill.
- (4) The Council shall, in order to ensure that any National Standard established under this section is still appropriate, have it reviewed from time to time and at least not less than once in every 5 years.
- (5) The Council shall have the power to revise or revoke any National standard established under this section, and for that purpose, subsections (2) and (3) of this section shall apply in relation to the revision or revocation of a National standard as they apply in relation to the establishment thereof (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 24: Standards to be known as Nigerian National Standards.

- (1) The National Standards established under section 23 of this Bill shall be called the "Nigerian National Standards".
- (2) National Standards other than those established under section 23 of this Bill, shall not be called "Nigerian National Standards" (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 25: Certificate marks.

- (1) Where the Council, is satisfied that an item of manufacture is of particular importance or significance to the national economy, it may permit the manufacturer (hereinafter referred to as the "permitted manufacturer") to affix a special certificate mark on the product.

- (2) The Organisation may charge such fee as it thinks appropriate for every mark issued under this section.
- (3) The Council may revise, reallocate or revoke any such permit.
- (4) For the purpose of this section, the references to an item of manufacture include references to the packages, containers and invoices relative thereto.
- (5) The standardization marks specified under Section 5(1)(k) shall not be identical with any trade registered under the Trade Marks Act or so nearly resembling it as likely to be mistaken for it and no mark identical with those standardization marks or so nearly resembling them as likely to be mistaken for them shall be registered as a trademark under the Trade Mark Act, Cap. T13, LFN, 2010.
- (6) The fact that any product complies or is purported to comply with Nigerian National Standard or approved specification or has been or is purported to have been manufactured in accordance with any such standard or specification or that a standardization mark is used in connection with any product shall not give rise to any action against the Organisation or its employees thereof.
- (7) Where there is a conflict between the provisions of a specification declared to be a Nigerian National Standard under this Bill and a specification made or declared under any other written law, the Nigerian National Standards shall prevail (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 26: Offences in relation to standards.

- (1) Any person, other than the permitted manufacturer, who makes or sells or exposes for sale or uses, for the purpose of advertising, any material or document on or in which is portrayed —
 - (a) certification mark resembling or purporting to be a certification mark issued under Section 25 of this Bill, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not less than ₦1,000,000.00 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or both.
- (2) If an item of manufacture does not comply with any mandatory national standard and that item is sold or delivered to any person in Nigeria for consumption or sale to the public —
 - (a) the manufacturer of the item; and
 - (b) any person who imports or is concerned with the importation of the item that does not comply with such mandatory standard, commits an offence under this Bill and is liable on conviction —
 - (i) in the case of the manufacturer, to a fine of not less than 25% of the value of the product or ₦5,000,000.00 (whichever is higher) or to imprisonment for a term not less than 3 years or to both such fine and imprisonment,
 - (ii) in the case of a seller to a fine of not less than 15% of the

value of the product or ₦1,000,000.00 (whichever is higher) or imprisonment for a term not less than 2 years or to both, and

- (iii) in the case of an importer, to a fine not less than 25% CIF per shipment or ₦5,000,000.00 (whichever is higher) or imprisonment for a term not less than 2 years or to both.

- (3) Where any person is convicted of an offence under this Bill, the court may —

- (a) in addition to any penalty imposed in respect of that offence, order that a commodity, consignment or batch of a commodity or product, any other article or material or substance in respect of which that offence was committed, be forfeited to the Federal Government; and
- (b) summarily inquire into and assess the monetary value of any advantage gained or likely to be gained by such person in consequence of that offence and impose on that person a fine equal to the amount so assessed and, in a default of payment of such amount, imprisonment for a period not less than 1 year (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 26 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 27: Power of the Minister to declare established standards as binding.

- (1) The Minister may, from time to time, on the recommendation of the Council by —
 - (a) order published in the Federal Gazette; or
 - (b) publication in any two national dailies having nationwide circulation; or
 - (c) notice served on any affected manufacturer, declare that an industrial standard under section 23 of this Bill shall be binding.
- (2) Any National standard declared and published by virtue of subsection (1) of this section shall be known as "Mandatory National Standard".
- (3) Every manufacturer of any item manufactured in respect of which a mandatory national standard has been declared shall ensure that the item complies with (or was manufactured in accordance with) such standard for the time being in force.
- (4) In any criminal proceeding commenced against any person under this section, the production of a certificate signed by the Director-General or any other person duly authorized by the Director-General stating that an item of manufacture does not comply with the applicable mandatory National standard and describing the nature of the failure to comply with the mandatory national standard, shall be sufficient evidence of such failure to comply.
- (5) For the purpose of the trial of any person charged with an offence under this section, any item of manufacture bearing the name or mark of that person

shall, unless the contrary is proved, be presumed to have been manufactured by that person and the item shall be presumed to have been produced by him in the form in which it was found offered for sale.

- (6) Where any person is convicted of an offence under this section, the court may make such order as to the forfeiture or destruction of the item of manufacture in question as it may think appropriate in the circumstances (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 27 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 28: Designation of ports for special entry.

- (1) The Minister, on the recommendation of the Director-General and in consultation with the Minister of Finance, may, from time to time, for the purpose of standardization, by order published in the Federal Gazette or in any two national dailies having nation-wide circulation, designate any port for the importation into Nigeria of the products specified in the order and in such case, the products named in the order shall be imported into Nigeria through only the designated port.
- (2) A person who contravenes subsection (1) of this section commits an offence under this Bill and is liable on conviction to a fine of not less than ₦5,000,000.00 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or to both.
- (3) Where a person is convicted of an offence under this section, the court may make an order of forfeiture or destruction of the products in question (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 28 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 29: Power to enter premises.

- (1) For the purpose of carrying out the functions of the Organisation under this Bill, the Director-General, officers of the Organisation or any other person authorized by him in writing (hereinafter referred to as authorized person) —
- (a) may stop and search any vehicle which he reasonably believes may contain any article or product or material or goods that is in contravention of this Bill;
- (b) shall have a right of access to any premises including all Nigerian seaports, airports and land borders and may use reasonable force, if need be, to gain entry;
- (c) may, seize and detain for such length of time, not exceeding 14 days without leave of court, any article, or product or material or goods which he reasonably believes is in contravention of this Bill; and if necessary may seek the leave of court for extension of time;
- (d) may, by notice in writing served on any person require that person to furnish, in such form as he may direct, information on such matters as may be specified by him.

- (2) An article, item, product or material seized under this section shall be kept or stored in such a place (including the place of seizure) as the Director-General may direct.
- (3) A person required to furnish returns under subsection (1) (d) of this section shall, within any period specified in such notice, comply with the directives contained therein.
- (4) For the purpose of carrying out duties under this Bill, every officer of the Organisation shall have the power, right, privileges and protection equivalent to that of a police officer.
- (5) The Organisation may order the destruction of goods detained under subsection (1) (c) of this section if the following conditions are satisfied —
 - (a) testing indicates that the goods did not meet the relevant Nigerian Industrial Standard; and
 - (b) it is reasonably necessary to destroy the goods because the goods are in a dangerous state or injurious to the health of human beings, animals or plants;
 - (c) the Organisation may require the owner of the goods to pay the costs of the destruction of the goods including the costs of transporting and storing the goods, before destruction;
 - (d) at least 14 days' notice of the order shall be given under subsection (2) of this section either by giving the owner of the goods a written notice or by publishing a written notice in the Gazette (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 29 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART VI — OFFENCES

Clause 30: Powers of Director-General in relation to hazardous products.

- (1) The Director-General may, upon reasonable suspicion that the quality, of any product is detrimental or hazardous to life, property and the national economy-
 - (a) seize and detain such products for such a time as may be reasonable, but not exceeding 45 days without a Court Order, for the satisfaction of, and compliance with this Bill;
 - (b) prohibit any person from selling or offering for sale the product;
 - (c) apply to the court for an order of forfeiture or destruction of such product;
 - (d) seal up the premises where such product is manufactured or stored; or
 - (e) direct the person to rectify the deficiency in the case of a misdescribed product subject to such conditions as may be imposed.

- (2) (a) The court may order that any product seized which is hazardous or injurious to life shall be forfeited, destroyed or disposed of in such manner as it thinks fit;
- (b) The Organisation may require the owner of the goods to pay the costs of the destruction of the goods including the costs of transporting and storing the goods, before destruction (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 30 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 31: Refusal to comply with lawful directives, etc.

- (1) A person who refuses, neglects or fails to comply with any directive lawfully given by the Organisation in the exercise of its power under this Bill, or who fails to comply with any provision of this Bill or of any regulation made under this Bill, commits an offence and, unless another penalty is established for such offence in this Bill, is, in addition to the forfeiture of any article or product seized, liable on conviction to a fine of not less than ₦1,000,000.00, or to imprisonment of not less than one year and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not less than ₦250,000.00 for every day during which the offence continues.
- (2) Where a person refuses or neglects to obey any directive lawfully given under this Bill or the regulations made under this Bill, the Organisation may do or cause to be done all such acts as are, in its opinion, reasonable or necessary for the purpose of carrying out such directive.
- (3) Any expenses incurred by the Organisation in the exercise of its powers under this section shall be recoverable from the person to whom the directive has been given.
- (4) Any expenses incurred by the Organisation in the exercise of its powers under this section shall be recoverable from the person to whom the directive has been given (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 31 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 32: Failure to furnish returns.

- (1) If any person required to furnish returns pursuant to Section 30 (1) (d) of this Bill fails to furnish those returns as required under this Bill, he commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not less than ₦1,000,000.00 or imprisonment for a period not less than one year or to both.
- (2) If a person, in purported compliance with a requirement to furnish returns, knowingly or recklessly makes any statement in the return which is false in a material particular, he commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding ₦1,000,000.00 or imprisonment for a term not less than 1 year or both.
- (3) A person who wilfully obstructs, interferes with, assaults or resists any officer of the Organisation or authorized person in the execution of his duty under this Bill or who aids, invites, induces or abets any other person to obstruct, interfere with, assault or resist any officer or employee commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not less than ₦2,000,000.00 or imprisonment for a term not less than two years or both.

- (4) Where a penalty is not elsewhere prescribed in this Bill, any person who commits an offence under this Bill is liable on conviction to a fine of not less than ₦1,000,000.00 or to imprisonment for a term of not less than 9 months or both (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 32 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 33: Life endangering products.

- (1) The Organisation shall not later than 31st of January of every year, publish on its website and in at least two national dailies a list of products deemed as life endangering. Provided nothing shall preclude the Organisation from updating the list as the need arises.
- (2) Any person who manufactures, imports, distributes displays, advertises, offers for sale or in any way deals in substandard Life endangering product or falsifies any such product, commits an offence.
- (3) Any person found guilty under sub-section (2) of this section shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than five years without an option of fine (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 33 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 34: Offences by bodies corporate.

Where an offence under this Bill which has been committed by a body corporate is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of, any director, manager, secretary or other official of the body corporate, or any person purporting to act in any such capacity, he as well as the body corporate is deemed to be guilty of that offence and is liable to be proceeded against and punished (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 34 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART VII — LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Clause 35: Legal proceedings.

- (1) Subject to the provision of section 174 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Organisation shall be charged with the responsibility for —
- (a) prosecuting offenders under this Bill, or any other enactment where quality is in issue; and
- (b) conducting such proceedings as may be necessary for the enforcement and due administration of this Bill.
- (2) A staff of the Organisation who is a Legal Officer within the meaning of the Legal Practitioners Act, shall, while in the employment of the Organisation be entitled to represent the Council or the Organisation as a Legal practitioner in the course of his employment (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 35 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 36: Jurisdiction and prosecution of offences.

All offences under this Bill may be tried by the Federal High Court (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 36 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 37: Application of fines.

The court imposing a fine under this Bill may direct that the whole or any part thereof be applied in or towards payment of the costs of the proceedings or in or towards compensating the Organisation (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 37 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 38: Application to the Federal High Court for direction.

- (1) The Organisation may apply to the court for directions in respect of any matter concerning its duties, powers and functions under this Bill and, on such application, the court may give a direction and make such further order or orders as it deems fit in the circumstance.
- (2) The Organisation may conduct inquiries with respect to the compliance with the provisions of this Bill by any person (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 38 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 39: Indemnity of members and employees of the Organisation.

Every member, officer, authorized person or auditor for the time being of the Organisation shall be indemnified out of the funds or assets of the Organisation against any liability incurred by him in defending any proceeding whether civil or criminal in which judgment is given against him in his capacity as a member, agent, auditor or employee (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 39 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 40: Limitation of suits against the Organisation.

- (1) No suit against the Organisation, member or any employee of the Organisation, for any act done in pursuance or execution of any act, public duty or authority, shall lie or be instituted in any court unless it is commenced within 3 (three) months next after the act, negligence or default complained of or, in the case of a continuance of damage or injury, within 3 (three) months next after the cessation thereof.
- (2) No suit shall be commenced against the Organisation before the expiration of a period of 1 (one) month after a written notice of intention to commence the suit.
- (3) Such notice shall state the cause of action, the name and place of abode of the intending plaintiff and the relief which he claims (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 40 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 41: Service of processes documents, etc.

The notice referred to in section 39 (2) of this Bill and any summons, notice or other

document required or authorized to be served upon the Organisation, under the provisions of this Bill or any other enactment or law, may be served by delivering the same to the Director-General of the Organisation or by sending it by registered post addressed to the Director-General at the Head Office of the Organisation (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 41 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 42: Restriction on execution against the property of the Organisation.

In any action or suit against the Organisation, no execution or attachment or processes in the nature thereof shall be issued against it, but any sum of money which may by the judgment of the court be awarded against the Organisation shall subject to any directive given by the court where notice of appeal has been given by the Organisation in respect of the said judgment, be paid by the Organisation from its funds (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 42 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 43: Certain acts not interpreted as assurances or guarantees.

Any function performed under this Bill by the Minister, the Organisation, the Council, a member of the Council, the Director-General or an officer of the Organisation in connection with the certification of any commodity, product, material, substance, service, process, act or matter, shall not be interpreted as an assurance or a guarantee of any nature in respect of that commodity, product, material, substance, service, process, act or matter (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 43 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART VIII — MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Clause 44: Reports.

- (1) The Council shall, within the first three months of the next year, submit to the Minister a report on the activities of the Council during the last preceding year.
- (2) The Organisation may publish in each year reports on any of its activities, and when such reports are published, the Organisation shall-
 - (a) distribute copies free to the National Assembly, departments of the Government of the Federation or a State and to such other bodies as it may consider necessary;
 - (b) where appropriate, make copies available for sale to the public and other interested parties, and such reports shall be in addition to any other publication made by it under this Bill (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 44 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 45: Power to make test purchases.

The Director-General or any other officer of the Organisation shall have power to make purchases of goods as may appear expedient for the purpose of determining whether or not the provisions of this Bill are complied with (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 45 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 46: Recall of products.

- (1) The Minister may, by order, upon the recommendation of the Organisation require the supplier of any defective commodity certified by the Organisation to —
 - (a) recall the commodity and all other types that were supplied to him, in the manner and within the period, specified in the order;
 - (b) disclose to the public, or to a class of persons specified in the order in the manner and within the period so specified —
 - (i) the nature of any defect in any commodity identified in that order,
 - (ii) the circumstances in which the use of the commodity is dangerous,
 - (iii) procedures for disposal of the commodity; or
 - (c) notify the public or a class of persons specified in that order, that the supplier undertakes to —
 - (i) repair the defective commodity,
 - (ii) replace the defective commodity, or
 - (iii) refund to a person to whom the commodity was supplied the price of the commodity (whether by the supplier or by another person), within the period specified in the order.
- (2) Where an order made under this section is still in force, a supplier of a commodity to which the order relates, fails to comply with the requirements or direction in the order, commits an offence (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 46 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 47: Verification.

- (1) In every government procurement, where compliance with standards is a requirement, the goods or services to be procured shall be those certified by the Organisation.
- (2) No payments for the execution of such contracts in (1) above shall be made unless compliance is verified by the Organisation (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 47 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 48: Power to make rules.

The Council may make rules, not inconsistent with this Bill, for the general and efficient performance of its functions (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 48 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 49: Repeal and Savings SON Act No. 14 of 2015.

- (1) The Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act No.14 of 2015.
- (2) Without prejudice to section 6 of the Interpretation Act, the repeal of the enactment referred to in subsection (1) of this section shall not affect anything done under or pursuant to that enactment, and —
 - (a) all notices, designations and certificates issued under the repealed Act, or any other enactment, in respect of any matter dealt with in this Bill, are deemed to have been issued under this Bill;
 - (b) all regulations made under the repealed Act, or any other enactments, in respect of any matter dealt with in that Act, are deemed to have been made under this Bill;
 - (c) the employees and appointees of the Organisation remain employees of the Organisation; and
 - (d) the Director-General of the Organisation appointed under the repealed Act is deemed to be the Chief Executive of the Organisation and remains in office for the unexpired term of his appointment.
- (3) The offices, rights, interest obligations and liabilities of the Council or Organisation existing before the commencement of this Bill under any contract or instrument or in law or in equity, shall, by virtue of this Bill, become vested in the Council or Organisation, as the case may be, and shall be of the same force and effect against or in favour and shall be enforceable fully and effectively (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 49 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 50: Interpretation.

