



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA FIRST VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 6 June, 2024

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1. The House met at 11.27 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, 5 June, 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 Blossom Kids Academy & Blossom College, Lugbe, Abuja.
5. **Petitions**
 - (i) A petition from Asa Development Union, on behalf of Ukwu West Local Government Area, Abia State, on alleged murder of Ocheze Vivian Ogbonna and 2 others by Inner Galaxy Steel Company Limited, was presented and laid by Hon. Chris Nkwonta (*Ukwu East/Ukwu West Federal Constituency*);
 - (ii) A petition from Boniface Oga Oche, on alleged exclusion from the National Pension Scheme, by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), was presented and laid by Hon. Abdullahi El-Rasheed (*Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*);
 - (iii) A petition from S. A. Atalor & Co., (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Augustine Osa, on alleged breach of agreement and threat to life by Jolly and 1 other, was presented and laid by Hon. Billy Osawaru Famous (*Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

6. Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 5)**(i) *Trapped Miners in the Deep Mining Pit at Galadiman Kogo Mining Site in Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State:***

Hon. Ismail Musa Modibo (*Shiroro/Rafi/Munya Federal Constituency and 24 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.

Trapped Miners in the Deep Mining Pit at Galadiman Kogo Mining Site in Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State:

The House:

Notes the distressing incident on Monday, 3 June, 2024, where over a hundred miners working with a mining entity called **Africa Minerals and Logistics Company Ltd** were tragically trapped within a Rocky Mining Pit, and all efforts to rescue the victims are in vain, necessitating immediate federal intervention;

Aware of the presence of both State and Federal Distress Response team at the collapsed mining pit;

Expresses grave concern over the report of the death of many miners during the rescue operations;

Emphasizes the critical need for the deployment of more Special Rescue Experts to the site to prevent further loss of life;

Worried that the lack of adequate safety measures and emergency equipment by the mining companies led to this unfortunate situation;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute of silence in honour of the deceased and solidarity with those awaiting rescue;
- (ii) call on the Ministry of Solid Minerals to deploy more Emergency Response Specialists to the mining site without delay, for effective and successful rescue operations;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Solid Minerals to investigate the operational eligibility of **Africa Minerals and Logistics Company Ltd**, and also the underlying causes of this calamity and to review current mining safety regulations (*Hon. Ismail Musa Modibo — Shiroro/Rafi/Munya Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

A minute silence observed in honour of the deceased.

The House:

Noted the distressing incident on Monday, 3 June, 2024, where over a hundred miners working with a mining entity called **Africa Minerals and Logistics Company Ltd** were tragically trapped within a Rocky Mining Pit, and all efforts to rescue the victims are in vain, necessitating immediate federal intervention;

Aware of the presence of both State and Federal Distress Response team at the collapsed mining pit;

Expressed grave concern over the report of the death of many miners during the rescue operations;

Emphasized the critical need for the deployment of more Special Rescue Experts to the site to prevent further loss of life;

Worried that the lack of adequate safety measures and emergency equipment by the mining companies led to this unfortunate situation;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute of silence in honour of the deceased and solidarity with those awaiting rescue;
 - (ii) call on the Ministry of Solid Minerals to deploy more Emergency Response Specialists to the mining site without delay, for effective and successful rescue operations;
 - (iii) mandate the Committee on Solid Minerals to investigate the operational eligibility of **Africa Minerals and Logistics Company Ltd**, and also the underlying causes of this calamity and to review current mining safety regulations (**HR. 252/06/2024**).
- (ii) ***Need to Investigate Private Internet Service Providers in Nigeria:***
Hon. Leke Joseph Abejide (*Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopa Muro 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 Investigate Private Internet Service Providers in Nigeria:

The House:

Notes that numerous Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have managed to evade accountability for their widespread inefficiency, feeble and inferior service delivery, while consumers are compelled to persistently pay for inadequate services due to the apparent absence of regulations governing their pricing and service provision, thereby enabling them to exploit Nigerians;

Also notes that frequent service outages, slow speeds, and inconsistent connectivity are widespread issues faced daily by consumers, as in this digital age, efficient Internet connection is a necessity, not a luxury;

Concerned that consumers sometimes experience service outages for more than an aggregate of two weeks in a single month from some ISPs, with no mechanism for refunding subscription fees, thus perpetuating a disregard for consumer rights and leading to exploitation;

Also concerned that Legend, an ISP operating in Abuja, charges its subscribers a flat monthly prepaid rate despite knowing that its services are frequently interrupted. The company offers various tariff rates, with the highest being approximately ₦83,000.00 per month, yet it rarely delivers uninterrupted service for even half of the month;

Further concerned that Legend ISP deliberately provides reliable internet service only few days preceding monthly billing, deceiving customers into renewing subscriptions under the false impression of satisfactory performance, before immediately reverting to its persistently inadequate service levels presenting an unethical business model of exploitation of consumers that requires accountability to regulators;

Worried that regulatory agencies have so far condoned the activities of inefficient ISPs to the detriment of consumers;

Also worried that the inefficiency of ISPs and their exploitative practices have far-reaching consequences on Nigerian society, hindering progress and negatively impacting business and economic activities;

Aware that by addressing the inefficiencies of ISPs and promoting accountability, a fair and inclusive digital landscape can be created that empowers individuals, strengthens the economy, and fosters social progress;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and relevant agencies to develop a consumer protection framework that includes provisions for automatic compensation or refunds for prolonged service outages or significant deviations from advertised service levels;
- (ii) also urge NCC to initiate a policy of Pay As You Go to all ISPs in order to minimize high level of exploitations by ISPs for services not rendered;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Communications to investigate the private Internet service providers and report within two (2) weeks (*Hon. Leke Joseph Abejide — Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that numerous Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have managed to evade accountability for their widespread inefficiency, feeble and inferior service delivery, while consumers are compelled to persistently pay for inadequate services due to the apparent absence of regulations governing their pricing and service provision, thereby enabling them to exploit Nigerians;

Also noted that frequent service outages, slow speeds, and inconsistent connectivity are widespread issues faced daily by consumers, as in this digital age, efficient Internet connection is a necessity, not a luxury;

Concerned that consumers sometimes experience service outages for more than an aggregate of two weeks in a single month from some ISPs, with no mechanism for refunding subscription fees, thus perpetuating a disregard for consumer rights and leading to exploitation;

Also concerned that Legend, an ISP operating in Abuja, charges its subscribers a flat monthly prepaid rate despite knowing that its services are frequently interrupted. The company offers various tariff rates, with the highest being approximately ₦83,000.00 per month, yet it rarely delivers uninterrupted service for even half of the month;

Further concerned that Legend ISP deliberately provides reliable internet service only few days preceding monthly billing, deceiving customers into renewing subscriptions under the false impression of satisfactory performance, before immediately reverting to its persistently inadequate service levels presenting an unethical business model of exploitation of consumers that requires accountability to regulators;

Worried that regulatory agencies have so far condoned the activities of inefficient ISPs to the detriment of consumers;

Also worried that the inefficiency of ISPs and their exploitative practices have far-reaching consequences on Nigerian society, hindering progress and negatively impacting business and economic activities;

Aware that by addressing the inefficiencies of ISPs and promoting accountability, a fair and inclusive digital landscape can be created that empowers individuals, strengthens the economy, and fosters social progress;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and relevant agencies to develop a consumer protection framework that includes provisions for automatic compensation or refunds for prolonged service outages or significant deviations from advertised service levels;
 - (ii) also urge NCC to initiate a policy of Pay As You Go to all ISPs in order to minimize high level of exploitations by ISPs for services not rendered;
 - (iii) mandate the Committee on Communications to investigate the private Internet service providers and report within two (2) weeks (**HR. 253/06/2024**).
- (iii) ***Alleged Fraudulent Allocation of Title Document to Some Real Estate Developers in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT):***
Hon. Gaza Jonathan Gbefwi (*Karu/Keffi/Kokona 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.

Alleged Fraudulent Allocation of Title Document to Some Real Estate Developers in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT):

The House:

Notes that by virtue of Section 297 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), the ownership of all lands in the FCT, Abuja, is vested in the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

Also notes that Section 302 of the Constitution provides *inter alia*, that the President may, in the exercise of the powers conferred upon him by Section 147 of the Constitution, appoint for the FCT, Abuja, a Minister who shall exercise powers and perform such functions as may be delegated to him by the President, from time to time;

Aware that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu was sworn on Monday, 29 May, 2023, marking the start of the Four-year term as President and Kashim Shettima as Vice President;

Also aware that the current Minister of FCT, Ezenwo Nyesom Wike, CON, assumed office as the FCT Minister on the 21 August, 2023;

Observes that in the period 29 May, 2023 - 21 August, 2023, several title documents on land in the FCT were issued to some real estate developers in a highly suspicious manner;

Wonders if the Director of Lands or any official of the FCDA, who issued R of O's, purportedly in the name of the Minister of FCT, at the period when the office of the Minister was vacant, have the legal right or authority to do so;

Concerned that some of the lands affected were subject to litigations that were yet to be resolved;

Disturbed that some of the beneficiaries of these alleged fraudulent allocations are already using them to forcibly grab disputed land which is a recipe for conflicts;

Convinced that if the title document of any land is fraudulently issued or procured, whatever is built on it should not stand, in the interest of the public;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Federal Capital Territory, and Federal Capital Territory Area Councils and Ancillary Matters to :

- (i) investigate all allocations of land in the name of the Minister of FCT, Abuja, given within the period of 29 May, 2023 to 21 August, 2023 when the office was vacant;
- (ii) also investigate all such lands which are subject to litigation or multiple allocations, should be identified and their allocation withdrawn by the Minister pending the resolution of the matter and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Gaza Jonathan Ebefwi — Karu/Keffi/Kokona Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that by virtue of Section 297 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), the ownership of all lands in the FCT, Abuja, is vested in the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

Also noted that Section 302 of the Constitution provides *inter alia*, that the President may, in the exercise of the powers conferred upon him by Section 147 of the Constitution, appoint for the FCT, Abuja, a Minister who shall exercise powers and perform such functions as may be delegated to him by the President, from time to time;

Aware that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu was sworn on Monday, 29 May, 2023, marking the start of the Four-year term as President and Kashim Shettima as Vice President;

Also aware that the current Minister of FCT, Ezenwo Nyesom Wike, CON, assumed office as the FCT Minister on the 21 August, 2023;

Observed that in the period 29 May, 2023 - 21 August, 2023, several title documents on land in the FCT were issued to some real estate developers in a highly suspicious manner;

Wondered if the Director of Lands or any official of the FCDA, who issued R of O's, purportedly in the name of the Minister of FCT, at the period when the office of the Minister was vacant, have the legal right or authority to do so;

Concerned that some of the lands affected were subject to litigations that were yet to be resolved;

Disturbed that some of the beneficiaries of these alleged fraudulent allocations are already using them to forcibly grab disputed land which is a recipe for conflicts;

Convinced that if the title document of any land is fraudulently issued or procured, whatever is built on it should not stand, in the interest of the public;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Federal Capital Territory, and Federal Capital Territory Area Councils and Ancillary Matters to :

- (i) investigate all allocations of land in the name of the Minister of FCT, Abuja, given within the period of 29 May, 2023 to 21 August, 2023 when the office was vacant;
- (ii) also investigate all such lands which are subject to litigation or multiple allocations, should be identified and their allocation withdrawn by the Minister pending the resolution of the matter and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 254/06/2024**).

7. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1428).
- (2) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1430).
- (3) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1431).
- (4) Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Sabuwa, Katsina State Bill, 2024 (HB. 1466).

- (5) Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1474).
- (6) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1482).
- (7) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1504).
- (8) Institute of Education and Planning Administration Bill, 2024 (SB. 40).
- (9) Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1447).
- (10) Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1289).
- (11) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1517).
- (12) Citizenship Benefit Bill, 2024 (HB. 1518).
- (13) South East Erosion Control Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1287).
- (14) North-West Development Commission (Establishment) (SB. 267).
- (15) National Farm Settlement Development Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1415).
- (16) National Institute for Organic Agriculture and Food Safety Research, Ulonna North Isuikwuato, Abia State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1380).
- (17) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1502).
- (18) Federal Capital Territory University, Abaji (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1503).
- (19) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1506).
- (20) FCT Health Insurance Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1477).
- (21) FCT Signage and Advertisement Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1479).