- (1) In this Bill —

“Authorized Officer” means any person appointed to act on behalf of the Organisation under section 30 of this Bill (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words “Authorized Officer” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

“Chairman” means the Chairman of the Council appointed under section 3 (1) (a) of this Bill (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

“Council” means the Standards Council of Nigeria established under section 3 (1) of this Bill (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

"Certification mark" means the special certification mark issued to a permitted manufacturer (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

"Director-General" means the Director-General appointed under section 8 (1) of this Bill (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Director-General" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Member" means a member of the Council and includes the Chairman (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

"Minister" means the Minister responsible for Industries (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

"Nigerian National Standards" means the National standards established by the Council under this Bill (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

"Organisation" means the Standards Organisation of Nigeria established by section 1 (1) of this Bill (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

"Permitted manufacturer" has the meaning assigned under section 25 (1) of this Bill (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

"State" means a State of the Federation (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

"Standard Levy" means an amount payable annually (on or before the 31st January of the new year) as per section 15(2) of this Bill by all companies

and other registered entities certified by SON toward standards development and promotion (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

- (2) In this Bill a reference to "officer or employee of the Organisation" is a reference to any person appointed under section 11 of this Bill.
- (3) In this Bill, a reference to a numbered section is a reference to the section so numbered in this Bill (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 50 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 51: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2024.

SCHEDULE

Section 3 (9)

MEETING AND PROCEEDING OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS

Number of Meetings

1. Subject to the provisions of this Bill and any standing order of the Council, the Council shall meet not more than once every 3 months and on such other occasions as may be necessary for the fulfilment of its functions.

Place of Meeting

2. Unless the Council otherwise directs all meetings shall be held in Nigeria.

Length of Notice for Calling Meetings

3.
 - (1) The notice required for all types of meetings from the commencement of this Bill shall be 14 days from the date on which the notice was sent out.
 - (2) A meeting of the Council shall, notwithstanding that it is called by a shorter notice than that specified in subsection (1) of this section, be deemed to have been duly and properly called if it is so agreed by all the members entitled to attend and vote or by the members present provided a quorum is formed.

Contents of Notice

4.
 - (1) The notice of meeting shall specify the place, date and time of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted in sufficient details.
 - (2) No business may be transacted at any meeting unless a notice of it has been duly given.
 - (3) An error or omission in a notice with respect to the place, date, time or general nature of the business of a meeting shall not invalidate the meeting provided that in

the case of bonafide error or omission, the secretary shall effect the necessary correction either before or during the meeting.

Persons entitled to Notice

5. (1) The following persons are entitled to receive notice of meeting —
 - (a) every member; and
 - (b) co-opted members, if any.
- (2) No other person is entitled to receive a notice of meetings.
6. (1) A notice may be given by the secretary to any member either personally or by sending it by post to him or to his address or (if he has no address within Nigeria) to the address, if any, supplied by him to the secretary for the giving of notice to him.
- (2) Where a notice is sent by post service, the notice is deemed to be effected by properly addressing, and prepaying the posted letter containing the notice, 7 days after the letter is posted.
- (3) Failure to give notice of meeting to a person entitled to receive it shall invalidate the meeting unless such failure is a bonafide omission on the part of the person giving the notice.

Attendance at Meetings

7. (1) Every person who is entitled to receive a notice of meeting of the Council is entitled to attend such a meeting.
- (2) The secretary shall produce a list showing the names, descriptions and addresses of the members at the commencement of the meeting and it shall remain open and accessible to any member during the continuance of the meeting.

Right of certain persons to attend

8. Where the Council desires to obtain the advice of any person on a particular matter, the Council may co-opt him as a member for such period as it thinks fit, but a person who is a member by virtue of this paragraph shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Council and shall not count towards a quorum.

Proceedings

Decisions on Issues

9. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, all acts of the Council and all issues arising before the Council shall be determined by a majority of the members present and voting at a meeting of the Council.

Casting Vote

- (2) The person presiding shall have an original vote and, in the event of an equality of votes, shall have a second casting vote.

Standing Orders

10. Subject to the provision of this Bill, the Council may make standing orders for the regulation of its meetings proceedings and business and may amend or revoke such Standing Orders.

Quorum

11. (1) The quorum of the Council shall be 10 and shall include the Director- General.
- (2) The quorum of any committee of the Council shall be determined by the Council.
- (3) For the purpose of determining a quorum, members present shall be counted.

Presiding at Meeting

12. At any meeting of the Council, the Chairman shall preside or, in his absence, the members present at the meeting shall elect one of them to preside at the meeting.

Minutes of Proceedings and Effects

13. (1) The secretary shall —
- (a) keep minutes of all proceedings at meetings; and of its committees to be entered in books kept for that purpose.
- (2) Any such minutes purporting to be signed by the Chairman of the next succeeding meeting shall be prima-facie evidence of the proceedings.

Committees

14. (1) The Council may appoint such ad-hoc Committees as it deems fit to deal with specific tasks as the Council may direct any such committee to undertake.
- (2) Each committee shall be presided over by a member of the Council and shall be made up of such number of experts not necessarily members of the Council, as may be determined in each case.
- (3) Subject to its power to appoint ad-hoc committees in accordance with sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) of this paragraph, the Council shall appoint the following standing committees —
- (a) Finance and General-Purpose Committee;
- (b) Appointment, Promotion and Disciplinary Committee; and
- (c) Technical Committee.
- (4) Each committee shall be presided over by a member of the Council.
- (5) The Council may increase or reduce or otherwise vary the composition of the membership of each committee as it deems fit.
- (6) The decision of any committee appointed under this paragraph is of no effect until it is ratified by the Council.

Miscellaneous Matters relating to Meetings, Proceedings and Status of Members

15. (1) The validity of any proceeding of the Council or any committee shall not be vitiated by —
- (a) any vacancy in the membership of the Council or any committee or
 - (b) any defect in the appointment of any such member, or
 - (c) by reason that a person not entitled to do so, took part in the proceedings.
- (2) Where a person not duly appointed as a member act as such on behalf of the Council, his act shall not bind the Council and he shall be personally liable for such an action (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to repeal the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act No. 15 of 2015 and Enact the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act, 2023 for the purpose of providing additional functions for the organisation, increasing penalty for violations (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act, No.14 of 2015 and Enact the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act, for the Purpose of Providing Additional Functions for the Organisation, Creating New Offences and Increasing Penalties for Offences Relating to Standardisation; and for Related Matters (HB. 481 & HB. 627) (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act, No.14 Of 2015 and Enact the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act, for the Purpose of Providing Additional Functions for the Organisation, Creating New Offences and Increasing Penalties for Offences Relating to Standardisation and for Related Matters (HB.481 and HB.627) and approved Clauses 1 - 51, the Schedule, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

- (iv) ***A Bill for an Act to Amend the Sea Fisheries Act, Cap. S4, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to among other things bring the Penalties therein in Conformity with Modern Day Realities and for Related Matters (HB.179) (Committee of the Whole):***
Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Sea Fisheries Act, Cap. S4, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to among other things bring the Penalties therein in Conformity with Modern Day Realities and for Related Matters (HB.179)” (Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE SEA FISHERIES ACT, CAP. S4,
LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004 TO AMONG OTHER
THINGS BRING THE PENALTIES THEREIN IN CONFORMITY
WITH MODERN DAY REALITIES (HB.179)

Clause 1. Amendment Sea Fisheries Act.

The Sea Fisheries Act, Cap. S4, Laws of the Federation, 2004 (in this Bill, referred to as "the Principal Act") is hereby Amended as set out hereunder (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 2: Amendment Section 1 (2).

Section 1 (2) of the Principal Act is hereby amended by substituting the sum of "\$250,000" with "not less than ₦50,000,000" (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Amendment Proposed:

In Clause (2), *leave out* the words and figure "not less than ₦50,000,000", and *insert* the figure "\$500,000 or its equivalent" (*Hon. Kingsley Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment made — Agreed to.

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

Clause 3: Amendment Section 5.

Section 5 of the Principal Act is hereby amended by Substituting the sum of "\$50,000" with "not less than ₦500,000" (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Amendment Proposed:

In Clause (3), *leave out* the words and figure "not less than ₦500,000", and *insert* the figure "\$500,000 or its equivalent" (*Hon. Kingsley Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment made — Agreed to.

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

Clause 4: Amendment Section 10.

Section 10 of the Principal Act is hereby amended by Substituting the sum of "\$50,000" with "not less than ₦100,000" (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Amendment Proposed:

In Clause (4), *leave out* the words and figure "not less than ₦100,000", and *insert* the figure "\$500,000 or its equivalent" (*Hon. Kingsley Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment made — Agreed to.

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

Clause 5: Amendment Section 11.

Section 11 of the Principal Act is hereby amended by substituting the sum of "\$50,000" with "not less than ₦1,000,000" (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Amendment Proposed:

In Clause (5), *leave out* the words and figure "not less than ₦1,000,000", and *insert* the figure "\$500,000 or its equivalent" (*Hon. Kingsley Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment made — Agreed to.

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

Clause 6: Amendment Section 12.

Section 12 of the Principal Act is hereby amended by substituting the sum of "\$50,000" with "not less than ₦500,000" (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Amendment Proposed:

In Clause (6), *leave out* the words and figure "not less than ₦500,000", and *insert* the figure "\$500,000 or its equivalent" (*Hon. Kingsley Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment made — Agreed to.

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

Clause 7: Amendment Subsidiary Legislation.

Sea Fisheries (Fish Inspection and Quality Assurance) Regulations. Paragraph 14 (a)-(h) of the Sea Fisheries (Fish Inspection and Quality Assurance) Regulations of the Principal Act is hereby amended as stated hereunder:

- "14. (a) by substituting "\$50,000" with "not less than ₦1,000,000";
- (b) by substituting "\$25,000" with "not less than ₦500,000";
- (c) by substituting "\$25,000" with "not less than ₦500,000";
- (d) by substituting "\$50,000" with "not less than ₦5,000,000";
- (e) by substituting "\$20,000" with "not less than ₦250,000";
- (f) by substituting "\$25,000" with "not less than ₦500,000";
- (g) by substituting "\$50,000" with "not less than ₦1,000,000";
- (h) by substituting "\$50,000" with "not less than ₦1,000,000" (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Amendment Proposed:

In Clause (7) (a) - (h), *leave out* the words and figures "not less than ₦1,000,000", and *insert* the figure "\$500,000 or its equivalent" (*Hon. Kingsley Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment made — Agreed to.

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

Clause 8: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as Sea Fisheries Act (Amended) Bill, 2024 (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to amend the Sea Fisheries Act by increasing the penalties on violators of the provision of this act, thus bringing it in conformity with modern day realities (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Sea Fisheries Act, Cap. S4, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Among Other Things Bring the Penalties Therein in Conformity with Modern Day Realities (HB.179) (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Sea Fisheries Act Cap. S4 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to among other things bring the Penalties therein in Conformity with Modern Day Realities and for Related Matters (HB.179) and approved Clauses 1 - 7 as amended, approved Clause 8, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

- (v) ***A Bill for an Act to make Provision for the Integration of Private Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Infrastructure into the National Security Network in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.177) (Committee of the Whole):***

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to make Provision for the Integration of Private Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Infrastructure into the National Security Network in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.177)” (Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE INTEGRATION
OF PRIVATE CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV) INFRASTRUCTURE
INTO THE NATIONAL SECURITY NETWORK IN NIGERIA (HB.177)

Clause 1: This Bill makes provision for the integration of Private CCTV infrastructure into the National Security Network in Nigeria (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 2: Every private organization in Nigeria shall within six months this Bill come into effect install CCTV within and outside its premises with a view to:

- (a) maintaining perimeter security in medium-high secure areas and installations;
- (b) observing behavior of people in order to detect criminal activities within and outside the geographical location of the company;
- (c) identifying criminal(s) within a reasonable time frame;
- (d) providing adequate evidence for use in court;
- (e) obtaining a visual record of activities in situations where it is necessary to maintain proper security or access control (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 3: **The objective of this Bill.**

The broad objective of this Bill is to expand the security network infrastructure in Nigeria with a view to protecting the lives and properties of its Citizens (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 4: **Police and Court Powers.**

- (i) All private companies in Nigeria shall apply or inform the Commissioner of Police in its area of jurisdiction about the installation of the CCTV within and outside its premises;
- (ii) This Bill grant access to private companies' CCTV by the Police and the Courts during the course of investigation and trial of suspected criminals (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 5: **Offences and Penalties.**

- (a) Any company or organization in Nigeria that refuse, out of neglect to install CCTV Camera within and outside its premises is liable to a fine of at least ₦500,000 or an imprisonment of six months or both;
- (b) Continual refusal to install CCTV Camera shall attract a fine of at least ₦1 million or a year imprisonment or both;
- (c) Where there is a complaint of missing of items, lives and property, and the company/organization within the complaint area is unable to make its CCTV available to the law enforcement agents during the course of its investigation, such company/organization shall be liable for negligence and charged as an accomplice of the crime (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 6: Courts.

The High Court of a State shall have jurisdiction over the offences (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 7: Interpretations.

“CCTV”: Closed Circuit Television is a TV Camera system in which signals are not publicly distributed but are monitored primarily for surveillance and security purpose (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the abbreviation “CCTV” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

“Security”: Protection of lives and property (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “Security” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

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

Clause 8: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Integration of Private Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Infrastructure into the National Security Network in Nigeria Bill, 2024 (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to make provision for compulsory integration of Private CCTV infrastructure into the National Security Network for the purpose of security enhancement in the Country (Nigeria) (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Make Provision for the Integration of Private Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Infrastructure into the National Security Network in Nigeria (HB.177) (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to make Provision for the Integration of Private Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Infrastructure into the National Security Network in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.177) and approved Clauses 1 - 8, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

- (vi) ***A Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Inland Waterways Act, Cap. N47, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Nigerian Inland Waterways Act, Establish the Nigeria Inland Waterways Authority to Provide for the Management, Regulation and Development of the Nigeria Inland Waterways and to promote Private Sector participation in the Development of the Nigerian Inland Waterways in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.790) (Committee of the Whole):***

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Inland Waterways Act, Cap. N47, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Nigerian Inland Waterways Act, Establish the Nigeria Inland Waterways Authority to Provide for the Management, Regulation and Development of the Nigeria Inland Waterways and to promote Private Sector participation in the Development of the Nigerian Inland Waterways in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.790)” (Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

**A BILL FOR AN ACT TO REPEAL THE NATIONAL INLAND WATERWAYS
AUTHORITY ACT, CAP. N47, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004
AND ENACT THE NIGERIAN INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY ACT,
ESTABLISH THE NIGERIAN INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY TO
PROVIDE FOR THE MANAGEMENT, REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
OF THE NIGERIAN INLAND WATERWAYS, AND PROMOTE PRIVATE
SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INLAND
WATERWAYS IN NIGERIA; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS**

PART I — OBJECTIVES AND APPLICATION OF THE ACT

Clause 1: Objectives of the Act.

The objectives of this Bill are to —

- (a) develop and improve Nigerian inland waterways for water transportation and navigation purposes;
- (b) increase and promote private sector investment and participation in the management and operation of the assets of the Nigerian Inland Waterways Authority;
- (c) increase and promote private sector investment and participation in Nigerian inland waterways;
- (d) provide for the management and operation of the assets of the Nigerian Inland Waterways Authority;
- (e) provide for the technical and safety regulations of Nigerian inland waterways as contained in the Act;
- (f) provide an alternative mode of transportation for the evacuation of goods and persons; and

- (g) implement the National Transport Policy as it concerns inland waterways in Nigeria (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 2: Application of the Act.

This Bill applies to —

- (a) all Nigerian inland waterways listed in the First Schedule to this Bill;
- (b) any person or government agency with activities or operations related to inland waterways in Nigeria (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

PART II — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NIGERIAN INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY

Clause 3: Establishment of the Nigerian Inland Waterways Authority.

- (1) There is established the Nigerian Inland Waterways Authority (in this Bill referred to as "the Authority").
- (2) The Authority —
 - (a) is a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal; and
 - (b) may sue or be sued in its corporate name.
- (3) The Authority shall have all the powers of a body corporate, including the power to —
 - (a) enter into contracts and incur obligations;
 - (b) acquire, hold, mortgage, purchase, sell, lease and deal with property, whether movable or immovable, real or personal; and
 - (c) do all acts and things which a natural person may by law do which are necessary or convenient for the performance of its functions (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

PART III — FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Clause 4: Functions of the Authority.

- (1) The Authority shall —
 - (a) ensure the development, management and operations of Nigerian inland waterways and encourage and facilitate private sector participation and investment in the provision of services and facilities in the Nigerian inland waterways by granting concessions, leases, management contracts, entering into joint venture contracts, permits or any other agreement for achieving this purpose;

- (b) ensure the efficient management and administration of Nigerian inland waterways;
- (c) manage and administer the Authority's assets safely and efficiently with a view to maximizing their economic potential;
- (d) organise and integrate the nation's inland waterways operations for efficient utilization for transportation;
- (e) ensure the development of infrastructural facilities for a Nigerian inland waterways network connecting the creeks and the rivers with the economic centres using the river-ports as nodal points for intermodal exchange;
- (f) undertake capital and maintenance dredging within Nigerian inland waterways;
- (g) design and maintain ferry routes within Nigerian inland waterways;
- (h) survey, remove and retrieve derelicts, wrecks and other obstructions from Nigerian inland waterways;
- (i) install and maintain lights, buoys and all aids to navigation along water channels and banks on Nigerian inland waterways;
- (j) issue and regulate the use of permits for inland navigation, piers, jetties, dockyards and wharves;
- (k) examine and certify all inland waterways vessels, non- conventional vessels, including rig platforms that operate on Nigerian inland waterways;
- (l) register and grant access to all inland waterways vessels, non-conventional vessels, dredgers, trucks and boats of all types that operate on Nigerian inland waterways;
- (m) grant permits for seismic survey, shore protection work and wreck removal within the declared waterways and its right of way;
- (n) grant permits to private Nigerian inland waterways operators;
- (o) approve the design and construction of inland river crafts and also inspect, regulate, approve and issue licences and permits for vessels designed for Nigerian inland waterways operations;
- (p) approve and regulate —
 - (i) the use of all jetties, dockyards, piers, river ports and other associated structures and platforms within Nigerian inland waterways,
 - (ii) advertising within the right of way of Nigerian inland waterways, and
 - (iii) pipeline construction and laying of telecommunication cables within the Authority's right of way, which includes 100

meters distance before and after a bridge constructed on the Authority's right of way;

- (q) construct, administer, maintain and regulate inland river-ports and jetties;
 - (r) provide hydraulic structures for rivers and dams, bed and bank stabilisation, barrages, groynes, weirs and buoys in order to regulate and stabilize river water upstream, for the purpose of river training works and navigation;
 - (s) produce, publish and broadcast navigational leaflets, aids to navigation, bulletin and notices, hydrological year books, river charts and river maps;
 - (t) carry out consultancy and contractual services in relation to its activities under this Bill;
 - (u) subject to the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment Act, ensure environmental impact assessment for navigation and other activities within the Nigerian inland waterways and its right of way;
 - (v) erect and maintain gauges, kilometre boards, horizontal and vertical control marks;
 - (w) advise government on all border matters that relate to Nigerian inland waterways;
 - (x) acquire, lease and hire property in connection with its activities under this Bill;
 - (y) control and clear water hyacinth and other aquatic weeds along Nigerian inland waterways;
 - (z) implement the Transport Policy of the Federal Government of Nigeria pertaining to Nigerian Inland Waterways;
- (2) In addition to the provisions of subsection (1), the Authority shall perform its functions and exercise its powers in such a manner as the Authority considers best to achieve the objectives of this Bill.
- (3) The Authority may perform any of its functions or exercise its powers under this Bill, other than the power to make regulations, through an officer, agent or any person authorised by the Authority in that behalf.
- (4) The Authority is entitled to payment of dues, charges and fees arising from the performance of its functions or the exercise of its powers under this Bill.
- (5) Where the Authority provides a facility or service, or performs a function, the Agency may do so —
- (a) itself;
 - (b) in cooperation with another person; or

- (c) by arranging for another person to do so on its behalf.
- (6) In subsection (5), "person" includes the Federal Government of Nigeria, a State Government, or the Federal Capital Territory, the government or an agency of a foreign country or any natural juristic person (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 5: Demolishing of piers, jetties and wharves.

An authorised employee of the Authority may demolish or cause to be demolished a pier, jetty or wharf in any Nigerian inland waterways or in the approach to any Nigerian inland waterways where the pier, jetty or wharf is erected or operated in contravention of the provisions of this Bill or regulations made under this Bill (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 6: Application of Part III.

The provisions of this Part apply to all persons including Federal, State and Local Government agencies (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

PART IV — GOVERNING BOARD, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF THE AUTHORITY

Clause 7: Establishment of Governing Board and its functions.

- (1) There is established a Governing Board of the Authority (in this Bill referred to as 'the Board') responsible for providing strategic direction and policy for the Authority.
- (2) The Board shall consist of —
 - (a) a non-Executive Chairman;
 - (b) Managing Director of the Authority;
 - (c) one member representing public interest;
 - (d) a representative each of the Federal Ministry of:
 - (i) Transport,
 - (ii) Budget and National Planning, and
 - (e) a representative of the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation;
 - (f) a representative of the Master Mariners.
- (3) The Board shall —
 - (a) determine, superintend and implement the policy of the Authority; and

- (b) review and approve the strategic or action plans of the Authority.
- (4) Every member of the Board other than the Managing Director shall serve on a part-time basis.
- (5) The Board shall adhere to —
 - (a) the provisions of this Bill;
 - (b) any relevant general guideline on the governance of public bodies; and
 - (c) such other generally accepted principles of good corporate governance as may be applicable to the Authority.
- (6) The supplementary provisions set out in the Third Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Board and other matters contained in the Schedule.
- (7) The remuneration and allowances payable to members of the Board shall be as determined by the appropriate Government Agency.
- (8) Appointment into the Board of the Authority under S.7(2)(a-d) shall reflect Federal Character (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 8: Appointment and qualification of members of the Board.

- (1) The Chairman and members of the Board, other than *ex-officio* members, shall be —
 - (a) appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister; and
 - (b) persons of proven integrity with relevant cognate experience in —
 - (i) law,
 - (ii) maritime administration,
 - (iii) shipping,
 - (iv) finance,
 - (v) port management,
 - (vi) marine and maritime transport,
 - (vii) public administration,
 - (viii) business administration,
 - (ix) infrastructure asset management, or
 - (x) engineering.

- (2) The President shall take into consideration the functions of the Authority under this Bill when recommending persons for appointment to the Board.
- (3) A person shall not be appointed or remain in office as a member of the Board if that person —
 - (a) is not a citizen of Nigeria;
 - (b) is incapacitated by any physical illness;
 - (c) has been certified to be of unsound mind;
 - (d) is an undischarged bankrupt;
 - (e) has been convicted in Nigeria or elsewhere of a felony;
 - (f) has at any time been removed from office on account of misconduct; or
 - (g) at the relevant time, is a director of or acts in any executive capacity in one or more companies or bodies charged with responsibility for managing, regulating or providing any service to or within any inland waterway or creek in Nigeria.
- (4) The Conflict of interest provisions contained in the Fourth Schedule to this Bill apply to the Board, all Directors and members of staff of the Authority [Fourth Schedule] (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 9: Tenure of members of the Board.

A member of the Board, other than the Managing Director shall hold office —

- (a) for a term of four years in the first instance and may be reappointed for another term of four years and no more; and
- (b) on such terms and conditions as may be specified in the member's letter of appointment (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 10: Vacancy on the Board.

- (1) The office of the Chairman or a member of the Board becomes vacant if —
 - (a) he resigns his office by notice in writing under his hand addressed to the President through the Minister;
 - (b) he completes his tenure;
 - (c) he dies;
 - (d) he becomes of unsound mind or incapable of discharging his duties;
 - (e) he becomes bankrupt;

- (f) he is found guilty of gross misconduct relating to his duties;
 - (g) in the case of an *ex-officio* member, he ceases to hold the office on the basis of which he became a member of the Board; or
 - (h) the President is satisfied that it is not in the interest of the Authority or public for the person appointed to continue in office.
- (2) Where a vacancy occurs under subsection (1), it shall be filled by the appointment of another person to the vacant office by the President on the recommendation of the Minister as soon as it is reasonably practicable after the occurrence of the vacancy.
- (3) Where a vacancy exists upon the death, removal or resignation of a member, any person appointed as his replacement shall hold office for the unexpired term of office of his predecessor (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 11: Appointment and tenure of Managing Director.

- (1) The President shall appoint a Managing Director for the Authority.
- (2) The Managing Director —
- (a) shall hold office for a term of four years and on such terms and conditions, as may be specified in his letter of appointment;
 - (b) may be reappointed for another term of four years and no more; and
 - (c) shall be a person who possesses a degree and cognate experience of at least 20 years in —
 - (i) law,
 - (ii) maritime administration,
 - (iii) shipping,
 - (iv) finance,
 - (v) port management,
 - (vi) marine and maritime transport,
 - (vii) public administration,
 - (viii) business administration,
 - (ix) infrastructure asset management, or
 - (x) engineering.
- (3) The Managing Director —
- (a) is the Chief Executive and Accounting Officer of the Authority; and

- (b) shall be responsible for —
 - (i) the execution of the policy of the Authority,
 - (ii) the organisation, control and management of the administration of the Authority,
 - (iii) the implementation of the Authority's functions and ensuring that the Authority achieves its goals,
 - (iv) the direction and supervision of all other employees of the Authority, subject to such directions and restrictions, imposed on him by the Board, and
 - (v) ensuring the maintenance of accounting records in accordance with applicable laws governing corporate bodies and generally accepted accounting principles in Nigeria (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 12: Removal of Managing Director.

- (1) The Managing Director shall only be suspended or removed from office by the President if he —
 - (a) is found to be unqualified for appointment as Managing Director contrary to the provisions of this Bill;
 - (b) has demonstrated the inability to effectively discharge the duties of his office;
 - (c) has been absent from five consecutive meetings of the Board without the consent of the Chairman except where he shows good reason for such absence;
 - (d) is guilty of serious misconduct in relation to his duties as Managing Director;
 - (e) is disqualified or suspended from practising his profession in any part of the world by a competent authority; or
 - (f) is in breach of the conflict of interest rules set out in the Fourth Schedule to this Bill.
- (2) The Managing Director shall not be removed from office under subsection (1) unless the Minister has duly served on the Managing Director a prior written notification of the intention to suspend or remove him from office and the reasons for the suspension or removal.
- (3) The Managing Director shall, upon receipt of the notice referred to in subsection (2), be given an opportunity to make written submissions to the Minister within 14 days from the date of the receipt of the notice.
- (4) The Managing Director may, within the days specified in the notice, deliver a written submission to the Minister.

- (5) The Minister shall, upon the receipt of the submission referred to in subsection (4), provide the Managing Director the opportunity to make oral representations on the written submissions made before taking a decision on whether or not to recommend suspension or removal from office (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 13: Secretary of the Board.

- (1) The Board shall have a Secretary who is the Head of Legal Department.
- (2) The Secretary shall be a legal practitioner with at least 10 years post call experience.
- (3) The Secretary shall report to the Managing Director and be responsible for —
- (a) making arrangements for meetings of the Board and preparing the agenda and minutes of such meetings;
 - (b) communicating the decisions of the Board to members of the Board and keeping records of the Board's meetings and proceedings;
 - (c) keeping the seal and corporate records of the Authority;
 - (d) arranging for payment of fees and allowances of meetings and all other matters affecting members of the Board; and
 - (e) such other duties affecting the Authority as the Board may direct (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 14: Remuneration of management and other staff.

The fees and allowances payable to the Managing Director and other staff of the Authority shall be determined by the Board in consultation with the relevant government agencies and in accordance with extant Federal Government Guidelines (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 15: Employment and conditions of service.

- (1) The Authority may employ such number of persons as it may deem necessary for the effective discharge of its duties, performance of its functions, and implementation of regulations made under this Bill.
- (2) The Authority is responsible for determining the job description, title, terms, qualifications and salaries, including allowances of the employees, subject to the approval of the National Income, Salaries and Wages Commission.
- (3) Employees of the Authority are subject to the conflicts of interest provisions contained in the Fourth Schedule to this Bill.

- (4) Service in the Authority is an approved service for the purpose of the Pension Reform Act, and, an officer and other persons employed in the Authority are, in respect of their service in the Authority, entitled to pensions, gratuities and other retirement benefits as are applicable in the Authority.
- (5) Nothing in subsection (4) excludes the Authority from employing staff on non-pensionable terms and conditions.
- (6) The power of the Authority under this section shall be exercised in accordance with extant laws and Federal Government Guidelines (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

PART V — DECLARATION OF INLAND WATERWAYS, ETC.

Clause 16: Declaration of Inland Waterways, etc.

The rivers and their tributaries, distributaries, creeks, lakes, lagoons and intra-coastal waterways specified in the First Schedule to this Bill are hereby declared Federal Inland Waterways (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 17: Area under control of the Authority.

All Navigable Waterways, Inland Waterways, River-Ports and Internal Waters of Nigeria, excluding all direct approaches to the ports listed in the Second Schedule to this Bill and all other waters declared to be approaches to ports under or pursuant to the Nigerian Ports Authority Act, up to 250 metres beyond the upstream edge of the quay of such ports, shall be under the exclusive Management, Direction and Control of the Authority (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 18: Right to land use for navigable purposes including Right of Way.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of the Lands (Title Vesting, etc.) Act, the right of land usage for improvement of navigation and provision of infrastructure shall cover areas on both banks of the Waterways which would be submerged in a flood of 100 years return period.
- (2) In case of Waterways with steep banks where such flood have no overbank flow, the right of way shall include the areas of land along the Waterways measured 100 metres perpendicular from the edge of the bank (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 19: Right to land within the Right of Way.

- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of the Land Use Act or any other enactment, but subject to the provisions of the Lands (Title Vesting, etc.) Act, the Authority shall have right to all lands within the Right of Way of the Declared Inland Waterways and shall use such land in the interest of navigation.

- (2) No person including a State shall:
- (a) obstruct a Declared Waterways, or carry out any activity from any Declared Waterways; or
 - (b) erect any structure within the Right of Way or divert water from a Declared Waterways;
 - (c) carry out any of the activities as specified in section 9 of this Bill without the written consent, approval or permission of the Authority (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 20: Prohibition of concession or lease of land.

The Authority shall not, without the written approval of the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC), concession or lease its land or property for more than 10 years (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

PART VI — FINANCIAL PROVISION

Clause 21: Fund of the Authority.

- (1) The Authority shall maintain a fund which shall consist of —
- (a) 2/7% of the Ports Development Levy annually;
 - (b) concession and royalty fees paid to the Authority;
 - (c) annual fees for licenses and permits issued by the Authority;
 - (d) gifts, grants, aids and subventions;
 - (e) assets that may be vested in, or accrue, to the Authority in the course of performing its functions under this Bill;
 - (f) all other sums, charges, dues and fees collected or received by the Authority for services rendered;
 - (g) money borrowed and capital raised by the Authority under this Bill or any other enactment; and
 - (h) such other sums as may be received by the Authority from other sources.
- (2) For the purpose of development and maintenance of the inland waterways, all companies whose facilities are within the Nigerian inland waterways and its right of way shall pay annual dues to the Authority in accordance with the Authority's approved tariffs.
- (3) All sums, charges, dues, levies and fees to be collected or received by the Authority under subsections (1) (c), (d), (g) and (2), shall be related to the services provided by the Authority or the use of its facilities or assets or the

inland waterways and its right-of-way (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 22: Application of the Authority's funds.

- (1) The Authority has the power to expend the funds which accrue to it under this Bill in the cause of performing its functions.
- (2) Any excess of the Authority's revenue for any year over the approved expenditure for that year shall, subject to its approved annual budget, be remitted to the Consolidated Revenue Fund (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 23: Power to borrow and accept gifts.

- (1) The Authority may, with the prior consent of its Board and in accordance with the applicable laws, rules and regulations governing borrowings by public bodies, borrow such sums of money or raise capital, otherwise than from the government as the Authority may require in the performance of its functions under this Bill.
- (2) The Authority may accept gifts, grants of money, aid or other property from national, bilateral and multi-lateral organisations or agencies upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon, provided that such gifts are not inconsistent with the objectives and functions of the Authority (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 24: Annual budget.

- (1) The Authority shall, not later than four months to the end of the financial year, prepare and present to the Minister for consideration and presentation to the National Assembly for approval, a statement of estimated income and expenditure for the following financial year.
- (2) The financial year of the Authority commences on 1st January and ends on 31st December of that year (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 25: Accounts and records to be open for inspection.

- (1) The accounts and records of the Authority shall be open during office hours for inspection by the Auditor-General for the Federation.
- (2) The account books of the Authority shall be kept at the head office of the Authority (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 26: Statements of accounts and audit.

- (1) The Authority shall keep proper and regular accounts and other records of
—

- (a) money received and paid by the Authority;
 - (b) the several purposes for which such money have been received or paid; and
 - (c) the assets, credits and liabilities of the Authority.
- (2) The Authority shall do all things necessary to ensure that all payments out of its money are correctly made and properly authorised and that adequate control is maintained over the —
 - (a) assets of, or in the custody of, the Authority; and
 - (b) expenditure incurred by the Authority.
- (3) The Board may appoint external auditors provided that such auditors are on the list of auditors approved by the Auditor-General for the Federation.
- (4) A firm shall not be qualified for appointment as auditor under subsection (3) unless it is an approved company or auditor under the Companies and Allied Matters Act or any other applicable law.
- (5) The remuneration of the auditor shall be paid out of the funds of the Authority.
- (6) The Authority shall, not later than six weeks after the close of its financial year, prepare and submit the financial statements in respect of that year to the auditor who shall audit and report on them.
- (7) The Board shall, not later than three months after the end of each financial year, cause its audited financial statements to be made available to the Minister together with any report or observations made by the auditors on those financial statements (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 26 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 27: Report of auditors.

- (1) The report of the auditor shall, in addition to complying with auditing requirements under prevailing professional practice and applicable law, state —
 - (a) whether the financial statements show fairly the financial transactions and the state of affairs of the Authority;
 - (b) whether proper accounting and other procedures have been followed and records kept including records of all assets of the Authority whether purchased, donated or otherwise;
 - (c) whether the receipts, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of assets by the Authority during the year have been in compliance with the provisions of this Bill; and
 - (d) such other matters arising from the audit as the auditor considers appropriate.