8. Presentation of Report

Committee on Federal Capital Territory:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Federal Capital Territory on a Bill for an Act to Authorise the issue from the Federal Capital Territory Administration's Statutory Revenue Fund of the Federal Capital Territory Administration account, the total sum of ₦98,500,000,000 (ninety-eight billion, five hundred million) only for Capital Projects; for the Service of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, for the Financial ending 31 December, 2024 (HB. 1440)” (*Hon. Aliyu Muktar Betara — Biu/Kwaya-Kusar/Shani/Bayo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

9. Consolidation of Bills

Motion made and Question proposed, That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Tobacco Control Act, 2015 to cure certain defects in the Act, ensure its effective Implementation in Nigeria and address the Lacuna that may be easily exploited by Tobacco Industry in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.47); and a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Tobacco Smoking (Control) Act, 2015 to impose stiffer Penalties for Smoking of Tobacco in Public Places and for Related Matters (HB.1151) be now consolidated (*Hon. Waive Ejiroghene Fracis — Warri North/Warri South/Warri South West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to Establish and Empower the Electoral Offences Commission to provide for the Investigation, Prosecution and Adjudication of Electoral Offences and for Related Matters (HB.1219) — *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 Establish and Empower the Electoral Offences Commission to provide for the Investigation, Prosecution and Adjudication of Electoral Offences and for Related Matters (HB.1219) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Aminu Jamo Daura — Daura/Sandamu/Maiádua 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.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Health Insurance Authority Act, 2021 to Establish National Social Register (NSR) as the Primary Identification Tool for the Disbursement of the Vulnerable Group Funds and for Related Matters (HB.803) — *Second Reading***
Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Health Insurance Authority Act, 2021 to Establish National Social Register (NSR) as the Primary Identification Tool for the Disbursement of the Vulnerable Group Funds and for Related Matters (HB.803) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Adedayo Samuel Adesola — Apapa. 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.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Amend Federal Medical Centres Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Federal Medical Centre, Damasak, Borno State; and for Related Matters. (HB.544) — *Second Reading***

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

13. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Technical and Vocational Training Centre, Aba to Promote Training, Certification and Registration of Trained Artisans to Ensure Effective Provision of Technical Services in the Execution of Both Public and Private Capital Projects in Nigeria and for Related Matters. (HB.1328) — *Second Reading***

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

14. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Chartered Institute of Public Health Studies and Administration charged with Responsibility of advancing the study, Training and Practice of Public Health Management and Administration in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 161 and HB. 1041) — *Second Reading***

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Chartered Institute of Public Health Studies and Administration charged with Responsibility of advancing the study, Training and Practice of Public Health Management and Administration in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 161 and HB. 1041) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Shehu Saleh Rijau — Magama/Rijau 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 Health Institutions.

15. A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of the Federal College of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Sciences, Damagum, Fune, Yobe State and for Related Matters (HB.1022) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of the Federal College of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Sciences, Damagum, Fune, Yobe State and for Related Matters. (HB.1022) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Muhammed Buba Jajere — Fika/Fune. 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.

16. Reconsideration of Outstanding Bills from Preceding Assembly

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that pursuant to Order Twelve, Rule 17 (a), (b), (c) and (d) of the Standing Orders, the House may, upon being re-gazetted or circulated, reconsider in the Committee of the Whole, without commencing *de-novo*, the Bill(s):

- (a) whose report was presented by the Committee before consideration,
- (b) passed by the House and forwarded to the Senate for concurrence for which no concurrence was made or negative,
- (c) passed by the Senate and forwarded to the House for which no concurrence was made or negative, or
- (d) passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but for which assent or withholding therefore was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the preceding Assembly;

Also notes that the underlisted Bills were passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but for which assent or withholding thereof was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the last Assembly;

- (i) National Inland Waterways Authority Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 790),
- (ii) Chartered Institute of Health Care Management of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1260),
- (iii) Chartered Institute of Human Capital Development of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1261),

- (iv) Chartered Institute of Export and Commodity Brokers of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1262),
- (v) Auctioneers Registration Council of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1508),
- (vi) Maize Export Prohibition Bill, 2024 (HB. 1509), and
- (vii) Federal University of Education, Numan, Adamawa State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1799);

Aware that the Bills were read for the first time as HB. 790, HB. 1260, HB. 1261, HB. 1262, HB. 1508, HB. 1509 and HB. 1799 respectively;

Resolves to:

Re-commit the Bills to the Committee of the Whole for consideration (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

17. Review of the Nigerian Curriculum for Primary and Secondary Schools in line with Current Global Market Needs and Contemporary Realities

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Nigeria's traditional curriculum, for primary and secondary schools, faces challenges compared to advanced nations, while it equips students with knowledge, it prioritizes rote learning over practical skills like critical thinking and problem-solving, which are very crucial in current labour market, the curriculum might have a stronger focus on national subjects, potentially limiting exposure to global perspectives necessary to navigate the interconnected world;

Also notes that Nigeria faces challenge in aligning its educational curriculum with advanced countries, traditionally, the Nigerian curriculum has emphasized rote memorization and standardized testing, while this approach lays a strong foundation in core subjects, it often falls short in:

- (a) developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills: advanced economies prioritize fostering analytical abilities and encouraging students to approach challenges with innovative solutions,
- (b) equipping graduates with industry-relevant skills: the curriculum in developed nations often integrates practical training and exposure to real-world scenarios, preparing students for the specific demands of the job market,
- (c) embracing technological advancements: integrating technology effectively into the learning process is crucial for success in today's world. This area might require significant improvement in resource allocation and teacher training in Nigeria compared to its more technologically advanced counterpart;

Aware that the world is in flux, skills needed to thrive are constantly evolving, demanding a critical evaluation of current educational systems, the traditional curriculum may not adequately equip graduates for the dynamic labour market to bridge this gap, a comprehensive review of educational programmes at all levels is essential;

Also aware that the review should focus on aligning learning outcomes with the demands of the contemporary world, fostering critical thinking, innovation and equipping students with tools lost

navigate an increasingly digital landscape, to ensure education system remains relevant and empowers individuals to succeed in the ever-changing world;

Worried that the curriculum prioritizes theoretical knowledge and rote memorization over equipping students with the practical skills increasingly demanded by the globalized job market, this could leave Nigerian graduates unprepared for the realities of workplace expectations;

Also worried that Nigerian curriculum, compared to advanced countries, lack sufficient technology integration, hindering digital literacy skills necessary to thrive in a tech-driven world;

Concerned that the rigid curriculum structure limits student exploration and overlook global perspectives, potentially hindering graduates' adaptability and competitiveness in the interconnected world;

Also concerned that a heavy reliance on standardized tests restrict opportunities for fostering critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Education in conjunction with State Ministries of Education to:
 - (a) conduct a comprehensive review of the curriculum across primary, secondary and tertiary institutions;
 - (b) align the curriculum with evolving global market demands, emphasizing skills like critical thinking, problem-solving, digital literacy, and adaptability,
 - (c) integrate practical applications, promote critical thinking and innovation, and enhance digital literacy,
 - (d) nurture essential soft skills like communications, teamwork, and interpersonal skills,
 - (e) address resource disparities and ensure equitable access to qualified teachers, updated learning materials, and proper infrastructure,
 - (f) incorporate a global perspective, broadening the curriculum to encompass international issues and fostering global citizenship; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Basic Education and Services, and University Education to ensure compliance (*Hon. Bamidele Salam — Ede North/Ede South/Egbendore/Ejigbo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (i) (g), as follows:

“Consider a proper review of the existing educational policy” (Hon. Najimdeen Oyeshina Oyedeji — Iseyin/Itesiwaju/Kajola/Iwajowa Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Nigeria's traditional curriculum, for primary and secondary schools, faces challenges

compared to advanced nations, while it equips students with knowledge, it prioritizes rote learning over practical skills like critical thinking and problem-solving, which are very crucial in current labour market, the curriculum might have a stronger focus on national subjects, potentially limiting exposure to global perspectives necessary to navigate the interconnected world;

Also noted that Nigeria faces challenge in aligning its educational curriculum with advanced countries, traditionally, the Nigerian curriculum has emphasized rote memorization and standardized testing, while this approach lays a strong foundation in core subjects, it often falls short in:

- (a) developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills: advanced economies prioritize fostering analytical abilities and encouraging students to approach challenges with innovative solutions,
- (b) equipping graduates with industry-relevant skills: the curriculum in developed nations often integrates practical training and exposure to real-world scenarios, preparing students for the specific demands of the job market,
- (c) embracing technological advancements: integrating technology effectively into the learning process is crucial for success in today's world. This area might require significant improvement in resource allocation and teacher training in Nigeria compared to its more technologically advanced counterpart;

Aware that the world is in flux, skills needed to thrive are constantly evolving, demanding a critical evaluation of current educational systems, the traditional curriculum may not adequately equip graduates for the dynamic labour market to bridge this gap, a comprehensive review of educational programmes at all levels is essential;

Also aware that the review should focus on aligning learning outcomes with the demands of the contemporary world, fostering critical thinking, innovation and equipping students with tools to navigate an increasingly digital landscape, to ensure education system remains relevant and empowers individuals to succeed in the ever-changing world;

Worried that the curriculum prioritizes theoretical knowledge and rote memorization over equipping students with the practical skills increasingly demanded by the globalized job market, this could leave Nigerian graduates unprepared for the realities of workplace expectations;

Also worried that Nigerian curriculum, compared to advanced countries, lack sufficient technology integration, hindering digital literacy skills necessary to thrive in a tech-driven world;

Concerned that the rigid curriculum structure limits student exploration and overlook global perspectives, potentially hindering graduates' adaptability and competitiveness in the interconnected world;

Also concerned that a heavy reliance on standardized tests restrict opportunities for fostering critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Education in conjunction with State Ministries of Education to:
 - (a) conduct a comprehensive review of the curriculum across primary, secondary and tertiary institutions;
 - (b) align the curriculum with evolving global market demands, emphasizing skills like critical thinking, problem-solving, digital literacy, and adaptability,
 - (c) integrate practical applications, promote critical thinking and innovation, and enhance digital literacy,

- (d) nurture essential soft skills like communications, teamwork, and interpersonal skills,
 - (e) address resource disparities and ensure equitable access to qualified teachers, updated learning materials, and proper infrastructure,
 - (f) incorporate a global perspective, broadening the curriculum to encompass international issues and fostering global citizenship,
 - (g) consider a proper review of the existing educational policy; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Basic Education and Services, and University Education to ensure compliance (**HR. 255/06/2024**).

18. Call to Establish Nigeria Correctional Centres, Armed Security Guards and Correctional Data Security Across the Country

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the incessant attacks on custodial facilities of the Nigerian Correctional Service and frequent escape of inmates convicted and awaiting trial have become dangerous trend as they portend grave danger to society and has become an embarrassment to the country's security architecture;

Also notes that the recent rainstorm incident in Niger State which resulted in the escape of one hundred and eighteen (118) inmates has again brought attention to the worrisome state of the nation's correctional centres security architecture and the looming danger ahead;

Aware that from September 2015 to July 2023, there have been reported cases of about seventeen jailbreaks across Nigeria, resulting in over 7,000 escapees;

Cognizant that prison officials are not properly trained to be infantry and confrontational, making it difficult to repel such attacks, hence the need to put in place upgraded prison facilities with better security armed guards, walls, perimeter fences, and solid gates, and the installation of modern equipment to easily detect security breaches and curb further attacks;

Worried that the grave implication of the jailbreak is the fact that the criminals have returned to society and their refusal to go back to prison indicates that they will continue to perpetrate more atrocities, leading to further breakdown of security across the country;

Believes that prison break constitutes a threat to national security and stringent actions must be taken to avoid further incidents;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to immediately set up a judicial panel of inquiry on prison attacks in the country and ensure that such assaults on the entire security apparatus of Nigeria do not recur; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Interior, and Reformatory Institutions to interface with the relevant Federal Government Agencies to constitute threat management in correctional centres across the country and collate data of inmates by enrolling them in the National Identity Number system and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Kabiru Alhassan Usman Rurum — Rano/Bunkure/Kibiya Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

(HR. 256/06/2024).