- (2) The auditor shall, not later than three months after the accounts have been submitted to it for audit —
 - (a) send a report of its audit to the Authority; and
 - (b) submit such periodical and special report to the Authority as may appear to it necessary or as the Minister or the Authority may require.
- (3) The Authority shall, not later than one month after its financial statements have been audited in accordance with this Bill or three months after the end of the previous financial year, whichever occurs first, send a copy of the audited financial statements to the Minister and the Authority together with any report or observation made by the auditor or auditors on the statement of accounts (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 27 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 28: Annual report.

- (1) The Board shall, not later than four months after the end of each financial year, make a report to the Minister on its activities and performance during that year.
- (2) The annual report for each year includes —
 - (a) a general survey of developments in respect of matters relating to its functions;
 - (b) an assessment of the extent to which its objectives and priorities for the year as set out in the annual estimate and 25 years action plan indicated in section 7 (3) of this Bill have been achieved;
 - (c) a summary of the significant activities carried out by it during the year;
 - (d) a summary of the allocation of its financial resources to its various activities during the year, including, the emoluments of its directors; and
 - (e) an assessment of its performance and practices in relation to its functions in accordance with applicable internationally recognised performance indicators (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 28 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 29: Financial and statistical returns.

- (1) The Authority shall submit to the Board the financial and statistical returns or such other report on the financial position of the Authority as the Board may require.
- (2) The Board may, at any time within one month of receipt of the report, allow or amend any item of capital expenditure appearing in the estimates, or any portion thereof, or return the same to the Authority for amendment (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 29 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 30: Other reports.

The Authority may prepare other reports in respect of matters relating to any of its functions (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 30 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART VII — CONCESSIONS, LEASES, CONTRACTS AND PERMITS

Clause 31: Power to grant concession, lease, contract or permit.

- (1) The Authority may grant, concession, lease, contract or permit subject to such terms and conditions as the Authority may specify, authorising any person to provide any service or facility or any inland waterways service or facility.
- (2) The terms and conditions of any concession, lease, contract or permit granted under this Bill shall be agreed to in writing between the parties.
- (3) The power to grant concessions under this section is subject to rules providing for competitive and transparent public tender for concessions as may be approved by any relevant government agency as well as any rule or regulation as may be provided by the regulator for this sector under this Bill or any other law (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 31 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 32: Special powers in emergency.

- (1) On the occurrence of any, industrial unrest, strike, lock-out or other event which gives rise to an emergency and creates a real and imminent threat to the national interest or public safety, the Authority may, with the approval of the Board —
 - (a) suspend any concession, take temporary possession, either by itself or through an authorised agent, of any undertaking of such concession or concessionaire and operate it in the manner it deems fit; or
 - (b) withdraw either partially or totally, the use of any inland waterways service or facility from any person or class of persons or from the public in general.
- (2) Where the Authority takes possession of any Nigerian inland waterways' operation under subsection (1), adequate compensation shall be paid, in the amount agreed between the Authority and the affected concessionaire (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 32 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 33: Prohibition of operation in Nigerian inland waterways without concession, licence or permit.

- (1) A person shall not provide any inland waterways service or facility unless he is authorised to do so under a concession, lease, contract or permit granted by the Authority.

- (2) Subject to express provisions to the contrary in this Bill, concession, lease, contract or permit granted under this section may be granted to a person or class of persons and every concession, lease, contract or permit shall be in such form and for such period and may contain such conditions as may be agreed upon by the parties (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 33 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART VIII — POLICY AND REGULATION OF NIGERIAN INLAND WATERWAYS

Clause 34: The role of the Minister.

The general responsibilities and functions of the Minister under this Bill include —

- (a) formulating, modifying and issuing policies for the management and operation of Nigerian inland waterways to ensure the attainment of the objectives referred to in section 1 of this Bill;
- (b) facilitating the establishment of international protocols on Nigerian inland waterways;
- (c) facilitating the conclusion of agreements with foreign governments and international organisations for the improvement and development of Nigerian inland waterways;
- (d) encouraging co-operation within the ECOWAS region for the adoption of common standards, safety practices and interconnection of Nigerian inland waterways;
- (e) receiving and reviewing records and reports submitted by the Authority;
- (f) upon consultation with the Authority and as may be provided for in accordance with the Master Plan developed by the Authority, proposing to the National Assembly to declare any waterways to be designated as Nigerian inland waterways under this Bill pursuant to item 36 of Exclusive Legislative List of the Constitution (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 34 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 35: Formulation of policy.

Prior to the formulation or review of policies for the Nigerian inland waterways sector, the Minister shall consult with and have due regard to the representations of relevant stakeholders in the sector, including the Authority, National Transport Commission, industry participants and general public (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 35 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART IX — PROVISIONS RELATING TO LAND AND ASSETS

Clause 36: Power to acquire land.

The Authority has the power to acquire or purchase land for the purposes of the Authority and all such acquisition or purchases shall be made subject to applicable law (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 36 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 37: Power to enter land to erect beacons, conduct surveys and remove obstruction to visibility of lighthouses and beacons.

- (1) The Authority's employees or agents may enter and remain on any land to erect beacons, buoys and moorings, to conduct surveys or to discharge any of their duties under this Bill.
- (2) Any authorised employee of the Authority may, with proper assistance where required, enter on any land and cut and remove all trees, underwood and vegetation, which may interfere with the visibility of any lighthouse or beacon from any point or place.
- (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (1) and (2), employees or agents shall not enter any land, building or any enclosed court or garden attached to a dwelling house except with a notice of at least 14 days and prior consent of the occupier, and the consent shall not be unreasonably withheld (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 37 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART X — TECHNICAL AND SAFETY MATTERS

Clause 38: Safety on land within Nigerian inland waterways.

The Authority shall, for the purpose of ensuring safety of navigation and shipping in Nigerian inland waterways —

- (a) control the entry, stay, movement and operations of vessels within the Nigerian inland waterways and their departure and all other traffic matters;
- (b) regulate the loading, discharge and storage of cargo and the embarkation or disembarkation of passengers;
- (c) provide or procure river guide services, certify pilots, and regulate the safe provision of river guide services by certified pilots;
- (d) provide or procure tug services, certify tug service providers and regulate the safe provision of tug services by licensed tug service providers;
- (e) provide, operate and maintain adequate and efficient aids to navigation at such places as the Authority may determine;
- (f) undertake dredging and maintenance of channels;
- (g) remove or cause to be removed any obstruction or object that may pose a danger to shipping or navigation; and
- (h) ensure the isolation of dangerous or harmful cargo to secure the safety of life or protection against injury (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 38 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 39: Removal of wrecks and vessels.

- (1) The Authority may arrest a vessel for breach of inland waterways regulations and move the vessel to another place within the Nigerian inland waterways.

- (2) The Authority may give notice to the owner or the person legally responsible for any vessel within Nigerian inland waterways limits which is not seaworthy, directing the owner or person to remove or otherwise dispose of the vessel or, a part of it, which is likely to become an obstruction, wreck or derelict or a threat to the environment or public safety and to recover from that owner or person all costs incurred for the removal or disposal should the owner or person fail to comply with the notice within the time specified.
- (3) The Authority may, after a written demand for any cost contemplated in subsection (2), and on non-payment of the cost —
 - (a) sell the relevant vessel or wreck;
 - (b) defray such unpaid costs out of the proceeds of the sale, rendering the surplus, if any, to the person entitled to it;
 - (c) recover any unpaid balance from the owner or other person referred to in subsection (2); or
 - (d) institute an admiralty action under the Admiralty Jurisdiction Act to recover such costs.
- (4) The Authority shall act as the assistant receiver of wrecks within the Nigerian inland waterways (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 39 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART XI — LIABILITY, LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AND ENFORCEMENT

Clause 40: Restriction on execution against property of the Authority.

In an action or suit against the Authority, any sum of money which may, by the judgment of the court, be awarded against the Authority shall be paid from the funds of the Authority, and where the Authority fails to pay within 30 days of demand, execution, attachment or process in the nature thereof may be issued against the Authority, subject to any right of stay or to restrict execution under the general law (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 40 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 41: Legal proceedings.

- (1) No suit against the Authority or any employee of the Authority for any act done under or intended execution of any Act or law, public duty or authority, or in respect of any alleged neglect or default in the execution of such Act or law, duty or authority shall lie or be instituted in any court, unless it is commenced within six months after the act, neglect or default complained of or, in the case of a continuing damage or injury, within six months after the injury or damage ceases.
- (2) No suit shall be commenced against the Authority before the expiration of one month after written notice of intention to commence suit has been served on the Authority by the intending plaintiff or his agent, and the notice shall clearly state the —

- (a) cause of action;
 - (b) name and place of abode of the intending Plaintiff; and
 - (c) relief which he claims.
- (3) For the purpose of this Bill, "suit" means a civil proceeding commenced by writ of summons or such other manner as may be prescribed by rules of court and includes any action but not criminal proceeding.
- (4) The notice and any summons, or other documents required or authorized to be served on the Authority in connection with a suit by or against it, may be served by —
 - (a) delivering it to the Managing Director;
 - (b) sending it by registered post addressed to the Managing Director at the head office of the Authority; or
 - (c) electronic means through the e-mail or website of the Authority.
- (5) A person connected with the direct working of the Authority shall not be removed under arrest whether in execution of a warrant or otherwise when his immediate removal from duty might result in danger to life or goods, unless the immediate officer in charge of the work in which the person is engaged has been given an opportunity of providing a substitute.
- (6) In a suit pending before a court, the Authority may be represented by an appropriate employee (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 41 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 42: Master, owner or person in charge of vessel answerable for damage.

Where damage is done to any property of the Authority by any vessel or float of timber, the cost of making good the damage, including the expenses of any inspection or survey carried out by the Authority to ascertain the damage, may be recovered by the Authority as a debt from the master, owner or person in charge of the vessel or float of timber, as the case may be (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 42 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 43: Detention of vessels causing damage.

The Authority may —

- (a) detain any vessel or equipment causing damage until the costs of making good the damage and the expenses described in section 43 of this Bill have been paid to the Authority or into court pending the outcome of litigation in respect of it; and
- (b) require the master, owner or person in charge of the vessel or equipment to deposit such sum of money or furnish such security as may be required by the Authority in order to meet the costs and expenses (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 43 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 44: Power to distrain for non-payment of dues and rates.

- (1) Where the agent of a vessel in respect of which any due or rate is payable refuses or neglects to pay the dues or rates on demand, the Authority may distrain the vessel and the tackle, apparel and furniture in the vessel until the amount of the dues or rates is paid.
- (2) Where, after 14 days commencing from the date of distraint, any due or rate, or any of the expenses of distraint of the vessel and its tackle, apparel and furniture, remain unpaid, the Authority may cause the vessel or tackle, apparel and furniture distrained to be sold.
- (3) The Authority shall —
 - (a) retain the amount of dues, rates or expenses which are owed by the vessel out of the proceeds of the sale; and
 - (b) deliver the balance to the master of the vessel on demand (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 44 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 45: Monitoring and enforcement.

- (1) The Authority may, in writing, authorise any of its officials or appoint external inspectors on its behalf to perform the functions of monitoring and enforcement vested under this Bill.
- (2) The Authority may direct its authorised officials or appointed inspectors to investigate the activities of a concessionaire, licensee, permit holder or any other person pursuant to its powers under this Bill.
- (3) In exercising any of the powers specified in subsection (2) and notwithstanding any other provision of this Bill, an authorised official of the Authority or its appointed inspector —
 - (a) shall, on demand, produce to any person against whom he is acting, the instrument issued to him by the Authority to act in that capacity; and
 - (b) may, during office hours and with prior notice, enter any affected person's or licensee's premises to —
 - (i) inspect and make copies of or extracts from books, records, documents or other information storage systems,
 - (ii) demand the production of and inspect the relevant licence, permit, certificate or authority, and
 - (iii) inspect any facility on the premises,

provided that the official or appointed inspector shall have in his possession for the purposes of entering any affected person's premises a warrant for that purpose obtained from a magistrate or judge prior to the entry.

- (4) Persons employed by the Authority, with the assistance of the relevant law enforcement agencies, shall have the power to enforce the provisions of this Bill and any regulation made under them, including the power to arrest, seize and prosecute (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 45 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 46: Power to seal premises and stop activities.

Where an occupant or operator within the declared right-of-way of a Nigerian inland waterways fails to comply with the prescribed regulation or approved tariff under this Bill, after being given notice in writing, the Authority may, with the assistance of any relevant law enforcement agency, seal the premises or site (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 46 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART XII — OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

Clause 47: Damage and trespass to property of the Authority.

- (1) A person who willfully removes, destroys or damages any property belonging to or in the custody or possession of the Authority or hinders or prevents the property from being used or operated in the manner in which it is intended to be used or operated, shall pay an amount for each month in effect as may be provided in the Authority's approved tariffs and shall make good any loss, damage or destruction suffered by the Authority, including the expenses of any inspection or survey carried out by the Authority to ascertain the loss, destruction or damage.
- (2) A person who obstructs, takes or erects structures on a declared waterway contravenes section 20 (3) and shall pay an amount for each month in effect as may be provided in the Authority's approved tariffs and the cost of removing the structures in addition to forfeiting the structures (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 47 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 48: Prohibition of operation of Nigerian inland waterways services or facilities.

- (1) A person shall not erect, re-erect, alter, extend, own or occupy a pier, jetty or wharf in any place within Nigerian inland waterways except in accordance with a permit granted by the Authority.
- (2) A person shall not establish, install, maintain, provide or operate any marine service or facility or any Nigerian inland waterways service or facility without a permit from the Authority.
- (3) A person who contravenes subsections (1) and (2) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of at least ₦1,000,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of at least three years or both, and in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine of at least ₦120,000.00 for each day or any part thereof during which the offence continues (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 48 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 49: Evasion of dues, fees, fines and charges.

The operator of river ports, dockyards, jetties, piers, or owner, agent, or master of any vessel or consignor or consignee of any goods, who by any means, evades, attempts to evade, neglects or omits to pay the dues, rates, charges or fees payable under this Bill shall —

- (a) be liable to pay to the Authority a penalty ten times the amount of the dues, rates, charges or fees he evaded or attempted to evade, neglected or omitted to pay; and
- (b) have his licence, permit or authorisation to operate withdrawn by the Authority for a period not exceeding 12 months (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 49 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 50: Offences by master of vessel.

- (1) A vessel shall not enter or approach the inland waterways in Nigeria except with the prior approval of the Authority.
- (2) Where a vessel —
 - (a) enters any Nigerian inland waterways or any approach to the Nigerian inland waterways without having first being issued with the requisite permit by the Authority, or
 - (b) fails to leave any Nigerian inland waterways or approach to Nigerian inland waterways or to leave any berth at Nigerian inland waterways when required to do so by the Authority,the master commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of at least ₦200,000.00 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or both.
- (3) Where the master fails to comply with the provision of subsection (1) (b), the master is, in addition to the fine, liable to pay by way of damages assessed at the rate of ₦35.00 per registered tonne for every hour that the vessel remains at the Nigerian inland waterway or its approach after the time for departure required by the notice has expired.
- (4) Where an offence under subsection (1) is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of the owner of a vessel, the owner or his agent commits an offence and is liable on conviction, in the case of —
 - (a) an individual, to a fine of ₦300,000.00 for each day or a part thereof during which the offence continues or imprisonment for a term of 12 months; and
 - (b) a body corporate, to a fine of ₦500,000.00 and a further fine of ₦200,000.00 for each day or part thereof during which the offence continues (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 50 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 51: Penalty for throwing ballast and other waste into Nigerian inland waterways.
Any person who throws or empties into any Nigerian inland waterways any ballast or other waste however described commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of at least ₦100,000.00 (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 51 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 52: Penalty for giving false information as to draught of vessel and cargo.

- (1) The owner, agent or master of a vessel entering or leaving or within the Nigerian inland waterways or approach to any Nigerian inland waterways who negligently makes any representation or gives false information of the type of vessel, its draught, length, beam or height to the Authority, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of at least ₦1,000,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of at least 12 months or both.
- (2) For the purpose of this section, "height of vessel" means the height of the vessel measured vertically from its waterline to the highest point, including its cargo, structure or equipment on board (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 52 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 53: Penalty for wilfully sinking vessels.
Any person who willfully sinks any vessel in Nigerian inland waterways or its approach without the permission of the Authority, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine at least ₦1,000,000.00 and shall, in addition, pay to the Authority expenses it incurred in removing the vessel (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 53 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 54: Obstructing the Authority in the discharge of its duties.
Any person who at any time —

- (a) hinders or obstructs, the Authority, officials, agents or contractors of the Authority in the discharge of their duties or of anything which they are empowered or required to do under this Bill, or
- (b) removes any mark set up for the purpose of indicating any level or direction necessary to the execution of works authorised by this Bill,

commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of at least ₦500,000.00 or to imprisonment for a term not less than six months or both (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 54 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 55: Preservation of secrecy.

- (1) A person who is or has been a member, an officer, an employee, an adviser or an agent of the Authority or a member of the Board shall not disclose any information relating to the affairs of the Authority or of any other person which has been obtained by him in the discharge of his duties or the exercise of his functions except —
 - (a) for the purpose of the discharge of his duties;

- (b) the exercise of his functions; or
 - (c) when lawfully required to do so by any court or under the provisions of any written law.
- (2) A person who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of at least ₦300,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of at least four months or both (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 55 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 56: Offences against the Fourth Schedule to this Bill.

Where a Director or staff of the Authority contravenes the provisions of the Fourth Schedule to this Bill, or gives false information under the Schedule, he commits an offence and is liable on conviction, to a fine of at least ₦5,000,000.00 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or both (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 56 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 57: General penalties.

Where no specific penalty is prescribed in this Bill or regulations made under this Bill, a person found guilty of any of the offence is liable to a fine of at least ₦250,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of at least six months or both (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 57 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 58: Jurisdiction.

The Federal High Court shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all matters arising out of or pursuant to this Bill or regulations made under this Bill, and all references to "Court" or "Judge" in this Bill shall be understood and deemed to refer to the Federal High Court or a Judge of the Federal High Court (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 58 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART XIII — MISCELLANEOUS

Clause 59: Mandatory compliance requirements by government agencies and bodies.

- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, any person, body or government agency permitted or authorised under an applicable law to operate or discharge any duty within the declared right of way of the Nigerian inland waterways shall prior to commencing work, comply with the provisions of this Bill and notify the Authority.
- (2) The notice shall contain the —
 - (a) name of the agency;
 - (b) purpose of its intended presence in Nigerian inland waterways;
 - (c) estimated duration of its presence in Nigerian inland waterways; and
 - (d) particulars of its officers, including the —

- (i) number of its officers,
- (ii) names and designations of such officers, and
- (iii) names of their immediate supervising officers involved in the task (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 59 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 60: Service of notices and summons.

A notice, summons or other document required or authorised to be served on the Authority under this Bill or any other law or enactment may be served by delivering it to the registered address of the Authority or by sending it by registered post addressed to the Managing Director of the Authority at its head office (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 60 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 61: Regulations.

- (1) The Authority may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations generally for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of this Bill.
- (2) All regulations made by the Authority shall be published in the Federal Government Gazette (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 61 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 62: Repeal.

The National Inland Waterways Authority Act, Cap. N47, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 is repealed (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 62 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 63: Savings.

- (1) Save as otherwise provided under this Bill, all regulations, orders and other subsidiary legislation made under the repealed Act and in effect immediately before the coming into effect of this Bill, shall, so far as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Bill, continue to have effect as if they are made under this Bill.
- (2) Subject to subsection (1) —
 - (a) all rights, interests, obligations and liabilities of the Authority under the repealed Act before the commencement of this Bill under any contract or instrument, at law or in equity, shall, by virtue of this Bill, be deemed to have been assigned to and vested in the Authority established under this Bill;
 - (b) any contract or instrument mentioned in paragraph (a) is of the same effect against or in favour of the Authority established under this Bill, and is enforceable as fully and effectively as if instead of the Authority established under the repealed Act, the Authority had been named therein or had been a party thereto; and

- (c) all persons shall, as from the commencement of this Bill, have the same rights, powers and remedies against the Authority established under this Bill as they had against the Authority established under the repealed Act before the commencement of this Bill.
- (3) Any proceeding or cause of action pending or existing before the commencement of this Bill by or against the Authority established under the repealed Act in respect of any right, interest, obligation or liability of the Authority under the repealed Act may be continued, or if the case so requires be commenced and the determination of a court of law, tribunal or other authority or person may be enforced by or against the Authority established under this Bill to the same extent that such cause of action or determination might have been continued or commenced or enforced by or against the Authority established under the repealed Act (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 63 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 64: Interpretation.

In this Bill —

"agency" means an agency of the Federal Government of Nigeria, of any State or Local Government in Nigeria (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

"Authority" means the Authority established under section 3 (1) of this Bill (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

"baseline" means the low water mark along the coast of Nigeria (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

"beacon" means a prominent specially constructed object forming a conspicuous mark as a fixed aid to navigation (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

"board" in relation to the Authority means its Board of Directors or Governing Board (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

"buoy" means an anchored float serving as a navigation mark to show hazards or for mooring and includes a floating object of any size, shape and colour which is moored

to the bed of the body of water in which it stands and serves as an aid to navigation or for other specific purposes (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “buoy” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"cargo" or "goods" include any substance or article, livestock, minerals, wares and merchandise of every description and any container or other item used to transport any substance or article (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “cargo” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Chairman" means the Chairman of the Board of Directors or Governing Board appointed under this Bill (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

"channel" means a passage for water which includes a terminal, the bed, course, swinging basin, turning circle, an area alongside a berth or dock, fairway, anchorage and berth (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “channel” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"channel operator" means a person who manages channels in Nigerian inland waterways (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words “channel operator” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"concession" means an arrangement between the Authority and another party to provide Nigerian Inland Waterways service or operate Nigerian Inland Waterways facility in accordance with this Bill and the word "concessioned" is to be interpreted accordingly (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “concession” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"concessionaire" means a person granted a concession under this Bill (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “concessionaire” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"consumer" or "Nigerian inland waterways user" means any person who uses Nigerian Inland Waterways services or facilities (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words “Consumer” or “Nigerian inland waterways user” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"conservancy activities" means all services for the preservation of the inland waterways, channels, including capital and maintenance dredging, channel marking, aids to navigation, system used and efficient navigation of non-conventional vessels and regulation of water front infrastructure that are below high-water mark (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words “conservancy activities” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Court" means the Federal High Court (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “Court” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"development" or "works" means the conversion of land to a new purpose and includes —

- (a) all waters of landward side of the baseline of the territorial sea;
- (b) any change to the natural or existing condition or topography of land;
- (c) the decoration or alteration of the inside or outside of a building or the alteration of works;
- (d) the subdivision or consolidation of land, airspace or buildings;
- (e) the installation, provision or operation of facilities or services;
- (f) the removal of vegetation or topsoil;
- (g) land reclamation and land decontamination; and
- (h) dredging (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words “development” or “works” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"dock" means an enclosed area of water for the loading, unloading and repairs of vessel which includes basins, locks, cuts, entrances, graving, keel blocks including planes, slipways grid irons, quays, warehouses and other works and things appertaining to any dock (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “dock” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"equipment" includes any apparatus, machinery or system used or intended to be used for the provision of Nigerian inland waterways services (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “equipment” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"estimates" means an appropriate judgement of the amount, value, etc. of something which include recurrent revenue, the best possible commercial forecast of revenue taking into account the general conditions of world trade and all other relevant factors and in respect of recurrent expenditure, the best possible commercial forecast of expenditure likely to be incurred having regard to the estimates of revenue (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “estimates” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Federal Government" or "Government" means the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words “Federal Government” or “Government” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Gazette" means the Federal Government Gazette (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “Gazette” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"government agency" means an agency of the Federal Government of Nigeria or of any State in Nigeria (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words “government agency” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"harbour" includes estuaries, navigable rivers, piers, jetties and other works in or at which vessels can obtain shelter or load and discharge goods or passengers (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “harbour” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"land" means the part of the earth surface not covered by water which includes the river bed below the high-water mark (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “land” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"licence" means an authorisation to operate on the Nigerian inland waterways, provide Nigerian Inland Waterways service or operate the Nigerian inland waterways facility, issued by the Authority under this Bill (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “licence” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"master" means every person, except a pilot, having for the time being the command

or charge of any vessel or ship (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “master” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Minister" means the Federal Minister charged with the responsibility for Nigerian inland waterways transportation (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

"Ministry" means the Federal Ministry charged with the responsibility for Nigerian inland waterways transportation (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “Ministry” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Nigerian inland waterways" means any river, stream, creek, lake, tide, lagoon, below the low water baseline, or channel leading into such place having facilities for vessels to moor and load or discharge including, cargo handling facilities harbour, berths, jetties, pontoons or buoys and wharves within the limits of the Nigerian Inland Waterways in any place in Nigeria and includes any place declared to be Nigerian Inland Waterways under this Bill (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words “Nigerian inland waterways” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Nigerian inland waterways dues" means dues levied in respect of a vessel for entering, using, leaving or moving or sailing in the Nigerian Inland Waterways (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words “Nigerian inland waterways dues” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Nigerian inland waterways infrastructure" means the basic infrastructure of the Nigerian inland waterways, including channels, basins, quay walls, jetties, roads, railways, and infrastructure used for the provision of water, lights, power, sewerage, telecommunications and similar services (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words “Nigerian inland waterways infrastructure” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Nigerian inland waterways operator" means a person who owns the business of, or is responsible for the management and operation of Nigerian inland waterways, terminals, or berths located in the Nigerian Inland Waterways but does not include the Authority established under this Bill (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words “Nigerian inland waterways operator” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Nigerian inland waterways repair facilities" include dry docks, vessels repair facilities, warehouses, railways within the Nigerian inland waterways and any other facilities which are designated as such by the Authority (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Nigerian inland waterways repair facilities" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Nigerian inland waterways services" and "facilities" includes stevedoring, cargo handling, terminal operations, storage of cargo within Nigerian Inland Waterways, tug services, floating crane services, berthing services, fire-fighting, security, radio and radar services, waste disposal, vessel repairs, tank farms and any other terminal services and facilities for the handling, storage and transportation of goods on land adjoining the foreshore of Nigeria or a floating platform for the handling of passengers carried by vessels within the declared right-of-way of the Authority (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Nigerian inland waterways services" and "facilities" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Nigerian inland waterways service provider" means a person providing services within the declared right-of-way of the Authority (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Nigerian inland waterways service provider" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Nigerian inland waterways terminal" means an area, infrastructure, cargo-handling equipment, sheds and other land-based structures used for the loading, storage and discharge of cargo, the embarkation or disembarkation of passengers and includes any corresponding wharves, docks, piers, bridges and other infrastructure works, with all necessary and convenient arches, drains, culverts, fences, roads, railways, land and air approaches (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Nigerian inland waterways terminal" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Nigerian inland waterways undertakings" means the undertakings of the Authority that relate to the provision of any facility or service of any description in connection with the exercise and performance of its powers and duties under any written law and includes any movable and immovable property and the rights of the Authority that relate to such facility or services (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Nigerian inland waterways undertakings" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"person" means a corporate body or partnership and where an individual is required to represent a corporate body or partnership in any circumstance pursuant to this Bill or its subsidiary legislation it shall be sufficient if in the case of —

- (a) a body corporate, it is represented by a duly authorised person or employee, and
- (b) a partnership, it is represented by a partner or a duly authorised employee

of the partnership (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “person” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"pier" means a structure built out into the Nigerian inland waterways used as a landing stage, or promenade which includes any stage, stairs, landing places, landing stage, jetty, floating barge or pontoon and any bridge or other works connected to it (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “pier” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"premises" means a piece of land, and the building on it, or part of a building used for commercial purposes which includes houses, structures, tenements, easements and hereditaments of any tenure, whether open or enclosed, built on or not, public or private, and maintained or not under the jurisdiction of the authority (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “premises” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"prescribe" means a rule, direction, or order laid down, approved or given by this Bill or by its subsidiary legislation or regulations or any relevant legislation (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “prescribe” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"President" means the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “President” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"repealed Act" means the National Waterways Authority Act, Cap. N47, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words “repealed Act” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"regulations" means an order issued by the Authority under this Bill (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “regulations” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"relevant stakeholders" include private sector, states and local governments (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words “relevant stakeholders” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"return period" means the highest level of flood expected to occur once in a 100 years (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

"revenue" means any monies received by the authority by way of charges, scales of charges or other duties imposed by or under this Bill and includes any monies accruing to the authority under this Bill (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

"river guide" means a person providing pilotage to navigation in river craft who has conduct thereof (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

"dredging" means the scooping up of fine loose grains of rock or minerals and objects from the bed of a river or within the water channel (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

"service provider" means any provider of services in or in respect of the Nigerian inland waterways (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

"seafarers" include every person except masters and pilots employed or engaged in any capacity on board any ship or vessel (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

"ship" includes every description of vessel used in navigation (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

"tariff" or "charges" or "rates" means list of fees, fares, or other prices charged by the government which include Nigerian inland waterways dues, dues on goods, river guide dues and other charges levied by Nigerian inland waterways service providers (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words “tariff” or “charges” or “rates” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"terminal infrastructure" means a building or complex containing facilities needed by transportation operators and passengers at either end of a travel or shipping route by Nigerian inland waterways which include terminal buildings, cargo handling equipments, workshops, substations, surfacing, rail sidings and terminal operations and water, lights, power, sewerage, telecommunications and similar services within the terminal boundaries (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words “terminal infrastructure” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"terminal operations" means services provided at the Nigerian inland waterways terminal, consisting of cargo handling storage and delivery to vessels and related services (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words “terminal operations” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"transport sector regulator" means anybody set up by an Act to regulate the sector (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words “transport sector regulator” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"vessel" means any kind of vessel that is used, or capable of being used, in navigation by water, however propelled or moved, and includes —

- (a) a ship, a barge, lighter, floating platforms, restaurant or other floating vessel, and an air cushion vehicle; or
- (b) other similar craft that is used in navigation on water (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “vessel” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"wharf" means a structure built alongside or out into the water at a landing place for vessels with a protective covering or enclosure which includes any wall and building adjoining the foreshore, creek-bed, lagoon-bed, lake-bed or river-bed, quay, pier, jetty, ramp or other landing place (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “wharf” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

Question that Clause 64 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 65: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Nigerian Inland Waterways Authority Bill, 2024 (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 65 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

SCHEDULES

FIRST SCHEDULE

Section 2, 16, 18

DECLARED INLAND WATERWAYS

1. The River Niger from the Nigeria/Niger/Benin border, through the rivers Nun and Forcados distribution to the Atlantic Ocean.
2. The River Benue from the Nigeria/Cameroun border to the confluence with River Niger at Lokoja.
3. The Cross River from the Nigeria/Cameroun border to the Atlantic Ocean, and all its distributaries.
4. Rivers Sokoto, Kaduna, Gerinya, Gongola, Taraba, Donga, Katsina-Ala, Anambra, Ogun, Oluwa, Osse, Benin, Imo and Qua-Iboe.
5. The intra-coastal route from Badagry, along the Badagry Creek to Lagos, through Lagos Lagoon to Epe, Lekki Lagoon on Iwopin, along Omu Creek, Talifa River to Atijere, Akata, Aboto, Oluwa River to Okitipupa and onto Gbekebo, Arogbo, Ofunama, Benin Creek to Warri. Also the canal running from Araromi through Aiyetoro, Imelumo to Benin River and from Aiyetoro through Mahin Lagoon to Igbokoda.
6. The waterway from Warri along the Forcados River, through Okwagbe, Fukana, Siam, Bomadi, Angalabiri, Patani, Torofani, down River Nun to Agberi, Kaima, Sabagreia, Gbaran Creek, Agudama, Ekpetiona into Ekole Creek to Tanaka, Yenegoa, Sangata to Mbiakpaba, onto Okokokiri, Ofokpota, Olagaga, Nembe, Adema, Agoribiri Creek to Egbema, Degema, Somobreiro River to Hanya Town, Ogbakiri to Port Harcourt.
7. The waterway from Port Harcourt, through Amadi Creek down Bonny River, into Opobo Channel Adoni River, through Andoni Flats. Teller Creek, Imo River, Shooter Creek, Qua Iboe Creek, Qua Iboe River, Stubbs Creeks, Widenham Creek, Effiat-Mbo Creek, Cross River estuary to Oron and Calabar.
8. Rivers Benin, Ethiope, Ossiommo, Onne, Abba, Asumini, Olomum, Siluko, Talifa, Forcados, Penington, Escravos, Warri, Ramos, Dodo, Bonny, Middleton, Fishtown, Sengana, Brass of Nicholas, Santa Barbara, San Batholomew, Sambriero, New Calabar, Mob, Rio del Rey, Uruan, Akwayafe.
9. Creeks Odiana, AgamamaTora, Nembe, Krakama, Buguma, Bille, Finima, New Calabar, Ekole, Cawthorne Channel, Ikane-Bakassi, Omu, Kwato (Gwato), Adagbrassa, Chananomi, Okpoko, Jones Kulama, Ikebiri, Nikorogba, Sagbama, Egbedi, Kolo, Laylor and Hughes Channel.
10. Lakes Mahin, Jabi Abuja, Oguta and OsiamEhoma.
11. The Orashi River from Oguta Lake to Ebocha, Omoku, Kreigani, Moiana, Okariki, Egbema and Sombreiro River.
12. The part of Lake Chad that is within the boundaries of Nigeria (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

SECOND SCHEDULE

Section 15, 17

RIVER PORTS WHOSE APPROACHES ARE EXEMPTED
FROM THE CONTROL OF THE AUTHORITY

1. Lagos
2. Port Harcourt
3. Warri
4. Calabar
5. Burutu
6. Akassa
7. Bonny
8. Degema
9. Forcados
10. Koko Town
11. Federal Lighter Terminal,
Third Schedule

Section 7 (6)

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE BOARD OF THE AUTHORITY

Proceedings of the Board

1. Subject to the provisions of this Bill and section 27 of the Interpretation Act, the Board may make standing orders regulating its proceedings or that of any of its committees.
2. The Chairman shall preside at every meeting of the Board and in the absence of the Chairman, the members present at that meeting shall appoint one of them to preside at the meeting and the minutes shall be taken of each meeting of the Board and any Committee by the Secretary.
3. The quorum for any meeting of the Board shall be at least five directors.
4. The Board shall meet to transact its business pursuant to this Bill whenever it is summoned by the Chairman on at least seven days written notice, and the Chairman shall, if so required by notice given to him by at least four other members of the Board specifying, amongst others, an agenda for the meeting, summon a meeting of the Board which shall be held, at least 14 days from the date on which the notice is served on him, to discuss the items specified in the notice and the Board shall, for the purposes of this Bill, meet at least four times in each calendar year.
5. A member of the Board who directly or indirectly has a personal interest (including financial interests) in any matter being deliberated upon by the Board, or is personally interested in any contract made or proposed to be made by the Authority shall, so soon after the facts of the matter of his interests have come to his knowledge, disclose his interest and the nature thereof at a meeting of the Board.
6. A disclosure under paragraph 5 of this Schedule shall be recorded in the minutes of the Board meeting and the member concerned shall —

- (a) not, after the disclosure, take part in any deliberation or decision of the Board or vote, howsoever on the matter; and
 - (b) be excluded for the purpose of constituting a quorum of any meeting of the Board for any deliberation or decision, with regard to the subject matter in respect of which his interest is so disclosed.
- 7. Decisions at meetings of the Board shall be taken by a simple majority.
- 8. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

Committees

- 9. Subject to its standing orders, the Board may set up such number of standing or ad hoc committees as it deems fit to consider and report on any matter with which the Authority is concerned.
- 10. A committee set up under paragraph 9 shall —
 - (a) consist of such number of persons who may not necessarily be members of the Board as may be determined by the Board, provided that the appointment of a non-Board member as a Committee member shall be subject to such terms as would be indicated in his letter of appointment; and
 - (b) be presided over by a member of the Board.
- 11. The quorum of any committee set up by the Board shall be determined by the Board.
- 12. A decision of a committee of the Board is of no effect until it is confirmed by the Board.