19. Need to Complete the Abandoned Dredging of the Calabar Seaport

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Calabar Seaport is the oldest seaport in Nigeria shipping goods such as palm oil to Europe and other parts of the world as far back as the sixteenth century;

Also notes that the port was privately administered and operated by various shipping companies, including John Holt, until December 1969, when the Federal Government took over the port facilities from the erstwhile operators and vested them in the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA);

Further notes that the modernization and expansion of the Port complex were embarked upon under the 3rd National Development Plan of 1975-1980 and commissioned by General Olusegun Obasanjo on 9 June, 1979;

Recalls that the refurbishment generated a considerable level of attention and activity, but for obvious reasons not unconnected to sabotage, the usage of the port did not last and has failed to live up to its full potential over time;

Aware that there have been diverse government proclamations on the dredging of the port dating back to the regimes of General Ibrahim Babangida and General Sani Abacha, but no tangible work has been done to rehabilitate the port;

Also aware that in 2006, President Obasanjo awarded \$56 million dredging contracts to Dutch companies Jan De Nul and Van Oord, but both companies absconded without completing the task, leaving the port in a severe state;

Further aware that in 2014, the administration of former President Goodluck Jonathan, with a renewed sense of optimism, initiated Calabar Channel Management (CCM), a joint venture company between the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) and a consortium of companies led by Niger Global Engineering and Technical Company Limited with a mandate to dredge the port;

Concerned that CCM was reported to have commenced work on the dredging, the current reality is that the port is yet to be dredged;

Cognizant that completion of the Calabar Seaport would decongest the Lagos Ports and reduce the hardship of waiting longer hours to clear goods;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Ministry of Transport to re-award the dredging of the seaport to a reputable company with a mandate to complete the project within a specific time frame;
- (ii) also urge the Nigerian Ports Authority to supervise the project to ensure a standard depth is established to enable larger vessels to berth in line with best global practices;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Ports and Harbour to investigate the contracts awarded in 2006 and 2014, respectively, to determine why the contracts were abandoned by the contractors and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Egbona Alex Egbona — Yakurr/Abi Federal Constituency and 7 others*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (i), *leave out* the words “Ministry of Transport”, and *insert* the words “Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy” (*Hon. Kuye Ademorin Aliu — Shomolu Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Calabar Seaport is the oldest seaport in Nigeria shipping goods such as palm oil to Europe and other parts of the world as far back as the sixteenth century;

Also noted that the port was privately administered and operated by various shipping companies, including John Holt, until December 1969, when the Federal Government took over the port facilities from the erstwhile operators and vested them in the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA);

Further noted that the modernization and expansion of the Port complex were embarked upon under the 3rd National Development Plan of 1975-1980 and commissioned by General Olusegun Obasanjo on 9 June, 1979;

Recalled that the refurbishment generated a considerable level of attention and activity, but for obvious reasons not unconnected to sabotage, the usage of the port did not last and has failed to live up to its full potential over time;

Aware that there have been diverse government proclamations on the dredging of the port dating back to the regimes of General Ibrahim Babangida and General Sani Abacha, but no tangible work has been done to rehabilitate the port;

Also aware that in 2006, President Obasanjo awarded \$56 million dredging contracts to Dutch companies Jan De Nul and Van Oord, but both companies absconded without completing the task, leaving the port in a severe state;

Further aware that in 2014, the administration of former President Goodluck Jonathan, with a renewed sense of optimism, initiated Calabar Channel Management (CCM), a joint venture company between the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) and a consortium of companies led by Niger Global Engineering and Technical Company Limited with a mandate to dredge the port;

Concerned that CCM was reported to have commenced work on the dredging, the current reality is that the port is yet to be dredged;

Cognizant that completion of the Calabar Seaport would decongest the Lagos Ports and reduce the hardship of waiting longer hours to clear goods;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy to re-award the dredging of the seaport to a reputable company with a mandate to complete the project within a specific time frame;
- (ii) also urge the Nigerian Ports Authority to supervise the project to ensure a standard depth is established to enable larger vessels to berth in line with best global practices;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Ports and Harbour to investigate the contracts awarded in 2006 and 2014, respectively, to determine why the contracts were abandoned by the contractors and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 257/06/2024**).

20. Abandonment of the Babban Lamba-Sharram Road Rehabilitation Project in Plateau State
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Government on the 11 April, 2018, approved the award of contract for the rehabilitation of Babban Lamba-Sharram Road in Plateau State Contract (No. 6270) to Messrs Ric Rock Construction Nigeria Limited under the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing;

Also notes that the contract was valued at (₦19,392,550,107.32) nineteen billion, three hundred and ninety-two million, five hundred and fifty thousand, one hundred and seven Naira, thirty-two Kobo) only, with a stipulated completion period of 24 months;

Also aware despite the awarded contract and the designated completion period, the project remains unfinished to this day;

Disturbed by the prolonged delay in completing the road rehabilitation project and the apparent lack of accountability and transparency;

Concerned that the non-completion of the Babban Lamba-Sharram Road rehabilitation project is a threat to the safety and livelihood of residents and undermines the economic viability and development of Plateau State;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Works to conduct an oversight to find out the reasons for non-completion of the rehabilitation of the Babban Lamba-Sharram Road by Messrs Ric Rock Construction Nigeria Limited and ensure a review of the project to make adequate budgetary provisions and in addition, provide appropriate measures through the Federal Government of Nigeria's SUKUK programme to finance the project to ensure its timely completion and report within (four) 4 weeks (*Hon. Yusuf Adamu Gagdi — Kanke/Pankshin Federal Constituency and 7 others*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 258/06/2024).

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

21. Need to Investigate Investments in Renewable Energy Sector and Foreign Grants received from 2015 till Date
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Electricity is a crucial factor in the economic and social development of every nation;

Aware that poor electricity generation and distribution pose a great challenge to the country's economic development and living conditions of its people;

Cognizant of the fact that successive governments since 2015, in an effort to address electricity supply challenges, made huge investments and attracted multimillion-dollar foreign grants to the renewable energy subsector of the Power Industry in Nigeria to energise a viable and sustainable alternative energy and supply;

Recalls that in December, 2023, the World Bank approved 750 million dollars facility to boost Renewable Energy in Nigeria, with the objective of providing over 17.5 million Nigerians with improved access to electricity through distributed Renewable Energy solutions;

Also recalls that in 2020, the federal government launched a 200 million dollars renewable energy project tagged "Nigeria Electrification Project (NEP)" to provide off-grid energy to over 500,000 people across 105,000 households in rural communities in Nigeria with facilities sourced from the African Development Bank (AfDB);

Further recalls that in 2023, the Rural Electrification Agency reported that over 2 billion dollars in renewable energy has been attracted in the past decade without any noticeable improvement;

Worried that inspite of the huge investments and foreign grants to develop the renewable energy sector and contribute meaningfully to the public grid with the intention to improve electricity supply and boost the economy, no visible contribution from the renewable energy mix to the national grid has been recorded;

Alarmed that the dysfunctional electricity generation and supply system remain abetted, contrary to the objective behind the purpose-driven government investment and grants attracted and received to develop the renewable energy sector;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Renewable Energy to investigate Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) of the government associated with investment, procurement, and receipt of grants meant to develop the renewable energy sector from 2015 till date and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Jesse Okey Joe Onuakalusi — Oshodi Isolo II Federal Constituency and 7 others*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

(HR. 259/06/2024).

22. Illegal Unbundling, Stripling and Misappropriations of Assets in Nigerian Postal Service

Motion withdrawn by leave of the House.

23. Rehabilitation of Failed Section of Yashe-Kusada-Ingawa-Dutsi-Shargalle Road

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Yashe-Kusada-Ingawa-Dutsi-Shargalle Road is in a dilapidated condition, posing a great risk to commuters and potentially leading to fatalities, destruction of properties through accidents, and frequent attacks by hoodlums, thus affecting motorists' valuable time spent on transportation;

Worried that the state of the road has been causing untold hardship to the people who are predominantly farmers, as socio-economic activities in the affected communities have been hampered because of the attendant risks of transporting farm produce to markets via the dilapidated road;

Disturbed that during the rainy season, the road becomes a nightmare for the inhabitants of the communities, who are trying to access their farms, schools, and marketplaces;

Cognizant of the need to rehabilitate the road to ameliorate the hardship encountered by road users;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to rehabilitate failed section of Yashe-Kusada-Ingawa-Dutsi-Shargalle road to ease commuter's hardship; and

- (ii) mandate the Committee on Works to make budgetary provisions for the construction of Yashe-Kusada-Ingawa-Dutsi-Shargalle road in the 2025 budget estimates (*Hon. Abubakar Yahaya Kusada — Ingawa/Kankara/Kusada Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 260/06/2024).

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

24. Need to Tackle the falling Standards of Education in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the introduction of Western education changed the education landscape in Nigeria and placed educated Nigerians on a level playing field globally;

Also notes that Nigerians have demonstrated educational prowess and capability globally, earning admirable seats in positions that only education provided;

Observes that the Nigerian educational sector is facing a continuous decline in standards due to poor funding, inadequate facilities, insufficient teachers, corruption, insecurity, poor supervision, poor policy implementation and poor attitudes towards schoolwork, while the rise of social media has exposed young children to unsupervised orientation, leading to misplaced priorities and neglect of school work;

Worried that the Nigerian school system is plagued with numerous social vices such as examination malpractices, cultism, hooliganism and corruption;

Alarmed that despite constant reduction in cut-off marks, secondary school students struggle to meet average marks, highlighting the importance of education in societal development, industries, and moral regeneration;

Believes that Education is considered the foundation of societal development, moral regeneration, and people's revival, serving as the lifeline of the society;

Convinced that government must take practical steps to address identified problems in the educational sector and foster the development of youth;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to adequately fund the Educational sectors of Nigeria;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Education to review and apply stringent policies to the standards of education in Nigeria at all levels;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Education and the Universal Basic Education Commission to work with the Teachers' Education Council of Nigeria (TRCN) and other relevant bodies to monitor the accreditation and strictly regulate the Continued Professional Development (CPD) of teachers in Nigeria;
- (iv) again urge the Federal Ministry of Communications to develop measures to limit social media usage for children below 16 years in Nigeria; and
- (v) mandate the Committees on Basic Education and Services, and Communications to ensure

implementation (*Hon. Ayodeji Alao Akala — Ogbomosho North/Ogbomosho South/Orire Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

(HR. 261/06/2024).

25. Installation of Appropriate Metering System by the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL)

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

26. Consideration of Reports

(i) Committee on Federal Capital Territory:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That this House do consider the Report of the Committee on Federal Capital Territory on a Bill for an Act to Authorise the issue from the Federal Capital Territory Administration's Statutory Revenue Fund of the Federal Capital Territory Administration account, the total sum of ₦98,500,000,000 (ninety-eight billion, five hundred million) only for Capital Projects; for the Service of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, for the Financial ending 31 December, 2024 (HB. 1440)” (*Hon. Aliyu Muktar Betara — Biu/Kwaya-Kusar/Shani/Bayo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Motion made and Question proposed; “That the the Deputy Speaker do preside in the Committee of Supply pursuant to Order Seven, Rule 2 (1)” (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

ISSUE FROM THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION'S STATUTORY REVENUE FUND OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNT, THE TOTAL SUM OF ₦98,500,000,000 (NINETY-EIGHT BILLION, FIVE HUNDRED MILLION) ONLY, FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS; FOR THE SERVICE OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY, ABUJA, FOR THE FINANCIAL ENDING 31 DECEMBER, 2024

SCHEDULE

PART A — CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

	2024 Supplementary Appropriation (₦)
Engineering Services, FCDA	48,500,000,000
Education Secretariat	18,000,000,000
Public Building	16,000,000,000
Department of Transportation	16,000,000,000

Total Capital

98,500,000,000

Question:

That the Expenditure of Ninety-Eight Billion, Five Hundred Million Naira (₦98,500,000,000) for the purposes set out under Capital Costs do stand part of the Schedule to the Federal Capital Territory Supplementary Statutory Appropriation Bill, 2024 — *Agreed to.*

Clause 1: Issuance of ₦98,500,000,000 from Federal Capital Territory Administration Statutory Revenue Fund.

- (1) The Director of Treasury of the Federal Capital Territory Administration shall, when authorized to do so by warrants signed by the Minister Federal Capital Territory Administration with responsibility to pay out of the Federal Capital Territory Administration Statutory Revenue Fund of the Federal Capital Territory Administration during the financial year 2024, the sum specified by the warrants, not exceeding in the aggregate ₦98,500,000,000 (ninety-eight billion, five hundred million Naira) only.
- (2) The amount mentioned in Section (1) of this Section shall be appropriated to heads of Expenditure as indicated in the schedule to this Bill.

Committee's Recommendation:

That the provisions in Clause 1 be retained (*Hon. Muktar Aliyu Betera — Biu/Kwaya-Kusar/Shani/Bayo Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 2: Release of Funds.