Miscellaneous

- 13. The fixing of the seal of the Authority shall be authenticated by the signature of the Secretary and that of the Chairman or any other member of the Board generally or specifically authorised by the Board to act for that purpose.
- 14. Any contract or instrument, which if made by a person not being a body corporate would not be required to be under seal, may be made or executed on behalf of the Authority by any person generally or specially authorised by the Board to act for that purpose.
- 15. Any document purporting to be a contract, instrument or other document duly signed or sealed on behalf of the Authority shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be presumed without further proof to have been so signed or sealed.
- 16. Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the validity of any proceeding, act or decision of the Board or of any of its committees is not affected by —
 - (a) any vacancy in the membership of the Board or committee;
 - (b) any defect or irregularity in the appointment of a member of the Board or committee; or
 - (c) the fact that any person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings of the Board or committee.

17. A member of the Board or committee is not personally liable for any act or omission done or made in good faith while engaged in the business of the Authority.
18. A person shall not by reason only of his membership of the Board, be treated as holding an office of emolument under the Government of the Federation or the Government of any State of the Federation (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

THIRD SCHEDULE

Section 8 (4), 13 (1) (f), 14 (3), 16 (3), 57

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

1. Subject to the provisions of this Schedule, no member of the Board, director or member of staff of the Authority shall have a direct or indirect financial interest or investment in any shipping, stevedoring, pilotage or terminal operations throughout the tenure of his office or employment with the Authority.
2. Subject to paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Schedule, each member of the Board, director or member of staff of the Authority shall, on an annual basis, present a written declaration, not later than the third month of each year, affirming the non-existence of any such interest as is specified in paragraph 1, and shall pledge to disclose and inform the Authority of any such relationship or interest that arises or is likely to arise during his tenure or employment with the Authority.
3. Directors and staff of the Authority, as from commencement date of this Bill, are entitled to a maximum of six months from the commencement date within which to divest themselves of their direct or indirect financial interests or investment in any shipping, stevedoring, pilotage or terminal operations, if any.
4. All newly appointed directors and members of staff of the Authority, after the commencement of this Bill are entitled to a maximum of three months from their respective dates of appointments within which to divest themselves of their direct or indirect financial interests or investments in any shipping, stevedoring, pilotage or terminal operations, if any.
5. Each director or staff of the Authority shall declare on appointment or at the commencement of employment and annually thereafter, for as long as he serves the Authority, any interest or investment that he —
 - (a) knowingly has; or
 - (b) knows any member of his immediate family to have in any aspect of the Nigerian Inland Waterways industry.
6. Subject to paragraph 7 of this Schedule, the Board shall waive the application of the prohibitions specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Schedule to any director or staff of the Authority if the Board reasonably determines that the financial interest of the relevant person is immaterial nature or is minimal.
7. The Board, in determining whether or not the interest of a director or staff of the Authority is minimal or immaterial, shall consider certain factors including the —
 - (a) revenues, investments, profits and managerial efforts of the relevant company or

- other entity in regard to its Nigerian Inland Waterways activities compared with other aspects of the Authority's or such entity's businesses;
- (b) extent to which the Authority regulates and oversees the activity of such company or entity;
 - (c) degree to which the economic interests of such company or other entity may be affected by an action of the Authority; and
 - (d) perceptions held or likely to be held by the public regarding the relevant person's financial interest or investment in that company or other entity.
8. The Board may at any time review and reverse its determination under paragraph 6 of this Schedule and direct the application of the prohibitions contained in this Schedule to the affected director or member of staff of the Authority and the Board shall not be under an obligation to disclose the reason or basis for its review to the affected director or member of staff.
9. In any case in which the Board exercises the waiver or the review thereof as specified in paragraphs 6 and 8 of this Schedule, the Board shall so soon thereafter publish the details thereof and such publication shall include —
- (a) information regarding the identity of the person who has been granted the waiver or whose grant of waiver has been reviewed;
 - (b) the position held by such person; and
 - (c) the nature of the financial interests which are the subject of the waiver or the review thereof.
10. For the purpose of this Schedule —
- (a) "company" includes partnerships and undertakings; and
 - (b) "immediate family" means a person's spouse or a partner living with that person as if they were married to each other and children who are under the age of 18 (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill repeals the National Inland Waterways Authority Act, Cap. N47, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and enacts the Nigerian Inland Waterways Act to provide for the management, regulation and development of inland waterways in Nigeria and establish the Nigerian Inland Waterways Authority to manage and regulate Nigerian inland waterways and promote private sector participation in the inland waterways (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Inland Waterways Authority Act, Cap. N47, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Nigerian Inland Waterways Authority Act, Establish the Nigerian Inland Waterways Authority to Provide for the Management, Regulation and Development of the Nigerian Inland Waterways, and Promote Private Sector Participation in the Development of the Inland Waterways in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 790) (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan*

— Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Inland Waterways Act, Cap. N47, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Nigerian Inland Waterways Act, Establish the Nigeria Inland Waterways Authority to Provide for the Management, Regulation and Development of the Nigeria Inland Waterways and to promote Private Sector participation in the Development of the Nigerian Inland Waterways in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.790) and approved Clauses 1 - 65, the Schedules, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

- (vii) ***A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Broadcasting Commission Act Cap. N11, Laws of Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Related Matters (HB.1816) (Committee of the Whole): Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Broadcasting Commission Act Cap. N11 Laws of Federation of Nigeria 2004 and for Related Matters (HB.1816)” (Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency).***

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING
COMMISSION ACT, CAP. N11, LAWS OF FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004;
AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB.1816)

Clause 1: Amendment of National Broadcasting Commission Act Cap. N11, LFN, 2004.
The National Broadcasting Commission Act, Cap. N11, LFN, 2004 (hereinafter referred to as "the Principal Legislation") is hereby amended in the manner spelt out hereunder (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 2: Amendment of Section 2 (1).
Section 2 (1) of the Principal Legislation is hereby amended to insert new subsection (u) to read thus;

- (u) regulate and review through its broadcasting codes the tariff being charged by the Digital Satellite Television Services and other Broadcasting outfits in Nigeria and subscription policy for subscribers.

Subsection 2 (u) is now re-numbered as subsection (v) as follows:

- (v) carrying out such other activities as are necessary or expedient for the full discharge of all or any of the functions conferred on it under or pursuant to this Bill (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 3: Amendment of Section 2.

Section 2 of the Principal Legislation is hereby amended to insert new subsection 2 (2) thus:

- (2) The Commission shall further oversee the operations of the operators in the industries in the following manners:
 - (a) guarantee openness and competition in the industry favorably for the participation of all and sundry;
 - (b) promote efficiency and expand opportunities for participation of local investors in the industry without downplaying the active foreign investment;
 - (c) assist the local operators in the industry to attain and compete favorably;
 - (d) set and review the broadcasting code and operational policy inclusive of its pricing and charged tariff from time to time to allow for flexible players in the industry;
 - (e) review the broadcasting rights of every Digital Satellite Broadcast industry from time to time to create room for flexible practice in the industry;
 - (f) the commission shall have the reserved sole right to oversee the implementation of this process without any interference (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 4: Amendment of Section 2 (2).

Section 2 (2) of the Principal Legislation is hereby amended and re-numbered as subsection 2 (3) thus:

- (3) No person shall operate or use any apparatus or premises for the transmission of sound or vision by cable, television, radio, satellite or any other medium of broadcast from anywhere in Nigeria except under and in accordance with the provisions of this Bill (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 5: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the National Broadcasting Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to amend the National Broadcasting Commission Act, Cap. N11, LFN, 2004 to encourage liberal, openness and favorable competition in the industry (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Broadcasting Commission Act, Cap. N11, Laws of Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Related Matters (HB.1816) (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Broadcasting Commission Act Cap. N11 Laws of Federation of Nigeria 2004 and for Related Matters. (HB.1816) and approved Clauses 1 - 5, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

(viii) Committee on Federal Colleges of Education:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Federal Colleges of Education on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Colleges of Education Act, Cap. F8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2024 to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of education (Technical), Otan Ayegbaju, Osun State and for Related Matters (HB. 1072)” (*Hon. Adamu Tanko — Gurara/Suleja/Tafa Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE FEDERAL COLLEGES OF
EDUCATION ACT, CAP. F8, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF
NIGERIA, 2004 TO PROVIDE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL), OTAN-AYEBAJU,
OSUN STATE AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB.1072)

Committee’s Recommendation:

Clause 1: Amendment of the Principal Act, Cap. F8, LFN, 2004.

The Federal Colleges of Education Act, Cap. F8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (in this Bill referred to as "the Principal Act") is amended as set out in this Bill (*Hon. Adamu Tanko — Gurara/Suleja/Tafa Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 2: Amendment of the First Schedule.

The First Schedule to the Principal Act is amended by inserting a new Paragraph "(v)", after the existing paragraph "(t)":

“(u) Federal College of Education (Technical), Otan-Ayegbaju, Osun State”
(Hon. Adamu Tanko — Gurara/Suleja/Tafa Federal Constituency).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 3: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Federal Colleges of Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Hon. Adamu Tanko — Gurara/Suleja/Tafa Federal Constituency).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

The Bill seeks to amend the Federal Colleges of Education Act, Cap. F8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to provide for the establishment of Federal College of Education (Technical), Otan-Ayegbaju, Osun State (Hon. Adamu Tanko — Gurara/Suleja/Tafa Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Colleges of Education Act, Cap. F8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of Education (Technical), Otan-Ayegbaju, Osun State and for Related Matters (HB.1072) (Hon. Adamu Tanko — Gurara/Suleja/Tafa Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Federal Colleges of Education on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Colleges of Education Act, Cap. F8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2024 to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of education (Technical), Otan Ayegbaju, Osun State and for Related Matters (HB. 1072) and approved Clauses 1 - 2, the Citation, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

(ix) Committee on Federal Colleges of Education:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Federal Colleges of Education on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Colleges of Education Act, cap. F8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2024 to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of Education (Technical), Fufore, Adamawa State and for Related Matters (HB. 1018)” (Hon. Adamu Tanko — Gurara/Suleja/Tafa Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE FEDERAL COLLEGES OF EDUCATION ACT, CAP. F8, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004 TO PROVIDE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL), FUFURE, ADAMAWA STATE; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 1: Amendment of the Principal Act, Cap. F8, LFN, 2004.

The Federal Colleges of Education Act, Cap. F8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (in this Bill referred to as "the Principal Act") is amended as set out in this Bill (*Hon. Adamu Tanko — Gurara/Suleja/Tafa Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 2: Amendment of the First Schedule.

The First Schedule to the Principal Act is amended by inserting a new paragraph "(z)" after the existing Paragraph "(y)":

"(z) Federal College of Education (Technical), Fufure, Adamawa State (*Hon. Adamu Tanko — Gurara/Suleja/Tafa Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 3: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Federal Colleges of Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (*Hon. Adamu Tanko — Gurara/Suleja/Tafa Federal Constituency*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

The Bill seeks to amend the Federal Colleges of Education Act, Cap. F8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to provide for the establishment of the Federal College of Education (Technical) Fufure, Adamawa State in the First Schedule (*Hon. Adamu Tanko — Gurara/Suleja/Tafa Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Colleges of Education Act, Cap. F8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of Education (Technical), Fufure, Adamawa State; and for Related Matters (HB.1018) (*Hon. Adamu Tanko — Gurara/Suleja/Tafa Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Federal Colleges of Education on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Colleges of Education Act, Cap. F8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2024 to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of Education (Technical), Fufore, Adamawa State and for Related Matters (HB. 1018) and approved Clauses 1 - 3, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

(x) Committee on Health Institutions:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Health Institutions on a Bill for an Act to Amend Medical Centre Act and Establish Federal Medical Centre, Atan-Ota, Ogun State and for Related Matters (HB. 349)” (Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRES ACT TO PROVIDE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE, ATAN-OTA, OGUN STATE; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 349)

Committee’s Recommendation:

Clause 1: Amendment of the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2024.

The Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 (hereinafter called "the Principal Act") is amended as set out in this Bill (Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency).

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

Committee’s Recommendation:

Clause 2: Amendment of the Second Schedule.

The Second Schedule to the Principal Act is amended by inserting a new item "22" —

"22. Federal Medical Centre, Atan-Ota Ogun State” (Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency).

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

Committee’s Recommendation:

Clause 3: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Federal Medical Centres (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2023 to establish Federal Medical Centre, Atan-Ota, Ogun State (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal Medical Centre, Atan-Ota, Ogun State; and for Related Matters (HB. 349) (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Health Institutions on a Bill for an Act to Amend Medical Centre Act and Establish Federal Medical Centre, Atan-Ota, Ogun State and for Related Matters (HB. 349) and approved Clauses 1 - 3, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

(xi) Committee on Health Institutions:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Health Institutions on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, to Provide for Establishment of Federal Medical Centre, Sisinbaki Wamba, Nasarawa State and for Related Matters (HB. 709)” (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE ACT, TO PROVIDE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE, SISINBAKI WAMBA, NASARAWA STATE; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 709)

Committee’s Recommendation:**Clause 1: Amendment of the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022.**

The Federal Medical centres Act, 2022 (Hereinafter called "the Principal Act") is amended as set out in this Bill (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee’s Recommendation:**Clause 2: Amendment of the Second Schedule.**

The Second Schedule to the Principal Act is amended by inserting a new item "29"

—

"29. Federal Medical Centre, Sisinbaki Wamba, Nasarawa State" (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 3: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Federal Medical Centres (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 to establish Federal Medical Centre, Sisinbaki Wamba, Nasarawa State (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centre Act, to Provide for Establishment of Federal Medical Centre, Sisinbaki Wamba, Nasarawa State and for Related Matters (HB. 709) (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Health Institutions on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, to Provide for Establishment of Federal Medical Centre, Sisinbaki Wamba, Nasarawa State and for Related Matters (HB. 709) and approved Clauses 1 - 3, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

(xii) Committee on Health Institutions:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Health Institutions on a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Oke-Igbo, Ondo State and for Related Matters (HB.774)" (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
FEDERAL COLLEGE OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY, OKE-IGBO,
ONDO STATE; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 774)

PART I — ESTABLISHMENT, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COLLEGE

Committee's Recommendation:**Clause 1: Establishment.**

- (1) There is hereby established for the Federal College to be known as the Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery Oke-Igbo, Ondo State.
- (2) The College shall:
 - (a) have the status of a Tertiary Institution with right and privileges of such institutions; and;
 - (b) be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal with powers to sue and be sued in its corporate name (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:**Clause 2: Objectives of the College.**

The objects of College shall be:

- (a) to provide training and research in general Nursing, Midwifery and other specialties of Nursing leading to the award of Professional Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and other Post Basic Certificates;
- (b) to provide avenues for continuing education in Nursing, Midwifery and other related specialties of Nursing; and
- (c) to provide such services that is necessary and incidental to the object of the College (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:**Clause 3: Powers of the College.**

- (1) The College shall be a teaching and examining body and shall subject to the provisions of this Bill and the regulations of the College have powers to:
 - (a) provide rules and conditions under which persons may be admitted as student for any particular course of study provided by the College;
 - (b) provide courses of instruction in the academic and professional programmes for student;
 - (c) make provision for research and the dissemination of knowledge;
 - (d) establish Departments and such other units of learning and research as the purpose of the College may require;
 - (e) create such offices and post as the purpose of the College may require and to appoint persons and remove person from such offices or posts and prescribe their conditions of service;

- (f) maintain libraries, laboratories, workshops, lecture halls, hostels, dining halls, sport field and other building or facilities of the College;
 - (g) provide for residence, recreation and welfare of members of staff and students of the College as may be deemed necessary;
 - (h) demand and receive from students and other persons attending the College for the purpose of instruction such fees as the College may from time to time determine;
 - (i) prescribe rules for the discipline of students of the College;
 - (j) conduct examination and arrange for award of certificates and distinctions to persons who pursue courses of studies approved by the College and who satisfy such other requirement as may from time to time be Prescribe;
 - (k) subject to specific limitations or conditions that may imposed by extant Government regulations or circular, invest any fund apportioned to the College by way of endowment, whether for general or special purpose and such monies as may not immediately be required for current expenditure in any investment or securities;
 - (l) print or publish works or undertake service as may be deemed consistent with the object of the College;
 - (m) do such other acts and things necessary under this Bills for the attainment of the object of the College or incidental to the powers of the College; and
 - (n) carry out any special or general directive consistent with Government policy as the Secretary of health may give in writing.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of the Provision of Section 2 of this Bill and Subsection (1) this Section, the College may by special arrangement with the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria or other Examination bodies prepare it students for award of certificates or other distinctions.
- (3) Subject to the Provisions of this Bill and of any other Statute, the Power conferred on the College by Subsection (1) of this Section shall be exercise on behalf of the College by the Council and the Committees established for the College or by such officers and other staff of the College as may be authorize in that behalf and may also be exercised through schools established under this Bill (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 4: Custody of Common Seal.

- (1) The Provost shall have custody of the common seal of the College and shall be responsible for affixing same to documents.
- (2) The common seal of the College shall not be used save upon the direction of

the Council and shall be authenticated by the signature of the Provost (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

PART II — GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE COLLEGE

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 5: Governing Council of the College.

- (1) There shall be established for the College a Governing Council to be known as the Governing Council of the Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery Oke-Igbo, Ondo State.
- (2) The Council shall consist of:
 - (a) a Chairman who shall be appointed on part time basis by the President on the recommendation of the Minister;
 - (b) a representation of the Federal Ministry of Health;
 - (c) the Provost of the College;
 - (d) a representative of National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives;
 - (e) two members, to represent the interest of the public to be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister of Health (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 6: Tenure of Members.

- (1) Members of the Council other than *Ex-officio* Members shall hold office for a period of four years from the date of their appointment and shall be eligible for re-appointment for one further term of four years and no more.
- (2) Any member of the Council other than an ex officio member may by notice to the council resign his appointment.
- (3) Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Council shall be filled by the appointment of a successor who shall represent the same interest as his predecessor for the remainder of the term of the predecessor (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 7: Functions of the Council.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Council shall:
 - (a) be the governing authority of the College;
 - (b) be charged with general control and superintendence of the policies, finances and properties of the College;

- (c) make regulations for the day to day management of the College; and
- (d) do any other thing necessary or incidental to attainment of objects of the College.

Functions of the Academic Committee.

- (2) Without prejudice to the provisions of Subsection (1) of this Section, the Council shall:
 - (a) ensure that the courses and instructions provided by the College conform to the required standard laid down from time to time by the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria;
 - (b) regulate the teaching of course offered by the College, and also regulate the conduct of examination with respect to the College;
 - (c) approve contracts for procurement of equipment, furniture and other properties required for the purpose of the College;
 - (d) approve contracts for maintenance of the premises and other properties of the College;
 - (e) formulate policies and initiate programmes in all field of learning conducted by the College;
 - (f) assess from time to time the course offered by the College; and
 - (g) perform such other function as may be necessary.
- (3) The Council may delegate any of its functions, other than the power to make regulations, to the Chairman or any other person, Board or Committee it deems it fit in that behalf, but no decision of such person or committee shall take effect unless ratified by Council (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 8: Secretary to the Council.

The Director, Nursing Services of the Secretariat shall be the Secretary to the Secretary to the Council, and for any particular meeting that he may be absent, he shall send a representative to act in that behalf (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 9: Power of the Secretary.

- (1) The Minister of Health to the Council may give to the council directions as to the discharge of its function in relation to matters appearing to the Council to affect public interest and the council shall give effect to such directive.
- (2) The council shall afford the Minister of health facilities for obtaining information with respect to the property of the College and the functions of the council and he shall be furnished with returns, accounts and facilities for verification of the information in such manner and at such times as he may require (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

PART III — SCHOOLS, DEPARTMENTS AND UNITS WITHIN THE COLLEGE

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 10: Schools, Departments and Units.

- (1) There shall be within the College a School of Nursing and a School of Midwifery and such other Schools as the Council may, with the approval of the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria establish.
- (2) Each school shall provide instruction for courses, conduct research and carry out such functions as may be prescribed by the council with the approval of the Minister of Health.
- (3) The constitution of and other matters relating to each schools may be prescribed by the Council with the approval of the Minister of Health (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 11: Departments.

In furtherance of the Provisions of Section 3 (1) (c) of this Bill, the Council shall with the approval of the Minister of Health for each school such department as the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria may from time to time prescribe (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 12: Other Units.

Subject to the Provision to this Bill, the Council may with the approval of the Minister of Health establish units for special purposes within the College; and the name, constitution and functions of any such units may be prescribed by Director of the Council (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

PART IV — PRINCIPAL OFFICER AND STAFF OF THE COLLEGE

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 13: Provost of the College.

There shall be for the College, a Provost and other principal Officers, the designations, qualifications, functions, appointments and removal of whom are spelt out in Sections 15 to 22 of this Bill (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 14: Principal Officers of the College.

- (1) The Principal Officers of the College shall include:
 - (a) the Provost of the College;

- (b) the Deputy Provost (Academics and Administration) of the School in the College;
 - (d) Director Office of Academic and Professional Development(OAPD); and
 - (e) Director, Works and Services.
- (2) The principal officers of the College other than Deans and Deputy Deans of Schools in the College shall be appointed by the Council subjects to the approval of the Minister.
- (3) The Deans and Deputy Deans of Schools in the College shall be appointed by the Council (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 15: Appointment of Provost.

- (1) The Provost shall be appointed by the President on recommendation of the Minister and shall be the Chief Executive and Administrator of the College and also be responsible to the council for maintaining and promoting efficiency and discipline in the College.
- (2) The Provost shall hold a degree in Nursing and shall be a registered Educator in Nursing, Midwifery or other specialty areas of Nursing with not less than fifteen years of teaching experience (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 16: The Deans.

- (1) The Deans of Schools in the College shall be responsible to the Provost for the Administration of the Schools.
- (2) The Deans of schools in the College shall hold degree in Nursing and shall be registered Educators in the Nursing specialty related to their respective school and with not less than ten years of teaching experience (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 17: The Deputy Deans.

- (1) The Deputy Deans of Schools in the College shall be the Chief Assistants to the Deans of their respective Schools and shall perform such duties as may be assigned to them by the Deans.
- (2) The Deputy Deans of Schools in the College shall hold degree in Nursing and shall be registered Educator in the Nursing specialty related to their respective schools with not less than seven years teaching experience (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:**Clause 18: The Registrar of the College.**

- (1) The Registrar of the College shall be the head of administration of the school and shall be responsible to the provost.
- (2) The Registrar shall be an experienced graduate of Social Sciences, management or Humanities with not less than fifteen years' experience in Public Administration.
- (3) The person holding the Office of the Registrar of the College shall by virtue of that office be the secretary to the Academic Board and the finance and General purpose Committee (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:**Clause 19: The Bursar.**

- (1) The Bursar shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the College and shall be responsible to the provost for the day to day administration of the financial affairs of the College.
- (2) The Bursar shall be a qualified Accountant with not less than Ten years post qualification experience (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:**Clause 20: The Librarian.**

- (1) The Librarian shall be responsible to the Provost for the co-ordination of Library Services in the College.
- (2) The Librarian shall have a degree in Library Sciences with not less than ten years qualification experience as a Librarian (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:**Clause 21: Other Staff of the College.**

The Council may appoint such other persons to be Staff of the College as it may deems fit on such terms and conditions as may specified in their instructions of appointment (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:**Clause 22: Removal from Office.**

- (1) The Principal Officers and other Senior Staff of the College may be removed from office by the Minister for misconduct, incompetence or any other justifiable reason on the recommendation of the Council.
- (2) The Council shall have power to remove any Junior Staff of the College for justifiable reasons (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

PART V — ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONS OF COMMITTEES

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 23: Finance and General Purpose Committee.

There shall be a Committee of the Council to be known as the Finance and General Purpose Committee (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 24: Composition of the Committee.

- (1) The Finance and General Purpose Committee shall consist of:
 - (a) the Chairman of the Governing Council who shall be the Chairman;
 - (b) the representative of the Federal Ministry of Health;
 - (c) the Provost of the College;
 - (d) the Director of Finance and Administration in the Secretariat;
 - (e) the Director of Nursing Services in the Federal Ministry of Health;
 - (f) one member of the Academic Committee to be appointed by the Council; and
- (2) The Registrar shall be the Secretary of the Committee (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 25: Functions of the Finance and General Purpose Committee.

- (1) The Finance and General Purpose Committee shall:
 - (a) exercise control over property, revenue and expenditure of the College;
 - (b) award contracts for the execution of project of the College; and
 - (c) perform such other functions as the Council may delegate to it (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 26: Other Committees.

- (1) Further to the Provisions of Section 11 of this Bill, any body of persons established by this Bill shall without prejudice to the generality of the powers of that body, have power to Constitute Committees, which need not consist exclusively of members of that body, and to authorize a committee established by it:

- (a) to exercise, on its behalf, such of its function as it may determine; and
 - (b) to co-opt members , and may direct whether or not co-opted members if any, shall be entitle to vote in that committee.
- (2) Any two or more such bodies may arrange for the holding of joint meetings of those bodies or for the appointment of Committees consisting of members of those bodies for the purpose of considering any matter within the competence of those bodies or any of them and either of dealing with it or of reporting on it to those bodies or any of them.
- (3) The quorum and procedure of a committee establish or meeting held in pursuance of this section shall be such as may be determined by the body or bodies which have decide to establish the committee or hold the meeting (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 26 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART VI — ACADEMIC BOARD

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 27: Establishment of Academic Board.

There shall be for each school of the College an Academic Board which shall be responsible for the academic work of the school (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 27 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 28: Composition of the Academic Board.

The Academic Board for each School of the College shall be composed of:

- (a) the Provost of the College, as Chairman;
- (b) the Dean of the School, as Deputy Chairman;
- (c) the Deputy of the Dean of the School;
- (d) all Heads of Department of the schools;
- (e) one Academic Staff not below the rank of Senior Lecturer to be selected from each of the Department of the School;
- (g) the School Librarian; and
- (h) the Registrar who shall be the Secretary of the Board (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 28 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 29: Functions of the Academic Board.

Subject to the overall control and direction of the Council, the Academic Board of each School of the College shall perform the following functions:

- (1) Regulating and organizing the process of admission, conduct of examinations, award of certificates and all formalities relating to the registration and licensing of graduates.
- (2) Making recommendation to the council on appointment of Academic staff of the school and on the organization of department, Libraries and other units of learn and research in the school.
- (3) Making guideline for the purpose of exercising any of the Functions conferred on it under the provisions of this section.
- (4) Preparing curriculum for the school in line with guidelines from the Nursing and Midwifery council of Nigeria and or other regulatory bodies.
- (5) Performing such other functions that may be assigned to it by the Council (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 29 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART VII — SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 30: Schedule.

The supplementary provision contained in the schedule shall have effect in relation to the proceeding of the various bodies appointed under the provision of this Bill (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 30 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 31: Transition.

In the absence of the council and until it is constituted for the College, the functions and powers of the council under this Bill may be exercise by the Secretary of Health in Consultation with the Director of Nursing Services in the Secretariat (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 31 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART VIII — PROPERTY AND FINANCE

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 32: Transfer of Property.

The Federal Government may, by order transfer any property whether movable or immovable to the College and from the date of such order, any property so transferred shall vest in the College and shall be used for the purpose of the College (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 32 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 33: Property of the College.

The Council may, subject to the provision of this Bill:

- (a) acquire and hold such movable or immovable property as may be necessary or expedient for carrying into effect the provisions of this Bill;

- (b) invest the funds of the College in such manner and to such extent as it may deem necessary or expedient; and
- (c) enter into contractual agreement on behalf of the College (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 33 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 34: Expenditure of the College.

- (1) The Council shall have power to approve expenditure of over ₦100,000.00 but not exceeding ₦1,000,000.00 per unit transaction for the procurement of the goods, works and services and shall refer procurements exceeding the amount to the Minister of Health.
- (2) The Provost shall approve procurement of works, goods and services not exceeding ₦100 000.00.
- (3) The threshold mentioned in this section may be adjusted, in the case of:
 - (a) subsection (1), by the Minister of Health; and
 - (b) subsection (2), by the Council (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 34 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 35: Revenue of the College.

The Finance of the College shall include:

- (a) monies from time to time accruing to the College by way of Government grant, subvention or endowment or other forms of grant-in aid;
- (b) Fees charges by and payable in respect of student;
- (c) any other amounts charges or dues recoverable by the College;
- (d) receipts for publications or services;
- (e) interest on investments;
- (f) donations and legacies (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 35 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 36: Annual Estimates.

Before the end of each financial year or at such other time as may be required by the College shall present for Council estimate of revenue and expenditure for the ensuing financial year and the accepted estimates shall be presented to the Secretary Health and Human Service Secretary who shall cause same to be placed before the Commissioner for approval (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 36 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 37: Statement of Account.

- (1) The College shall prepare in respect of each financial year a statement of account and the said annual statement of account shall be a fair and accurate statement of the financial position of the College for the financial year to which it relates.

Account Audit.

- (2) The said annual statement of accounts shall be audited by the Auditor-General of the Federation or by such competent Auditor appointed by him.
- (3) The said audited statement of accounts, after verification by the Council shall together with the auditor's report is forwarded to the Secretary of Health who shall cause the same to be placed before the Minister (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 37 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 38: Interpretation.

In this Bill unless the context otherwise requires:

"Academic Board" means the Academic Board established under this Bill (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

"Chairman" means the Chairman of the Governing Council of the College or where the context requires Chairman of the respective Committees established under this Bill (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

"College" means the Federal College of Nursing, Midwifery, Oke-Igbo, Ondo State (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

"Council" means the Governing Council established under section 4(1) of this Bill for the College (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

"Executive Committee" means the Executive State Executive Committee (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner for Health, Ondo State (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

"Junior Staff" is a reference to Staff on CONHESS 01-05 or Salary Grade Levels 01-06 (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

"Members" means members of the Council and includes the Chairman of the Council (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

"Provost" means the Provost of the College (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

"Regulations" means any regulation formulated for the College by the Council (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

"Secretariat" means Health and Human Services Secretariat of Ondo State (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

"Secretary" means the Secretary to the Council of the College and otherwise means the Secretary of any Committees established under this Bill (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

"Minister of Health" means the Minister of Health and Human Services or such other official as may be from time to time designation as head of the body responsible for Health Service under Ondo State (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

"Senior Staff" is a reference to staff on CONHESS 06-16 or salary Grade levels 07-17 (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Question that Clause 38 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 39: Citation.

This Bill may cited as the Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Oke-Igbo, Ondo State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 39 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to provide for the establishment of the Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Oke-Igbo, Ondo State, and to provide training and research in general Nursing, Midwifery and other specialties of Nursing (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of the Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Oke-Igbo, Ondo State; and for Related Matters (HB. 774) (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Health Institutions on a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Oke-Igbo, Ondo State and for Related Matters (HB.774) and approved Clauses 1 - 39, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

(xiii) Committee on Health Institutions:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Health Institutions on a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of the Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Awa-Ijebu, Ogun State and other Specialties of Medicine and make Provision for the General Administration of the College and for Related Matters (HB.552)” (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
FEDERAL COLLEGE OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY, AWA-IJEBU,
OGUN STATE; AND OTHER SPECIALTIES OF MEDICINE AND TO
MAKE PROVISION FOR THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF
THE COLLEGE; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 552)

PART I — ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COLLEGE

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 1: Establishment of the College.

- (1) There is hereby established for the Federal College to be known as the Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Awa-Ijebu, Ogun State.
- (2) The College shall:
 - (a) have the status of a Tertiary Institution with right and privileges of such institutions;
 - (b) be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal with; and
 - (c) the College may sue and be sued in its corporate name (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 2: Establishment and Functions of the Governing Council of the College.

- (1) There is established for the College, a governing council
- (2) The Council shall have the responsibility to consider and approve:
 - (a) the Programme of studies to be undertaken in the College;
 - (b) the annual estimates of the College; and
 - (c) the Investment plan of the College (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 3: Membership of the Council.

- (1) The Council of the College shall consists of:
 - (a) a Chairman and other members to be appointed by the President;
 - (b) a representative of the Federal Ministry of Education;
 - (c) a representative of the University to which the college is affiliated for the purpose of moderation;
 - (d) two representatives of the academic board of the college;
 - (e) a representatives of the Alumni Association of the College;

- (f) a representatives of the National Board for Technical Education; and
- (g) the Provost of the College (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 4: Tenure of Members.