All amounts appropriated under this Bill shall be made from the Federal Capital Territory Administration Statutory Revenue Fund only for the purposes specified in the schedule to this Bill.

Committee's Recommendation:

That the provision in Clause 2 be retained (*Hon. Muktar Aliyu Betera — Biu/Kwaya-Kusar/Shani/Bayo Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 3: Payment of Revenue into the Statutory Account.

- (1) All revenues accruing to the Federal Capital Territory Administration, including the Statutory Revenue distribution shall be paid into the Federal Capital Territory Administration's Statutory Revenue Account.
- (2) No monies shall be withdrawn from the Account mentioned in Section 3 (1) above without appropriation by the National Assembly.

Committee's Recommendation:

That the provisions in Clause 3 be retained (*Hon. Muktar Aliyu Betera — Biu/Kwaya-Kusar/Shani/Bayo Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 4: Waiver not to incur Expenditure.

Where, due to revenue shortfall, amounts appropriated under this Bill cannot be funded, the Minister of Federal Capital Territory shall seek from the National Assembly a waiver not to incur such expenditure.

Committee's Recommendation:

That the provision in Clause 4 be retained (*Hon. Muktar Aliyu Betera — Biu/Kwaya-*

Kusar/Shani/Bayo Federal Constituency).

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

Clause 5: Short Title.

This Bill may be cited as the Federal Capital Territory Supplementary Statutory Appropriation Bill, 2024.

Committee's Recommendation:

That the provision in Clause 5 be retained (*Hon. Muktar Aliyu Betera — Biu/Kwaya-Kusar/Shani/Bayo Federal Constituency*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill provides for the issuing out of the Statutory Revenue Fund of the Federal Capital Territory, the sum of ₦98,500,000,000 only, for Capital Expenditure (*Hon. Muktar Aliyu Betera — Biu/Kwaya-Kusar/Shani/Bayo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Authorise the issue from the Federal Capital Territory Administration's Statutory Revenue Fund of the Federal Capital Territory Administration account, the total sum of ₦98,500,000,000 (ninety-eight billion, five hundred million) only, for Capital Projects; for the Service of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, for the Financial ending 31 December, 2024 (HB. 1440) (*Hon. Muktar Aliyu Betera — Biu/Kwaya-Kusar/Shani/Bayo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of Supply considered the Report of the Committee on Federal Capital Territory on a Bill for an Act to Authorise the issue from the Federal Capital Territory Administration's Statutory Revenue Fund of the Federal Capital Territory Administration account, the total sum of ₦98,500,000,000 (ninety-eight billion, five hundred million) only for Capital Projects; for the Service of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, for the Financial ending 31 December, 2024 (HB. 1440) and approved Clauses 1 -5, the Schedule, the Explanatory Memorandum and the Long Title of the Report.

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

(ii) Committee on Communications:

Report of the Committee on Communications on a Bill for an Act to Authorize the issue from the Statutory Revenue Fund of the Nigerian Communications Commission the Total Sum of (₦549,674,311,000.00) five hundred and forty-nine billion, six hundred and seventy-four million, three hundred and eleven thousand Naira only, out of which (₦115,059,947.00) one hundred and fifteen billion, fifty-nine million, nine hundred and forty-seven thousand Naira only, is for Recurrent Expenditure, (₦18,023,435.00) eighteen billion, twenty-three million, four hundred and thirty-five thousand Naira, only is for Capital Expenditure, (₦66,781,032) sixty-six billion, seven hundred and eighty-one million, thirty-two thousand Naira only, is for Special Projects while the sum of (₦17,000,000,000) Seventeen Billion Naira only, is for Transfer to Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF), (₦332,807,853) three hundred and thirty - two billion,

eight hundred and seven million, eight hundred and fifty-three thousand Naira, only is for Transfer to Federal Government and (₦2,044) two thousand and forty-four Naira only, is surplus/deficit transfers for the financial year ending 31 December, 2024 (*Committee of Supply*).

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

- (iii) *A Bill for an Act to Establish the Office of Budget Management of the Federation and to Provide a Legal Framework for Budget Process Management in the Federal Government of Nigeria to Ensure Effective Regulation of Budget Preparation, Presentation, Implementation and Auditing; and for Related Matters (HB.698) (Committee of the Whole)*

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

- (iv) *A Bill for an Act to Establish Nigeria Correctional Service Trust Fund and Provide a Legal Framework for the Management and Control of the Trust Fund and for Related Matters (HB. 686) (Committee of the Whole):*

Motion made and Question proposed, “That this House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish Nigeria Correctional Service Trust Fund and Provide a Legal Framework for the Management and Control of the Trust Fund and for Related Matters (HB. 686)” (Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase 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 ESTABLISH THE NIGERIA CORRECTIONAL SERVICE TRUST FUND AND PROVIDE A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF THE TRUST FUND; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 686)

PART I — OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

Clause 1: Objective.

The objective of this Bill is to provide a legal framework for the management and control of the special intervention fund established under clause 3 of this Bill for:

- (a) the capacity building of personnel of the Nigeria Correctional Service;
- (b) the provision of State-of-the-Art Security Equipment;
- (c) the enhancement of the skills of the personnel of the Nigeria Correctional Service in the handling of operational equipment and machineries;
- (d) the welfare of inmates; and
- (e) any other related matter that shall lead to the actualization of the mandate of the Nigeria Correctional Service (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 2: Scope.

The Trust Fund established under clause 3 of this Bill covers —

- (a) all personnel of the Nigeria Correctional Service in Nigeria and abroad for overall improvement and efficiency in the discharge of their duties and responsibilities;
- (b) their support staff; and
- (c) inmates for purposes of reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

PART II — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NIGERIA
CORRECTIONAL SERVICE TRUST FUND

Clause 3: Establishment of the Nigeria Correctional Service Trust Fund.

- (1) There is established a Fund to be known as the Nigeria Correctional Service Trust fund (in this Bill referred to as "the Trust Fund").
- (2) The Trust Fund —
 - (a) shall be a body corporate with a common seal; and
 - (b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 4: Sources of Fund.

- (1) The Trust Fund shall comprise of —
 - (a) any take-off grants and special intervention funds as may be provided by the Federal, State and Local Government of the Federation;
 - (b) such money as may be appropriated to meet the objective of this Bill by the National Assembly in the Federal budget;
 - (c) aids, grants and assistance from international bilateral; and multilateral agencies, Non-Governmental organizations and the private sector;
 - (d) grants, donations, endowments, bequests and gifts, whether of money, land or any other property whatsoever, from any source;
 - (e) money derived from investment made by the Trust Fund; and
 - (f) any other money which may accrue to the Trust Fund.
- (2) The sources of fund referred to in paragraphs (c) and (d) of sub-clause (1) of this clause shall be acceptable to the Trust Fund except where the terms and conditions attached to an aid, grant, donation or gift are inconsistent with the objective of the Trust Fund and the provisions of this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 5: Purpose of the Trust Fund.

- (1) The Trust Fund shall be utilised for —
 - (a) capacity building of the personnel of the Nigeria Correctional Service within and outside Nigeria and its support staff;
 - (b) the enhancement of the skills of the personnel of the Nigeria Correctional Service and its support staff for improved proficiency in the use of operational equipment and machineries;
 - (c) the overall improvement, performance and efficiency in the discharge of the duties and responsibilities of the Nigeria Correctional Service;
 - (d) the purchase of equipment, machineries, including operational vehicles for the Nigeria Correctional Service;
 - (e) for the construction and, provision of living facilities, such as quarters or barracks for the Nigeria Correctional Service;
 - (f) the procurement of books, instructional materials, training equipment for use at Correctional Colleges and such other similar training institutions;
 - (g) the cost of participation by the personnel of the Nigeria Correctional Service at seminars and conferences relevant to the mandate of the Nigeria Correctional Service;
 - (h) funding of vocational training and the improvement of skills and mental health of inmates; and
 - (i) such other purposes incidental to or connected with the achievement of the objective of this Bill.
- (2) The Trust Fund shall —
 - (a) receive all money accruing to the Trust Fund under the provisions of this Bill; and
 - (b) utilise all money accruing to the Trust Fund under this Bill to meet the stated objectives and purpose under this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

PART III — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE TRUST FUND

Clause 6: Establishment of the Governing Board of the Trust Fund.

- (1) There is established a Governing Board for the Trust Fund (in this Bill referred to as "the Board")
- (2) The Board shall consist of —
 - (a) a Chairman who shall be a retired Controller General of the Nigeria Correctional Service;
 - (b) the Controller-General of the Nigeria Correctional Service;
 - (c) a representative from each of the following Federal Ministries who shall not be below the rank of a Director —
 - (i) Interior,
 - (ii) Justice,
 - (iii) Humanitarian Affairs,
 - (iv) Finance; and
 - (d) the Executive Secretary who shall be the Secretary of the Board.
- (3) Members of the Board shall —
 - (a) be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister responsible for the affairs of the Nigerian Correctional Service; and
 - (b) hold office for a term of three years in the first instance and may be eligible for reappointment for a further term of three years and no more.
- (4) The supplementary provisions relating to the Board are as set out in the Schedule to this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 7: Cessation of membership.

- (1) A member of the Board ceases to hold office if he —
 - (a) becomes of unsound mind;
 - (b) becomes bankrupt or makes compromises with his creditors;
 - (c) is convicted of a felony or any offence involving dishonesty; or
 - (d) is guilty of corrupt practices or misconduct in relation to his duties.
- (2) A member of the Board may be removed from office by the President if he is satisfied that it is not in the interest of the Trust Fund or the public that the member should continue in that office.

- (3) A member of the Board, other than an *ex-officio*, may resign his appointment by a notice in writing under his hand, addressed to the President.
- (4) Where a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Board, it shall be filled by the appointment of a successor to hold office for the remainder of the term of office of his predecessor, so that the successor shall represent the same interest and shall be appointed by the President.
- (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of this clause, the President may remove a member of the Board if any circumstance which borders on corruption and other activities that negates the interest and security of the nation is established against the member (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 8: Functions of the board.

The Board shall be responsible for —

- (a) setting out the policies and programs for capacity building of personnel of the Nigeria Correctional Service in Nigeria and abroad, including its support staff and inmates in accordance with the purpose of the Trust Fund;
- (b) approving the disbursement of money from the Trust Fund to Finance projects or activities of the Nigeria Correctional Service, its institutions and beneficiaries of the proceeds of the Trust Fund;
- (c) scrutinizing and approving projects which qualify for financing under the Bill;
- (d) exercising control over the management of the Trust Fund with a view to ensuring accountability and proper utilisation of money in the Trust Fund for the purposes set out in this Bill;
- (e) carrying out such other activities considered necessary for the achievement of the objectives of this Bill;
- (f) updating the Federal Government on its activities and progress through annual and audited reports;
- (g) reviewing progress and suggesting improvement within the provisions of this Bill;
- (h) making and issuing guidelines to all beneficiaries on disbursement from the Trust Fund on the use of money received from the Trust Fund; and
- (i) generally regulating the administration, application and disbursement of money from the Trust Fund under this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 9: Powers of the Board.

(1) The Board has powers to —

- (a) award contracts of any kind or description for any amount, whether

in local or foreign currency in conformity with the due process requirements as provided under any law, rules, guidelines or regulations; and

- (b) invest money accruing to the Trust Fund and approve the utilisation of the returns on investment in the same way as money accruing to the Trust Fund.
- (2) In the performance of its functions under this Bill, the Board shall —
- (a) through the Controller-General, identify the funding needs of the various Correctional Service Institutions for the enhancement of the performance of the Nigeria Correctional Service;
 - (b) enter into contractual arrangements for the purpose of executing approved projects on behalf of the Trust Fund;
 - (c) oversee the implementation of projects financed through money accruing to the Trust Fund; and
 - (d) enter into public-private partnership and private finance initiative arrangements and agreements necessary for project execution (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 10: Appointment of the Executive Secretary and other staff of the Trust Fund.

- (1) The Executive Secretary of the Trust Fund shall be appointed by the president on the recommendation of the Minister.
- (2) The Executive Secretary shall —
 - (a) be a person of unquestionable character and integrity; and
 - (b) have qualifications and experience as are appropriate for a person required to perform the functions of that office under this Bill.
- (3) The Executive Secretary shall hold office —
 - (a) for a time of three years in the first instance and may be eligible for re-appointment for another term of three years and no more; and
 - (b) on such other terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of appointment (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

PART IV — STAFF OF THE TRUST FUND

Clause 11: Functions of the Executive Secretary.

The Executive Secretary shall —

- (a) be the chief executive and accounting officer of the Trust Fund;
- (b) be responsible for the day to day administration of the Trust Fund;

- (c) be the Secretary to the Board;
- (d) keep proper records of the proceedings of the Board;
- (e) work closely with the Board in discharging such duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the Board;
- (f) be responsible for the general direction and control of all other employees of the Trust Fund; and
- (g) carry out such other duties as may be requested of him by the Board (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 12: Removal of the Executive Secretary.

- (1) Notwithstanding the provision of clause 10 of this Bill, the Executive Secretary may be removed from office by the President where any circumstances arise which in the opinion of the President makes the Executive Secretary no longer capable of carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the office.
- (2) A person appointed as the Executive Secretary on the removal of an Executive Secretary under sub-clause (1) of this clause shall serve the unexpired period of the term of his predecessor in office or the remainder of the term of the Trust Fund, whichever is shorter (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 13: Staff of the board.

- (1) The Board may appoint such other members of staff as may in the opinion of the Board be necessary to assist the Trust Fund in carrying out its functions under this Bill.
- (2) The terms and conditions of service including terms and conditions as to the remuneration, payment of allowances, and other benefits, of persons employed by the Board for the Trust Fund shall be in accordance with the general conditions of service as obtainable in the Public Service of the Federation.
- (3) The Board shall have power to appoint, either on transfer or on secondment from any Public Service of the Federation, such number of employees required for the effective discharge of the duties and function of Trust Fund under this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 14: Severance allowance.

Service in the Trust Fund shall be for the duration of the Trust Fund and accordingly employees of the Trust Fund, in respect of their services shall be entitled to other retirement benefits and severance allowances as shall be approved by the Board (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

PART V — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Clause 15: Trust Financial provisions for the management of the Fund.

There is established under this Bill a general fund for the administration of the Trust Fund comprising of —

- (a) annual budgetary allocation appropriated by National Assembly for the management of the Trust Fund;
- (b) take-off grants and such other money as may be made available to the Trust Fund to meet the cost of administration; and
- (c) all other money which may be made available for the administration of the Trust Fund (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 16: Accounts of the Trust Fund.

- (1) There shall be maintained for the Trust Fund an account into which shall be paid all money accruing to the Trust Fund under clause 4 of this Bill.
- (2) The Board shall also open and maintain an account into which shall be paid money received for management of the Trust Fund under Clause 19 of this Bill.
- (3) The accounts referred to in sub-clauses (1) and (2) of this clause shall be managed in accordance with the extant financial regulations.
- (4) The Board shall —
 - (a) apply the proceeds of the Trust Fund established under clause 3 of this Bill for the purposes set out in clause 5 of the Bill; and
 - (b) apply the proceeds of the money referred to in sub-clause (2) of this clause to meet the cost of administration, including payment of salaries, fees and other remunerations and allowances payable to members of the Board and employees of the Trust Fund, and for payment of experts, professionals and consultants engaged by the Board for the Trust Fund (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 17: Budgetary provisions and estimates.

The Board shall not later than 30th June of every year submit to the Minister an estimate of its income and expenditure during the succeeding year (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 18: Annual estimates account and audit.

The Board shall cause to be kept for the Trust Fund proper accounts and records, and when certified by the Board, these accounts shall be audited by auditors appointed from the list and in accordance with the guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General of the Federation (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 19: Exemption from tax.

- (1) The Trust Fund shall be exempted from the payment of income tax on any income accruing from investments made by the Trust Fund or otherwise howsoever.
- (2) The provisions of any enactment relating to the taxation of companies or trust funds shall not apply to the Trust Fund (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

PART VI — SUBMISSION OF REPORTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

Clause 20: Quarterly report.

The Board shall at the end of every three months submit to the President a report on its activities and on the administration of the Trust Fund (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 21: Annual report.

The Board shall not later than three months before end of each year, submit to the President a report on the activities and the administration of the Trust Fund during the preceding year and, shall include in such reports the auditor's report thereon (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 22: Power of the President to issue directives.

The President may give to the Board directives of a general nature with regard to the exercise by the Board of its functions under this Bill for compliance by the Board (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 23: Regulations.

The Board, may, with the prior approval of the President make such regulations as deemed necessary or expedient for giving full effect to the provisions of this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 24: Transitional provisions.

- (1) The duration of the Trust Fund shall be 12 years.
- (2) The Trust Fund shall have six months to wind up its activities including the settlement of all liabilities and thereafter hand-over all outstanding assets of the Trust Fund to the Nigeria Correctional Service (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 25: Interpretation.

In this Bill —

"Board" means the Correctional Trust Fund Governing Board, established under clause 6 of this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

"due process" means compliance with extant financial rules and regulations on Procurement of Public goods and services (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

"Executive Secretary" means the Executive Secretary of the Trust Fund appointed under clause 10 of this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

"Inmate" means a person lawfully confined in custody of the Nigeria Correctional Service (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

"Minister" means the Minister responsible for the affairs of the Nigeria Correctional Service (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

"Nigerian Correctional Service Institutions" include the Correctional Service Headquarters, Zonal Commands, State Commands, Divisional Correctional Service and Correctional Service Training Institutions (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "Nigerian Correctional Service Institutions" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Personnel" means officers and men of the Nigerian Correctional Service within and outside Nigeria (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

"President" means President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

"Support staff" means any person employed by the Nigeria Correctional Service in the administration of the Service and its institutions or formations; and (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

"Trust Fund" means the Nigeria Correctional Service Trust Fund establish under Clause 3 of this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

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

Clause 26: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Nigeria Correctional Service Trust Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

SCHEDULE

Clause 6 (4)

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE 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 those of its committee.
2. The quorum of the Board shall be the Chairman and one-third of other members; and the Board shall determine the quorum of any committee.
3. The Board shall meet not less than four times in a year and subject to that, the Board shall meet whenever it is summoned by the Chairman, or if the Chairman is required to do so by notice given to him by not less than one-third of members of the Board, he shall summon a meeting of the Board to be held within 14 days from the date on which the notice was given.
4. At any meeting of the Board, the Chairman shall preside but, in his absence, the members present at the meeting shall appoint one of their members to preside at the meeting.
5. Where the Board desires to obtain the advice of any person on a particular matter, the Board may co-opt the person to the Board for such period as it deems fit, but a person who is in attendance by virtue of this subparagraph is not entitled to vote at any meeting of the Board and does not count towards a quorum.
6. All members of the Board shall have equal rights and privileges, and where there is equality in vote, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

Committees

7. The Board may appoint such number of committees to carry out, on behalf of the Board such of its functions as the Board may determine.
8. A committee appointed under paragraph 7 of this schedule shall consist of such number of persons (not necessarily members of the Board) as may be determined by the Board, and the person, other than a member of the Board, shall hold office on the committee in accordance with the terms of his appointment.

9. A decision of a committee of the Board shall be of no effect until it is confirmed and or ratified by the Board.

Miscellaneous

10. The affixing of the seal of the Trust Fund shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman or of any other person authorised generally or specifically to act for that purpose by the Board.
11. Any contract or instrument made or executed by a person not being a body corporate, that would not be required to be under seal may be made or executed on behalf of the Board by the Chairman or any person generally or specifically authorised to act for that purpose by the Board.
12. Any document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal of the Trust Fund shall be received in evidence and shall, unless, and until the contrary is proved, be presumed to be so executed.
13. The validity of any proceeding of the Board or of a committee shall not be adversely affected by any vacancy in the membership of the Board or committee, or by any defect in the appointment of a member of the Board or of a committee, or by reason that a person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings of the Board or committee (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to establish the Nigeria Correctional Service Trust Fund to provide funds to facilitate the actualization of the mandate of the Nigeria Correctional Service, for capacity building of Personnel of the Service to enhance their preparedness to effectively discharge their constitutional responsibility of protecting life, provide state-of-the-art security equipment and machinery; as well as improve the welfare of inmates and support staff (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigeria Correctional Service Trust Fund and Provide a Legal Framework for the Management and Control of the Trust Fund; and for Related Matters (HB. 686) (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase 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 Establish Nigeria Correctional Service Trust Fund and Provide a Legal Framework for the Management and Control of the Trust Fund and for Related Matters (HB. 686) and approved Clauses 1 - 26, 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.

- (v) *A Bill for an Act to Establish the North Central Development Commission charged with the*

Responsibility among other things to Receive and Manage Funds from Allocation of the Federation Account for the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Roads, Houses and other Infrastructural Damages Suffered by the region as a result of the effect of the Communal Crises as well as tackle the Ecological Problems and any other Related Environmental or Developmental challenges in the North Central States and for Related Matters (HB.121) (Committee of the Whole):

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the North Central Development Commission charged with the Responsibility among other things to Receive and Manage Funds from Allocation of the Federation Account for the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Roads, Houses and other Infrastructural Damages Suffered by the region as a result of the effect of the Communal Crises as well as tackle the Ecological Problems and any other Related Environmental or Developmental challenges in the North Central States and for Related Matters (HB.121) " (Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase 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 ESTABLISH THE NORTH CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY AMONG OTHER THINGS TO RECEIVE AND MANAGE FUND FROM ALLOCATION OF THE FEDERATION ACCOUNT FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF ROADS, HOUSES AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURAL DAMAGES SUFFERED BY THE REGION AS A RESULT OF THE EFFECT OF THE COMMUNAL CRISES AS WELL AS TACKLE THE ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND ANY OTHER RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL CHALLENGES IN THE NORTH CENTRAL STATES; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

PART I — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NORTH CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND THE GOVERNING BOARD

Clause 1: Establishment of North Central Development Commission.

- (1) There is established a Commission to be known as North Central Development Commission (in this Bill referred to as "the Commission").
- (2) The Commission shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue or be sued in its corporate name.
- (3) The Headquarters of the Commission shall be in Lafia, Nasarawa State
(Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency).

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

Clause 2: Establishment of the Governing Board.

- (1) There is established for the Commission, a body to be known as the Governing Board (in this Bill referred to as 'the Board') which shall consist of —
 - (a) Chairman;

- (b) one person who shall be an indigene to represent the following member states, that is —
 - (i) Nasarawa,
 - (ii) FCT,
 - (iii) Kogi,
 - (iv) Kwara,
 - (v) Benue,
 - (vi) Niger, and
 - (vii) Plateau;
 - (c) three persons to represent the following Security Organisation —
 - (i) the Army who shall not be below the rank of a Colonel,
 - (ii) the Police who shall not be below the rank of Superintendent of Police, and
 - (iii) the Civil Defence Corp who shall not be below the rank of Deputy Commandant;
 - (d) one representative of Solid minerals extracting and Mining producing companies in the North Central States nominated by those companies;
 - (e) one person to represent the Federal Ministry of Finance;
 - (f) one person to represent the Federal Ministry of Environment;
 - (g) the Managing Director of the Commission; and
 - (h) two executive Directors.
- (2) The Chairman and other members of the Board shall —
- (a) be appointed by the President, subject to the confirmation of the Senate, in consultation with the House of Representatives; and
 - (b) be person of proven integrity and ability.
- (3) The members of the Board referred to in paragraph (1-2) of sub-clause (1) of this Bill shall be part -time members.
- (4) The supplementary provisions set out in the Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Board and the other matters contained therein (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 3: Tenure of Office.

Subject to the provisions of clause 4 of this Bill, a member of the Board, other than an ex-officio member, shall hold office for a term of 4 years at the first instance and may be re-appointed for a further term of 4 years and no more (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 4: Rotation of Office of Chairman.

The office of the Chairman shall rotate amongst the member states of the Commission —

- (i) Nasarawa;
- (ii) FCT;
- (iii) Kogi;
- (iv) Kwara;
- (v) Benue;
- (vi) Niger; and
- (vii) Plateau (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 5: Resignation, cessation or removal from membership of the Board.

- (1) A member of the Board other than ex-officio member, may resign his or her appointment by notice in writing addressed to the President. Which resignation shall take effect only upon receipt and approval by the President.
- (2) A member of the Board may cease membership if the member —
 - (a) becomes of unsound mind, or incapable of carrying out his duties;
 - (b) becomes bankrupt, suspends payment or compounds with his creditors;
 - (c) is convicted of a felony or any offence involving dishonesty or fraud;
 - (d) is guilty of serious misconduct in relation to his duties;
 - (e) in the case of a person possessed of professional qualifications, he is disqualified or suspended, other than at his own request, from practising his profession in any part of the world by an order of a competent authority made in respect of that member; or
 - (f) resigns his appointment by a letter addressed to the President.
- (3) Where a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Board, it shall be filled by appointment of a person representing the area where the vacancy exists, to complete the remainder of the term of office of the predecessor and shall be appointed by the President subject to the confirmation of the Senate in consultation with the House of Representatives (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 6: Allowances of members.