- (1) Members of the Council other than Ex-officio Members shall hold office for a period of four years and subject to the provision of subsection (2) of this section shall be eligible for re-appointment of a further period of four years and no more.
- (2) The Office of a member appointed under section 3 of this Bill shall become vacant if:
 - (a) the member resigns from office by notice in writing under his hand addressed to the Minister; or
 - (b) the Minister is satisfied that it is not in the interest of the College for the person appointed to continue in office and notifies the person in writing to that effect (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 5: Objectives of the College.

The objects of College shall be:

- (a) to provide training and research in general Nursing, Midwifery and other specialties of Nursing leading to the award of Professional Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and other Post Basic Certificates;
- (b) to provide avenues for continuing education in Nursing, Midwifery and other related specialties of Nursing;
- (c) to provide such services that is necessary and incidental to the object of the College;
- (d) to organize conferences, seminars and workshops related to the objectives of the College; and
- (e) to perform such other functions as in the opinion of the council may serve to promote the objective of the college (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 6: Powers of the Council.

- (1) The Council of the College shall have power to:
 - (a) hold examinations and grant Diploma, Higher National Diploma Certificates, Professional Certificates and other distinctions to

persons, who have pursued approved courses in the College;

- (b) hold examinations in Nursing and Midwifery;
 - (c) recruit staff and determine structure of such staff;
 - (d) demand and receive from any student or any other person attending the college for the purpose of instruction such fees as the council may with the approval of the Minister from time to time determine;
 - (e) hold public lectures and undertake printing, publishing and bookselling;
 - (f) award fellowship, medals prices and other titles;
 - (g) establish and maintain such schools and other teaching units within the college or extra moral departments as the council may from time to time determine;
 - (h) erect, provide, equip and maintain such educational, nursing and midwifery facilities as the college may require;
 - (i) create lectureships and other academic post and offices and to make appointment thereof;
 - (j) receive and make gifts;
 - (k) enter into such contracts as may be necessary or expedient for carrying into effect the objectives of the college;
 - (l) provide amenities for and make such other provision for the welfare of the staff and students of the college;
 - (m) encourage and make provision for research in the college;
 - (n) do such acts and things whether or not incidental to the foregoing power as may advance the objects of the college.
- (2) Subject to the provision of this bill, the powers conferred on the College shall be exercisable on behalf of the College by the governing council (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 7: Visitation.

- (1) The Minister of Education shall be the Visitor of the College.
- (2) The Visitor shall as often as circumstances may require, not less than once in every five years conduct a visitation to the college or appoint a visitation panel consisting of not less than five experts to conduct the visitation:
 - (a) for the purpose of evaluating academic and administrative performance of the college; or

- (b) for such other purpose as the visitor may deem fit (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 8: Academic Board and Functions.

- (1) There shall be established for the College a Board to be known as the Academic Board which shall consists of the following members:
- (a) the Provost of the College as the Chairman;
 - (b) all Heads of Departments;
 - (c) the College Bursar;
 - (d) the College Librarian;
 - (e) not more than three members of the Academic Staff other than the Heads of Departments to be appointed by the Council;
- (2) The Academic Board shall be responsible for:
- (a) the direction and management of academic matters of the College including the regulation of admission of students, the award of certificates, scholarships, prizes and other academic distinctions;
 - (b) discharging any other function(s) which the Council may from time to time delegate to it (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 9: Powers of the Minister.

The Minister may give to the Council directions of a general character or relating generally to matters with regard to the exercise by the Council of its functions and it shall be the duty of the Council to comply with such directions (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 10: Provost of the College.

- (1) There shall be a Provost for the College who shall be appointed by the president on the recommendation of the Minister.
- (2) Where a vacancy occurs in the post of Provost, the Council shall:
- (a) advertise the vacancy if a widely read newspaper in Nigeria stating:
 - (i) the qualities of the person who may apply for the post;
 - (ii) the terms and conditions applicable to the post and thereafter draw up a short list of suitable candidates for consideration of the Minister.

- (3) The President shall appoint as Provost one of the candidates recommended by the Minister.
- (4) Subject to the general control of the Council, the Provost shall be the Chief Executive of the College and shall be charged with general responsibility for matters relating to the day-to-day management and operations of the College.
- (5) The Provost shall hold office for a period of five years only and on such terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of appointment (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 11: Deputy Provost of the College.

- (1) There shall be for the College two Deputy Provosts namely: Deputy Provost (Administration) and Deputy Provost (Academics).
- (2) The Council shall select the Deputy provosts from among the chief lecturers in the College in any of the following ways, that is:
 - (a) from a list of five preferred candidates submitted by the Provost;
 - (b) on the recommendation of a Selection Board set up for that purpose;
 - (c) on the recommendation of the Provost.
- (3) The Selection Board referred to in subsection (2) (b) of this section shall consist of:
 - (i) the Chairman of the Council;
 - (ii) the Provost of the College;
 - (iii) two members of the Academic Board; and
 - (iv) two members of the Council who are not of the Academic Board.
- (4)
 - (a) The Deputy Provost (Administration) shall:
 - (i) assist the Provost in administrative matters of the college; and
 - (ii) act as the Provost when the post of the Provost is vacant or if the Provost is for any reason, absent or unable to perform his function.
 - (b) The Deputy Provost (Academics):
 - (i) assist the Provost in the performance of his functions in Academic matters of the College;
 - (ii) perform such other functions as the Provost or the Council may from time to time assign to him.
- (5) Each of the Deputy Provosts shall hold office for a period of two or more

years (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 12: The Registrar of the College.

- (1) There shall be a Registrar for the College to be appointed by the Council.
- (2) The Registrar shall keep the records and conduct the correspondence of the Council.
- (3) The Registrar shall be the Secretary to:
 - (a) the Council;
 - (b) the Academic Board; and
 - (c) any Committee of the Council.
- (4) The Registrar may perform any duty as may be assigned to him by the council or the Provost.
- (5) The Registrar shall hold office for a period of five years and no more (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 13: Other Principal Officers of the College.

- (1) There shall be for the College in addition to the Registrar:
 - (a) the Bursar; and
 - (b) the College Librarian who shall be appointed by the Council.
- (2) The Bursar shall be for the Chief Financial Officer of the College and be responsible to the Provost for the day to day administration and control of the financial affairs of the College.
- (3) The College Librarian shall be responsible to the Provost for the administration of the College Library and the coordination of the library services in the teaching units of the College.
- (4) The Bursar and the College Librarian shall each hold office for a period of five years and no more (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 14: Resignation of Appointment of Principal Officers of the College.

A Principal Officer of the College may resign his appointment:

- (a) in case of the provost by notice to the Visitor; and

- (b) in any other case by notice of the Council (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 15: Other Employees of the College.

- (1) The Council may appoint other persons to be employees of the College as the Council may deem fit, to assist the Provost and the Principal officers of College in the performance of their functions.
- (2) The remuneration, tenure of office and conditions of service of such employees of the college shall be determined by the Council in consultation with the Federal Civil Service Commission (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 16: Pensions.

Service in the College shall be approved service for the purpose of the Pension Reform Act, 2004 and accordingly, officers and other person's employees of the College shall be entitled to Pension's gratuity and other retirement benefits as may be prescribed in their respective letters of appointment (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 17: Selection Board for Other Principal Officers.

- (1) There shall be a Selection Board for the College, consisting of:
- (a) the Chairman of the Council;
- (b) the Provost of the College;
- (c) four Members of Council, not members of the Academic Board and;
- (d) two members of the Academic Board.
- (2) The functions, procedure and other matters relating to the Selection Board constituted under subsection (1) of this section shall be determined from time to time by the Council (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 18: Fund of the College.

- (1) The College shall establish and maintain a fund which shall be applied towards the promotion of the objectives of the College.
- (2) There shall be paid and credited to the fund established under subsection (1) of this section:
- (a) such sums as may from time to time be granted by the Federal

Government through the National Commission for Colleges of Education;

- (b) all monies raised by the Council by way of gifts, grants in aid or testamentary disposition; and
 - (c) all subscription fees and charges for services rendered by the College and all sums that may accrue to the College from any source.
- (3) The Council shall submit to the Minister through the National Commission for Colleges of Education not later than three months to the end of each financial year or at such times as he may direct an estimate of its revenue and expenditure for the next succeeding financial year (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 19: Power to accept gifts.

- (1) The College may accept gifts of loan, money or of other property upon such terms and conditions, if any as may be specified by the person making the gifts.
- (2) The College shall not accept any gifts if the conditions attached to the gift are inconsistent with the objectives of the College (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 20: Account and Audit.

The College shall keep her proper accounts of its receipts, payments, assets and liabilities and shall in respect of each year cause the account to be audited (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 21: Annual Receipts.

The Council shall as soon as maybe after the expiration of each financial year, prepare and submit to the Minister a report of its activities during the immediate preceding financial year and shall include in the report a copy of the audited accounts of the College for that year and of the auditor's report of the accounts (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 22: Interpretation.

In this Bill the under listed terms have the following meanings;

"Chairman" means the Chairman of the Council (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

"College" means the Federal College of Nursing, Midwifery, Awa-ijebu, Ogun State established under section (1) of this Bill (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “College” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Council" means the Governing Council of the College established under section 2 of this Bill (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

"Function" includes power and duties (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “Function” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Minister" means the Minister charged with responsibility for Education;

"Members" means Member of the Council including the Chairman (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word “Members” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Provost" means the Provost established in Section (10) of this Bill (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

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

Committee’s Recommendation:

Clause 23: Citation.

This Bill may cited as the Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Awa-Ijebu, Ogun State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

SCHEDULE

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE COUNCIL, ETC

1. There may be paid to the members of the Council or any Committee other than *ex-officio* members, such as remuneration and allowances as may from time to time be determined by the president.
2. Where a vacancy occurs in respect of the membership specified in section 3, it shall be filled

by the appointment of a successor to hold office for the remainder of the term of office of his predecessor in office and such successor shall represent the same interest as his predecessor.

3. The Council may act notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership or any defect in the appointment of a member or the absence of a member.

Proceedings

4. The Council shall meet for the conduct of its business at such time, place and on such days as the Chairman may appoint but shall meet not less than once every four months.
5. The Chairman may at any time and shall, at any request in writing of not less than six members, convene a meeting of the council.
6. Where the council desires to obtain the advice of any person on any particular matter, the Council may co-opt persons who are not members of the council but persons co-opted shall not be entitled to vote at a meeting of the council.
7. The quorum of the Council shall be one half of the total members of the Council, at least one of whom shall be a member appointed by the president.
8. Decisions of the Council shall be made on approval by a simple majority of members.

Miscellaneous

9. (1) The fixing of the seal of the College shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman, provost and of some members of the Council authorized generally or specially, by the Council to act for that purpose.
- (2) Any contract or instrument which, if made or executed by a person other than a body corporate would not be required to be under seal maybe made executed on behalf of the College by any person generally or specially authorized to act for that purpose by the Council.
- (3) Any document purporting to be duly executed under the seal of the College shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be presumed to be so executed (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to establish the Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Awa-Ijebu, Ogun State, to provide training and research in nursing, midwifery and other specialties of nursing leading to the award of professional certificates, diplomas, degrees and other post basic certificate and to make provision for the general administration of the College (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of the Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Awa-Ijebu, Ogun State; and Other Specialties of Medicine and to Make Provision for the General Administration of the College; and for Related Matters (HB. 552) (*Hon. Oke Martins George — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Health Institutions on a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of the Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Awa-Ijebu, Ogun State and other Specialties of Medicine and make Provision for the General Administration of the College and for Related Matters (HB.552) and approved Clauses 1 - 39, the Schedule, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

(xiv) Ad-hoc Committee on the Need to Unravel the Cause of Miguel Ovoke's Death:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Need to Unravel the Cause of Miguel Ovoke's Death, a four-year old pupil at Brickhall School in Abuja" (Hon. Adamu Tanko — Gurara/Suleja/Tafa Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Recommendation (i):

"Establishment of Comprehensive Safety Guidelines:

Urge the FCTA Education Secretariat to develop and enforce comprehensive guidelines, regulations, and standards that emphasize student safety and well-being in all schools. This framework should include protocols for food safety, emergency response training, and the management of health-related incidents" (Hon. Adamu Tanko — Gurara/Suleja/Tafa Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (ii):

"Regular Inspections and Audits; and Establishment of a Reporting System:

Urge FCTA Education Secretariat to:

- (a) establish a program of regular inspections, audits, and assessments of schools to ensure adherence to safety regulations, these evaluations should occur bi-annually to effectively monitor safety measures and proactively address any concerns;
- (b) implement a system for reporting safety incidents and concerns in schools. This system should allow for anonymity to encourage more reporting and should be monitored regularly by the FCTA Education Secretariat" (Hon. Adamu Tanko — Gurara/Suleja/Tafa Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (iii):**“Mandatory Training for Staff:**

Also urge all public and private school staff to undergo mandatory training in first aid and emergency response, covering choking protocols, student safety during meals, and emergency communication with parents and authorities” (*Hon. Adamu Tanko — Gurara/Suleja/Tafa Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (iv):**“Awareness Campaigns for Parents and Students:**

An advocacy group composed of parents, school representatives, and health professionals should be established to educate families about food safety, healthy eating for young children, recognizing medical emergencies to prevent future incidents; and to monitor and address safety concerns in educational institutions, acting as a bridge between schools and the education authority to ensure all stakeholder voices are heard” (*Hon. Adamu Tanko — Gurara/Suleja/Tafa Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report proceedings.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Need to Unravel the Cause of Miguel Ovoke's Death, a four-year old pupil at Brickhall School in Abuja and approved Recommendation (i) - (iv) of the Report.

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

28. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act, No.14 of 2015 and Enact the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act, for the Purpose of Providing Additional Functions for the Organisation, Creating New Offences and Increasing Penalties for Offences Relating to Standardisation and for Related Matters (HB.481 and HB.627) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act, No.14 of 2015 and Enact the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act, for the Purpose of Providing Additional Functions for the Organisation, Creating New Offences and Increasing Penalties for Offences Relating to Standardisation and for Related Matters (HB.481 and HB.627) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

29. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Sea Fisheries Act Cap. S4 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to among other things bring the Penalties therein in Conformity with Modern Day Realities and for Related Matters (HB.179) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Sea Fisheries Act Cap. S4 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to among other things bring the Penalties therein in Conformity with Modern Day Realities and for Related Matters (HB.179) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

30. **A Bill for an Act to make Provision for the Integration of Private Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Infrastructure into the National Security Network in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.177) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to make Provision for the Integration of Private Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Infrastructure into the National Security Network in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.177) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

31. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Inland Waterways Act, Cap. N47, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Nigerian Inland Waterways Act, Establish the Nigeria Inland Waterways Authority to Provide for the Management, Regulation and Development of the Nigeria Inland Waterways and to promote Private Sector participation in the Development of the Nigerian Inland Waterways in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.790) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Inland Waterways Act, Cap. N47, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Nigerian Inland Waterways Act, Establish the Nigeria Inland Waterways Authority to Provide for the Management, Regulation and Development of the Nigeria Inland Waterways and to promote Private Sector participation in the Development of the Nigerian Inland Waterways in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.790) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

32. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Broadcasting Commission Act, Cap. N11, Laws of Federation of Nigeria 2004 and for Related Matters (HB.1816) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Broadcasting Commission Act, Cap. N11, Laws of Federation of Nigeria 2004 and for Related Matters (HB.1816) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

33. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Colleges of Education Act, Cap. F8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2024, to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of education (Technical), Otan Ayegbaju, Osun State and for Related Matters (HB. 1072) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Colleges of Education Act, Cap. F8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2024, to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of education (Technical), Otan Ayegbaju, Osun State and for Related Matters (HB. 1072) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

34. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Colleges of Education Act, cap. F8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2024, to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of Education**

(Technical), Fufore, Adamawa State and for Related Matters (HB. 1018) — Third Reading
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Colleges of Education Act, Cap. F8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2024, to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of Education (Technical), Fufore, Adamawa State and for Related Matters (HB. 1018) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

35. **A Bill for an Act to Amend Medical Centre Act and Establish Federal Medical Centre, Atan-Ota, Ogun State and for Related Matters (HB. 349) — Third Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend Medical Centre Act and Establish Federal Medical Centre, Atan-Ota, Ogun State and for Related Matters (HB. 349) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

36. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, to Provide for Establishment of Federal Medical Centre, Sisinbaki Wamba, Nasarawa State and for Related Matters (HB. 709) — Third Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, to Provide for Establishment of Federal Medical Centre, Sisinbaki Wamba, Nasarawa State and for Related Matters (HB. 709) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

37. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Oke-Igbo, Ondo State and for Related Matters (HB.774) — Third Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Oke-Igbo, Ondo State and for Related Matters (HB.774) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

38. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of the Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Awa-Ijebu, Ogun State and other Specialties of Medicine and make Provision for the General Administration of the College and for Related Matters (HB.552) — Third Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of the Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Awa-Ijebu, Ogun State and other Specialties of Medicine and make Provision for the General Administration of the College and for Related Matters (HB.552) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

39. Adjournment of First Sitting

That the House do adjourn the First Sitting till 3.50 p.m. (Hon. Fulata Abubakar — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasamma Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 3.25 p.m.

Benjamin Okezie Kalu
Deputy Speaker