There shall be paid to every member of the Board such remuneration, allowances and expenses as the Federal Government may, from time to time direct (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

PART II — FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE COMMISSION, ETC.

Clause 7: Functions and Powers of the Commission.

(1) The Commission shall —

- (a) formulate policies and guidelines for the development of the North Central States;
- (b) conceive, plan and implement, in accordance with the set rules and regulations, projects and programmes for the sustainable development of the North Central States in the field of transportation including roads, health, education, employment, agriculture, industrialization, housing and urban development, water supply, electricity and telecommunications;
- (c) cause the North Central States to be surveyed in order to ascertain measures which are necessary to promote its physical and socio-economic development;
- (d) prepare master plans and schemes designed to promote the physical development of the North Central States and the estimates of the costs of implementing such master plans and schemes;
- (e) implement all the measures approved for the development of the North Central States by the Federal Government and the member States of the Commission;
- (f) identify factors inhibiting the development of the North Central States and assist the member States in the formulation and implementation of policies to ensure sound and efficient management of the resources of the North Central States;
- (g) assess and report on any project being funded or carried out in the North Central States by mineral extracting and mining companies, oil and gas producing companies, and any other company including non-governmental organisations and ensure that funds released for such projects are properly utilized;
- (h) tackle ecological and environmental problems that arise from the extraction and mining of solid mineral, exploration of oil mineral in the North Central States and advise the Federal Government and the member States on the prevention and control of oil spillages, gas flaring and environmental pollution;
- (i) liaise with the various solid mineral extraction and mining companies and oil and gas prospecting and producing companies on all matters of pollution prevention and control; and

- (j) execute such other works and perform such other functions which in the opinion of the Commission are required for the sustainable development of the North Central States and its peoples.
- (2) In exercising its functions and powers under this clause, the Commission shall have regard to the varied and specific contributions of each member State of the Commission.
- (3) The Commission shall be subject to the direction, control or supervision in the performance of its functions under this Bill by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 8: Powers of the Board.

The Board shall have power to:

- (a) manage and superintend the affairs of the Commission;
- (b) make rules and regulations for carrying out the functions of the Commission;
- (c) enter and inspect premises, projects and such places as may be necessary for the purposes of carrying out its functions under this Bill;
- (d) pay the staff of the Commission such remuneration and allowances as are payable to persons of equivalent grades in the civil service of the Federation;
- (e) enter into such contracts as may be necessary or expedient for the discharge of its functions and ensure the efficient performance of the functions of the Commission;
- (f) employ either directly or on secondment from any civil or public service in the Federation or a State such number of employees as may in the opinion of the Board, be required to assist the Board in the discharge of any of its functions under this Bill;
- (g) pay to persons so employed such remuneration, including allowances, as the Board may determine; and
- (h) do such other things as are necessary and expedient for the efficient performance of the functions of the Commission (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

PART III — STRUCTURE OF THE COMMISSION

Clause 9: Structure of the Commission.

- (1) There shall be established in the head office of the Commission, the following Directorates:
 - (a) the Directorate of Administration and Human Resources;
 - (b) the Directorate of Community and Rural Development;

- (c) the Directorate of Utilities, Infrastructural Development and waterways;
 - (d) the Directorate of Environmental Protection and Control;
 - (e) the Directorate of Finance and Supply;
 - (f) the Directorate of Solid Minerals, Agriculture and Fisheries;
 - (g) the Directorate of Planning, Research and Statistics and Management Information System;
 - (h) the Directorate of Legal Services;
 - (i) the Directorate of Education, Health and Social Services;
 - (j) the Directorate of Commercial and Industrial Development; and
 - (k) the Directorate of Projects Monitoring and Supervision.
- (2) The Board may increase the number of Directorates as it may deem necessary and expedient to facilitate the realization of the objectives of the Commission (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 10: Management Committee.

There shall be for the Commission, a Management Committee which shall —

- (a) consist of a Chairman who shall be the Managing Director;
- (b) the Directors responsible for the Directorates established under Clause 9 of this Bill and such number of other members as may be determined from time to time by the Board;
- (c) be responsible to the Board and the Managing Director for the general administration of the Commission (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 11: Establishment of the North Central Development Advisory Committee.

- (1) There is hereby established for the Commission, A North Central Development Advisory Committee (in this Bill referred to as 'the Advisory Committee') which shall consist of —
- (a) the Governors of the member States of the Commission; and
 - (b) two persons as may be determined, from time to time, by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- (2) The Advisory Committee shall be charged with the responsibility of advising the Board and guiding and monitoring the activities of the Commission with a view to achieving the objectives of the Commission.

- (3) The Advisory Committee may make rules regulating its own proceedings (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

PART IV — STAFF OF THE COMMISSION

Clause 12: Staff of the Commission.

- (1) There shall be for the Commission, a Managing Director, and two Executive Directors who shall be indigenes of the North Central States and shall rotate amongst the member States and shall —
- (a) have such qualification and experience as are appropriate for a person required to perform the functions of that office under this Bill; and
 - (b) be the chief executive and accounting officer of the Commission;
 - (c) be appointed by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and confirmed by the Senate in consultation with the House of Representatives;
 - (d) hold office on such terms and conditions' as to emolument, conditions of service as may be specified in his letter of appointment and subject to the provision of clause 3 of this Bill.
- (2) The Managing Director shall, subject to the general direction of the Board, be responsible:
- (a) for the day to day administration of the Commission;
 - (b) for keeping the books and proper records of the proceedings of the Board; and
 - (c) for —
 - (i) the administration of the secretariat of the Board, and
 - (ii) the general direction and control of all other employees of the Commission.
- (3) The Board shall have power to —
- (a) employ either directly or on secondment from any civil or public service in the Federation or a State such number of employees as may, in the opinion of the Board, be required to assist the Board in the discharge of any of its functions under this Bill; and
 - (b) pay to persons so employed such remuneration (including allowances) as the Board may, after consultation with the Federal Civil Service Commission, Determine (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 13: Pension Reform Act, No. 2 of 2004.

- (1) Service in the Commission shall be approved service for the purposes of the Pensions Act.
- (2) The officers and other persons employed in the Commission shall be entitled to pensions, gratuities and other retirement benefits as are enjoyed by Persons holding equivalent grades in the civil service of the Federation.
- (3) Nothing in subsections (1) and (2) of this clause shall prevent the appointment of a person to any office on terms which preclude the grant of pension and gratuity in respect of that office.
- (4) For the purposes of the application of the provisions of the Pensions Act, any power exercisable there under by the Minister or other authority of the Government of the Federation, other than the power to make regulations under section 23 thereof, is hereby vested in and shall be exercisable by the Commission, and not by any other person or authority (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

PART V — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**Clause 14: Fund of the Commission.**

- (1) The Commission shall establish and maintain a fund from which shall be defrayed all expenditure incurred by the Commission.
- (2) There shall be paid and credited to the fund established pursuant to sub-clause (1) of this Bill —
 - (a) from the Federal Government, the equivalent of 15 per cent of the total monthly statutory allocations due to member States of the Commission from the Federation Account;
 - (b) 3 per cent of the total annual budget of any oil producing company operating, on shore and off shore, in the North Central States; including gas processing companies;
 - (c) 3 percent of the total annual budget of any Solid mineral extracting mining company operating in the North Central States;
 - (d) 50 per cent of monies due to member States of the Commission from the Ecological Fund;
 - (e) such monies as may from time to time, be granted or lent to or deposited with the Commission by the Federal or a State Government, any other body or institution whether local or foreign;
 - (f) all monies raised for the purposes of the Commission by way of gifts, loan, grants-in-aid, testamentary disposition or otherwise; and
 - (g) proceeds from all other assets that may, from time to time, accrue to the Commission.
- (3) The fund shall be managed in accordance with the rules made by the Board, and without prejudice to the generality of the power to make rules under this sub-clause, the rules shall in particular contain provisions —

- (a) specifying the manner in which the assets or the fund of the Commission are to be held, and regulating the making of payments into and out of the fund; and
- (b) requiring the keeping of proper accounts and records for the purpose of the fund in such form as may be specified in the rules (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 15: Expenditure of the Commission.

The Commission shall apply the proceeds of the fund established pursuant to clause 14 of this Bill to —

- (a) the cost of administration of the Commission;
- (b) the payment of salaries, fees, remuneration, allowances, pensions and gratuities payable to the members of the Board specified in clause 6 of this Bill or any committee of the Board and the employees of the Commission;
- (c) the payment for all contracts, including mobilization, fluctuations, variations, legal fees and cost on contract administration;
- (d) the payment for all purchases; and
- (e) undertaking such other activities as are connected with all or any of the functions of the Commission under this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 16: Gift to the Commission.

- (1) The Commission may accept gifts of land, money or other property on such terms and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the person or organization making the gift.
- (2) The Commission shall not accept any gift if the conditions attached by the person or organization making the gift are inconsistent with the functions of the Commission under this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 17: Power to Borrow.

The Commission may, with the consent of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, borrow, on such terms and conditions as the Commission may determine, such sums of money as the Commission may require in the exercise of its functions under this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 18: Annual Estimates and Expenditure.

- (1) The Board shall, not later than 30th September in each year, submit to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, an estimate of the expenditure and income of the Commission during the next succeeding year.

- (2) The Board shall cause to be kept proper accounts of the Commission in respect of each year and proper records in relation thereto and shall cause the accounts to be audited not later than 6 months after the end of each year by auditors appointed from the list and in accordance with the guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General for the Federation (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 19: Quarterly Report.

The Commission shall, at the end of every quarter in each year, submit Quarterly Report to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, a report on the activities and administration of the Commission (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 20: Annual Report.

- (1) The Board shall prepare and submit to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, not later than 30th June in each year, a report in such form as the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, may direct, on the activities of the Commission during the immediately preceding year, and shall include in the report a copy of the audited accounts of the Commission for that year and the auditor's report thereon;
- (2) The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall, upon receipt of the report referred to in sub-clause (1) of this clause, cause a copy of the report and the audited accounts of the Commission and the auditor's report thereon to be submitted to each House of the National Assembly (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

PART VI — MISCELLANEOUS

Clause 21: Monitoring Committee.

- (1) There is hereby established for the Commission a Monitoring Committee which shall consist of such number of persons as the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, may deem fit to appoint from the public or civil service of the Federation.
- (2) The Monitoring Committee shall —
- (a) monitor the management of the funds of the Commission and the implementation of the projects of the Commission; and
- (b) have access to the books of account and other records of the Commission at all times, and submit periodical reports to the President Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 22: Offices and Premises of the Commission.

- (1) For the purposes of providing offices and premises necessary for the performance of its functions under this Bill, the Commission may, subject to the Land Use Act —

- (a) purchase or take on lease any interest in land, or other property; and
 - (b) construct offices and premises and equip and maintain same.
- (2) The Commission may, subject to the Land Use Act, sell or lease out any office or premises held by it, which office or premises is no longer required for the Performance of its functions under this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 23: Directives by the President.

Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, may give to the Commission directives of a general nature or relating generally to matters of policy with regard to the performance by the Commission of its functions and it shall be the duty of the Commission to comply with the directives (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 24: Public Officer Protection Act, Cap. P41, LFN, 2004.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the provisions of the Public Officers Protection Act shall apply in relation to any suit instituted against any officer or employee of the Commission.
- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law or enactment, no suit shall lie against any member of the Board, the Managing Director or any other officer or employee of the Commission for any act done in pursuance or execution of this Bill or any other law or enactment, or of any public duty or authority or in respect of any alleged neglect or default in the execution of this Bill or such law or enactment, duty or authority, shall lie or be instituted in any court unless —
 - (a) it is commenced within three months next after the act, neglect or default complained of; or
 - (b) in the case of a continuation of damage or injury, within six months next after the ceasing thereof (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 25: Service of Notices, Summons and other Documents.

A notice, summons or other document required or authorized to be served upon the Commission under the provisions of this Bill or any other law or enactment may be served by delivering it to the Managing Director or by sending it by registered post and addressed to the Managing Director at the principal office of the Commission (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 26: Restriction on execution of Judgement Debts.

- (1) In any action or suit against the Commission, no execution or attachment of process in the nature thereof shall be issued against the Commission.
- (2) Any sum of money which may by the judgment of any court be awarded

against the Commission shall, subject to any direction given by the court where notice of appeal of the said judgment has been given, be paid from the general reserve fund of the Commission (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 27: Indemnity of Officers.

A member of the Board, the Managing Director, any other officer or employee of the Commission shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Commission against any proceeding, whether civil or criminal, in which judgment is given in his favour, or in which he is acquitted, if any such proceeding is brought against him in his capacity as a member of the Board, the Managing Director, officer or employee of the Commission (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 28: Regulations.

The Commission may, with the approval of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, make regulations, generally for the purposes of giving full effect to this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 29: Interpretation.

In this Bill —

"Chairman" means the Chairman of the Board (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

"Commission" means the North Central Development Commission established by clause 1 of this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

"Board" means the governing Board established for the Commission under clause 2 (1) of this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

"member" means a member of the Board and includes the Chairman, Managing Director and Executive Directors (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

"member States" include Benue, FCT, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger, and Plateau (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

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

Clause 30: Short Title.

This Bill may be cited as the North Central Development Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2024 (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

SCHEDULE

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE BOARD, ETC.

1. (1) Subject to this Bill and section 27 of the Interpretation Act, the Board may make standing orders regulating its proceedings or those of any of its committee.
- (2) The quorum of the Board shall be the Chairman or the person presiding at the meeting, Managing Director or one Executive Director and one third other members of the Board. The quorum of any committee of the Commission shall be as determined by the Board.
2. (1) The Board shall meet whenever it is summoned by the Chairman and if the Chairman is required to do so by notice given to him by not less than 4 other members, he shall summon a meeting of the Board to be held within 14 days from the date on which the notice is given.
- (2) At any meeting of the Board, the Chairman shall preside but if he is absent, the members present at the meeting shall appoint one of their members to preside at the meeting.
3. (1) The Board may appoint one or more committees to carry out on behalf of the Board, such functions as the Board may determine.
- (2) A committee appointed under this paragraph shall consist of such number of persons as may be determined by the Board and a person shall hold office on the committee in accordance with the terms of his appointment.
- (3) A decision of a committee of the Board shall be of no effect until it is confirmed by the Board.

Miscellaneous

4. (1) The fixing of the seal of the Commission shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Chairman or any other member of the Board generally or specifically authorized by the Board to act for the purpose and the Managing Director.
- (2) A document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal of the Commission shall be received in evidence and shall, unless and until the contrary is proved, be presumed to be so executed.
5. The validity of any proceedings of the Board or of a committee shall not be adversely affected by —
 - (a) a vacancy in the membership of the Board or committee;
 - (b) a defect in the appointment of a member of the Board or committee; or

- (c) reason that a person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings of the Board or committee (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to establish the North Central Development Commission charged with the responsibility among other things to receive and manage fund from allocation of the Federation Account for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of roads, houses and other infrastructural damages suffered by the region as a result of the effect of the Communal Crises as well as tackle the ecological problems and any other related environmental or developmental challenges in the North Central States (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Establish the North Central Development Commission Charged with the Responsibility among Other Things to Receive and Manage Fund from Allocation of the Federation Account for the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Roads, Houses and Other Infrastructural Damages Suffered by the Region as a Result of the Effect of the Communal Crises as Well as Tackle the Ecological Problems and Any Other Related Environmental or Developmental Challenges in the North Central States and for Related Matters (HB.121) (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase 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 Establish the North Central Development Commission charged with the Responsibility among other things to Receive and Manage Funds from Allocation of the Federation Account for the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Roads, Houses and other Infrastructural Damages Suffered by the region as a result of the effect of the Communal Crises as well as tackle the Ecological Problems and any other Related Environmental or Developmental challenges in the North Central States and for Related Matters (HB.121) and approved Clauses 1 - 30, 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.

- (vi) ***A Bill for an Act to Establish the South West Development Commission Charged with the Responsibility among others to Receive and Manage Funds from Allocation of the Federation Account, including Donations and Gifts, for the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Infrastructural Damages Suffered by the Region and to Tackle Ecological, Environmental and Other Developmental Challenges in the Region and for Related Matters (HB.283) (Committee of the Whole):***

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the South West Development Commission Charged with the Responsibility among others to Receive and Manage Funds from Allocation of the Federation Account, including Donations and Gifts, for the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Infrastructural Damages Suffered by the Region and to Tackle Ecological, Environmental and Other Developmental Challenges in the Region and for Related Matters (HB.283)” (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase 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 ESTABLISH THE SOUTH WEST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY AMONG OTHERS TO RECEIVE AND MANAGE FUNDS FROM ALLOCATION OF THE FEDERATION ACCOUNT, INCLUDING DONATIONS AND GIFTS, FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF INFRASTRUCTURAL DAMAGES SUFFERED BY THE REGION AND TO TACKLE ECOLOGICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL CHALLENGES IN THE REGION; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 283)

PART I — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOUTH WEST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND THE GOVERNING BOARD

Clause 1: Establishment of South West Development Commission.

- (1) There is hereby established a body to be known as the South West Development Commission (in this Bill referred to as "the Commission").
- (2) The Commission:
 - (a) shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal;
 - (b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name.
- (3) The Commission shall have its head office in Ibadan, Oyo State and shall establish an office in each member-State of the Commission (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 2: Establishment of the Governing Board of the Commission.

- (1) There is established for the Commission a Governing Board (in this Bill referred to as 'the Board').
- (2) The Board shall consist of:
 - (a) a Chairman;
 - (b) a Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer;
 - (c) four Executive Directors, one from each South West State not being represented by the Chairman of the Board and Managing Director;
 - (d) one person to represent the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning;
 - (e) one person each to represent on a rotational basis the five geopolitical zones of the country:
 - (i) North Central,

- (ii) North West,
- (iii) North East,
- (iv) South East, and
- (v) South South:

Provided that no more than three geopolitical zones shall be represented during any given tenure of the Board.

- (3) A member State within the South West Zone shall not have two members on the Board at same time.
- (4) The four Executive Directors mentioned under clause 2 (2) (c) are:
 - (a) Executive Director of Administration and Finance;
 - (b) Executive Director Operations and innovation;
 - (c) Executive Director Compliance and Monitoring;
 - (d) Executive Director, Environment Protection and Control.
- (5) The Chairman and other members of the Board shall —
 - (a) be persons of proven integrity and ability;
 - (b) possess requisite academic qualification and relevant experience as are required to perform the functions of the Board under this Bill;
 - (c) be appointed by the President subject to confirmation by the Senate, provided that the Executive Directors referred to in clause 2 (2) (c) shall be appointed in the same manner on the recommendation of the advisory committee (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 3: Tenure of office.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of Clause 4 of this Bill, the Chairman and non-Executive Directors, shall hold office for a non-renewable term of 4 years.
- (2) The Chairman and any member of the Board may resign his or her appointment by notice in writing addressed to the President, which resignation shall take effect only upon a written approval by the President.
- (3) A member of the Board other than *ex-officio* member, may resign his or her appointment by notice in writing addressed to the President, which resignation shall take effect only upon a written approval by the President (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 4: Cessation of membership of the Board.

- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 3 of this Bill, a person shall cease to hold office as a member of the Board if:
 - (a) he becomes of unsound mind, or incapable of carrying out his duties;
 - (b) he becomes bankrupt;
 - (c) he is convicted of a felony or any offence involving dishonesty or fraud;
 - (d) he is convicted of a serious misconduct in relation to his duties;
 - (e) in the case of a person possessing professional qualifications, he is disqualified or suspended, from practising his profession in any part of the world by an order of a competent authority made in respect of that member;
 - (f) resigns his appointment by a letter addressed to the President;
 - (g) if the advisory committee determines that his continued membership on the board is detrimental to the interest of the Commission.
- (2) Where a vacancy occur in the membership of the Board, it shall be filled by an appointment of a person representing the area where the vacancy exists, to complete the remainder of the term of office of the predecessor (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 5: Rotation of office of Chairman.

- (1) The office of the Chairman shall rotate amongst the member-States of the Commission in the following alphabetical order —
 - (i) Ekiti;
 - (ii) Lagos;
 - (iii) Ogun;
 - (iv) Ondo;
 - (v) Osun;
 - (vi) Oyo.
- (2) The office of the Managing Director shall rotate among member states in the following order —
 - (i) Oyo;
 - (ii) Osun;
 - (iii) Ondo;

- (iv) Ogun;
- (v) Lagos;
- (vi) Ekiti:

Provided the Chairman and Managing Director of the Commission shall not come from the same State (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 6: Allowances of members.

There shall be paid to every member of the Board such remuneration, allowances and expenses as the Federal Government may, from time to time, direct (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

PART II — FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE COMMISSION

Clause 7: Functions of the Commission.

- (1) The Commission shall —
 - (a) in consultation with the advisory committee, formulate policies and guidelines for the development of the South West States;
 - (b) in consultation with the advisory committee, conceive, plan and implement in accordance with set rules and regulations, projects and programs for the sustainable development of the South West States including but not limited to the fields of security, transportation, health, education, empowerment, agriculture, industrialization, housing and urban development, water supply, electricity, solid mineral exploitation and telecommunications;
 - (c) cause the South West States to be surveyed in order to ascertain measures which are necessary to promote its physical and socio-economic development;
 - (d) prepare master plans and schemes designed to promote the physical development of the South West States and the estimates of the costs of implementing such master plans and schemes;
 - (e) implement all the measures approved for the development of the South West States by the Federal Government and the member-States of the Commission;
 - (f) identify factors inhibiting the development of the South West States and assist the member-States in the formulation and implementation of policies to ensure a sound and efficient management of the resources of the South West States;
 - (g) assess and report on any project being funded or carried out in the South West States by mineral extracting and mining companies, oil and gas producing companies, and any other company including non-governmental organisations and ensure that funds released for such projects are properly utilised;

- (h) tackle ecological and environmental problems that arise from the extraction and mining of solid mineral, exploration of oil mineral in the South West States and advise the Federal Government and the member States on the prevention and control of oil spillages, gas flaring and environmental pollution;
 - (i) liaise with the various solid mineral extraction and mining companies and oil and gas prospecting and producing companies on all matters of pollution prevention and control; and
 - (j) execute such other works and perform such other functions which in the opinion of the Commission are required for the sustainable development of the South West States and its people;
 - (k) receive donations and gifts from any legitimate, documented source aimed at the advancement of its set goals, provided such donations shall be reported to the relevant federal authorities.
- (2) In exercising its functions and powers under the clause, the Commission shall have regard to the varied and specific contributions of each member State of the Commission.
- (3) The Commission shall be subject to the direction, control or supervision in the performance of its functions under this Bill by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 8: Powers of the Commission.

The Board shall have power to:

- (a) direct and superintend the affairs of the Commission;
- (b) make rules and regulations for carrying out the functions of the Commission;
- (c) enter and inspect premises, projects and such places as may be necessary for the purposes of carrying out its functions under this Bill;
- (d) approve the payment for the staff of the Commission such remuneration and allowances as are payable to persons of equivalent grades in the Civil service of the Federation;
- (e) enter into such contracts as may be necessary or expedient for the discharge of its functions and ensure the efficient performance of the functions of the Commission;
- (f) approve employment either directly or on secondment from any civil or public service in the Federation or a State, such number of employees as may, in the opinion of the Board, be required to assist the Board in the discharge of any of its functions under this Bill;
- (g) approve payment to persons so employed such remuneration, including allowances, as the Board may determine; and
- (h) do such other things as are necessary and expedient for the efficient

performances of the functions of the Commission (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

PART III — STRUCTURE OF THE COMMISSION

Clause 9: Structure of the Commission.

- (1) There shall be established in the head office of the Commission, the following Directorates:
 - (a) the Directorate of Finance, Administration and Corporate Services;
 - (b) the Directorate of Infrastructure, Economic and Industrial Development;
 - (c) the Directorate of Human Capital Development and Job Creation;
 - (d) the Directorate of Environmental Protection and Sustainability.
- (2) The Board may increase the number of Directorates as it may deem necessary and expedient to facilitate the realization of the objectives of the Commission (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 10: Management committee.

There shall be for the Commission, a Management Committee which shall —

- (a) consist of a Chairman who shall be the Managing Director;
- (b) the Directors responsible for the Directorates established under Clause 9 of this Bill and such number of other members as may be determined from time to time by the Board;
- (c) be responsible to the Board for the general administration of the Commission (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 11: Establishment of the South West Development advisory committee.

- (1) There is hereby established for the Commission, a South West Development Advisory Committee (in this Bill referred to as 'the Advisory Committee') which shall consist of —
 - (a) the Governors of the member-States of the Commission; and
 - (b) two persons as may be determined from time to time by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- (2) The Advisory Committee shall be charged with the responsibility of advising the Board and guiding and monitoring the activities of the Commission with a view to achieving the objectives of the Commission.
- (3) The Advisory Committee may make rules regulating its own proceedings, including the appointment of a Chairman who shall not be from the same

State as the Board Chairman, or the Managing Director (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

PART IV — STAFF OF THE COMMISSION

Clause 12: Staff of the Commission.

There shall be for the Commission, a Managing Director, who shall be an indigene of a South West State other than the states of origin of the Board Chairman and shall -

- (a) have such qualifications and experience as are appropriate for a person required to perform the functions of that office under this Bill;
- (b) be the Chief Executive and Accounting Officer of the Commission;
- (c) shall be appointed by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and confirmed by the Senate; and
- (d) hold office on such terms and conditions as to emolument, conditions of service as may be specified in his letter of appointment and subject to the provision of clause 3 of this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 13: Executive Directors of the Commission.

- (1) There shall be for the Commission, two (2) Executive Directors each of whom shall supervise all the Directorates as approved by the Management.
- (2) The Executive Directors shall be indigenes of States other than those of the Managing Director, the Chairman of the Board and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Commission (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 14: Executive Secretary of the Commission.

- (1) There shall be for the Commission an Executive Secretary who shall be responsible for:
 - (a) keeping the books and proper records of the proceedings of the Board;
 - (b) the administration of the Secretariat of the Commission.
- (2) The Secretary shall be a fit and proper person who shall be a legal practitioner of not less than 10 years post-call (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 15: Powers of the Board.

The Board shall have power to:

- (a) approve the employment and promotion of management staff;
- (b) approve the recruitment, either directly or by secondment from any civil or public service in the Federation or a State, such number of employees as may, in the opinion of the Board, be required to assist the Board in the discharge of any of its function under this Bill; and
- (c) approve payment to persons so employed such remuneration (including allowances) as the Board may, after consultation with the National Salaries and Wages Commission; and
- (d) manage the resources of the Commission to ensure that capital and development projects predominates in all its expenditures and resource utilization (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 16: Service in the Commission to be pensionable.

- (1) Service in the Commission shall be approved service for the purposes of the Pensions Act.
- (2) The officers and other persons employed in the Commission shall be entitled to pensions, gratuities and other retirement benefits as are enjoyed by Persons holding equivalent grades in the civil service of the Federation.
- (3) Nothing in subsections (1) and (2) of this Clause shall prevent the appointment of a person to any office on terms which preclude the grant of pension and gratuity in respect of that office.
- (4) For the purposes of the application of the provisions of the Pensions Act, any power exercisable there under by the Minister or other authority of the Government of the Federation, other than the power to make regulations under section 31 thereof, is hereby vested in and shall be exercisable by the Commission, and not by any other person or authority (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

PART V — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Clause 17: Fund of the Commission.

- (1) The Commission shall establish and maintain a fund, the proceeds of which shall be used to defray all expenditures incurred by the Commission.
- (2) There shall be paid and credited to the fund established pursuant to sub-clause (1) of this paragraph monies —
 - (a) from the Federal Government, the equivalent of fifteen (15) percent of the total monthly statutory allocations due to member States of the Commission from the Federation Account;
 - (b) 3 percent of the annual budget of any federal seaport and airport operating in the South West;
 - (c) 3 percent of the total annual budget of any oil producing company operating, on shore and off shore, in the South West States: including gas processing companies;

- (d) 3 percent of the total annual budget of any Solid mineral extracting mining company operating in the South West States;
 - (e) 50 percent of monies due to member-States of the Commission from the Ecological Fund;
 - (f) such monies as may from time to time, be granted or lent to or deposited with the Commission by the Federal or a State Government, any other body or institution whether local or foreign;
 - (g) all monies raised for the purpose of the Commission by way of gifts, loan, grants- in- aid, testamentary disposition or otherwise; and
 - (h) the proceeds from all other assets that may, from time to time, accrue to the Commission.
- (3) The fund shall be managed in accordance with the rules made by the Board, and without prejudice to the generality of the power to make rules under this sub-clause, the rules shall in particular contain provisions —
- (a) specifying the manner in which the assets or the fund of the Commission are to be held, and regulating the making of payments into and out of the fund; and
 - (b) requiring the keeping of proper accounts and records for the purpose of the fund in such form as may be specified in the rules (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 18: Expenditure of the Commission.

The Commission shall apply the proceeds of the fund established pursuant to Clause 17 of this Bill to —

- (a) the cost of administration of the Commission;
- (b) the payment of salaries, fees, remuneration, allowances, pensions and gratuities payable to the members of the Board specified in clause 2 of this Bill or any committee of the Board and the employees of the Commission;
- (c) the payment for all contracts, including mobilization, fluctuations, variations, legal fees and cost on contract administration;
- (d) the payment for all purchases; and
- (e) undertaking such other activities as are connected with all or any of the functions of the Commission under this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 19: Gifts to the Commission.

- (1) The Commission may accept gifts of land, money or other property on such terms and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the person or organization making the donation.

- (2) The Commission shall not accept any gift if the conditions attached by the person or organization making the gift are inconsistent with the functions of the Commission under this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 20: Powers to borrow.

The Commission may borrow, on such terms and conditions as the Commission may determine, such sums of money as the Commission may require in the exercise of its functions under this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 21: Annual estimates and expenditure.

- (1) The Board shall, not later than 30th October in each year, submit to the National Assembly through the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, an estimate of the expenditure and income of the Commission during the next succeeding year.
- (2) The Board shall cause to be kept proper accounts of the Commission in respect of each year and proper records in relation thereto and shall cause the accounts to be audited not later than 6 months after the end of each year by Auditors appointed from the list and in accordance with the guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General for the Federation (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 22: Quarterly report.

The Commission shall, at the end of every quarter in each year, submit a Quarterly Report to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on the activities and administration of the Commission (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 23: Annual report.

- (1) The Board shall prepare and submit to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, not later than 30th June in each year, a report in such form as the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, may direct, on the activities of the Commission during the immediately preceding year, and shall include in the report a copy of the audited annual accounts of the Commission for the preceding operating year and the Auditor's report thereon.
- (2) The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall, upon receipt of the report referred to in sub-section (1) of this Clause, cause a copy of the report and the audited accounts of the Commission and the Auditor's report thereon to be submitted to each House of the National Assembly (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

PART VI — MISCELLANEOUS

Clause 24: Monitoring committee.

- (1) There is hereby established for the Commission an independent Monitoring

Committee which shall consist of such number of professionals and members of the Civil Society persons as the Advisory Committee may recommend for appointment to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

- (2) The Monitoring Committee shall —
 - (a) monitor the management of the funds and the implementation of the projects of the Commission; and
 - (b) have access to the books of account and other records (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 25: Offices and premises of the Commission.

- (1) For the purposes of providing offices and premises necessary for the performances of its functions under this Bill, the Commission may, subject to the Land Use Act —
 - (a) purchase or take on lease any interest in land, or other property; and
 - (b) construct offices and premises and equip and maintain same.
- (2) The Commission may, subject to the Land Use Act, sell or lease out any office or premises held by it, which office or premises are no longer required for the performance of its functions under this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 26: Directives by the President.

Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, may give to the Commission directives of a general nature or relating generally to matters of policy with regard to the performance by the Commission of its functions and it shall be the duty of the Commission to comply with the directives (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 27: Limitation of suits against the Commission, etc.

- (1) No suit against the Commission, Board member, officer or employee of the Commission in respect of any act, neglect or default done or committed in his official capacity shall lie against such Commission, Board member, officer or employee unless it is commenced within three months from the occurrence of the act, neglect or default or in the case of a continuance of damage or injury within three months immediately after the cessation thereof.
- (2) No suit shall be commenced against the Commission Board member, officer or employee of the Commission in respect of any act, neglect or default done or committed in his official capacity as Commission Board member, officer or employee until at least one month notice after the service on the Commission Board member, officer or employee as the case may be of a written notice by or on behalf of the intending plaintiff/claimant of his intention to commence the suit stating:

- (a) the cause of action;
- (b) the particulars of the claims; and
- (c) the name and place of abode of the intending claimant (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 28: Service of notices, summons and other documents.

A notice, summons or other document required or authorized to be served upon the Commission under the provisions of this Bill or any other law or enactment may be served by delivering it to the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Commission or by sending it by registered post and addressed to the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Commission at the Headquarter (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 29: Execution of judgment debts.

Any sum of money which may, by the judgment of any court be awarded against the Commission shall, subject to any direction given by the court where notice of appeal of the said judgment has been given, or not, be paid from the general reserve fund of the Commission (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 30: Indemnity of officers.

A member of the Board, the Managing Director, any other officer or employee of the Commission shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Commission against any proceeding, whether civil or criminal, in which judgment is given in his favour, or in which he is acquitted, if any such proceeding is brought against him in his capacity as a member of the Board, the Managing Director, officer or employee of the Commission (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 31: Regulations.

The Commission may, with the approval of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, make regulations, generally for the purposes of giving full effect to this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 32: Interpretation.

In this Bill —

"Chairman" means the Chairman of the Board (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

"Commission" means the South West Development Commission established by clause 1 of this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

"Board" means the governing Board established for the Commission under clause 2 (1) of this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

"member" means a member of the Board and includes the Chairman, Managing Director, Executive Directors, officers and other employees of the Commission (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

"member States" include Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Oyo (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

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

Clause 33: Short Title.

This Bill may be cited as the South West Development Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

SCHEDULE

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE BOARD, ETC.

1. (1) Subject to this Bill and section 27 of the Interpretation Act, the Board may make standing orders regulating its proceeding or those of any of its committee.
- (2) The quorum of the Board shall be the Chairman or the person presiding at the meeting, Managing Director or one Executive Director and one third other members of the Board. The quorum of any committee of the Commission shall be as determined by the Board.
2. (i) The Board shall meet whenever it is summoned by the Chairman and if the Chairman is required to do so by notice given to him by not less than 4 other members, he shall summon a meeting of the Board to be held within 14 days from the date on which the notice is given.
- (ii) At any meeting of the Board, the Chairman shall preside but if he is absent, the members present at the meeting shall appoint one of their members to preside at the meeting.
3. (i) The Board may appoint one or more committees to carry out on behalf of the Board, such functions as the Board may determine.
- (ii) A committee appointed under this paragraph shall consist of such number of persons as may be determined by the Board and a person shall hold office on the committee

in accordance with the terms of his appointment.

- (iii) A decision of a committee of the Board shall be of no effect until it is confirmed by the Board.

Miscellaneous

4. (1) The fixing of the seal of the Commission shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Chairman or any other member of the Board generally or specifically authorized by the Board to act for the purpose and the Managing Director.
- (2) A document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal of the Commission shall be received in evidence and shall, unless and until the contrary is proved, be presumed to be executed.
5. The validity of any proceedings of the Board or of a committee shall not be adversely affected by —
- (a) a vacancy in the membership of the Board or committee;
- (b) a defect in the appointment of a member of the Board or committee; or
- (c) reason that a person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings of the Board or Committee (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to establish the South West Development Commission charged with the responsibility among others to receive and manage funds from Allocation of the Federation Account, including donations and gifts, for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of roads, houses and other infrastructural damages suffered by the Region and the need to tackle the ecological problems and any other related environmental or developmental challenges in the South West Zone (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Establish the South West Development Commission Charged with the Responsibility among Others to Receive and Manage Funds from Allocation of the Federation Account, Including Donations and Gifts, for the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Infrastructural Damages Suffered by the Region and to Tackle Ecological, Environmental and Other Developmental Challenges in the Region and for Related Matters (HB. 283) (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase 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 Establish the South West Development Commission Charged with the Responsibility among others to Receive and Manage Funds from Allocation of the Federation Account, including Donations and Gifts, for the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Infrastructural Damages Suffered by the Region and to Tackle Ecological, Environmental and Other Developmental

Challenges in the Region and for Related Matters (HB.283) and approved Clauses 1 - 33, 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.

- (vii) ***A Bill for an act to Establish Nigerian Building and Road Research Institute (NBRRI) to build capacity and conduct collaborative Engineering Research and Development in the area connected with buildings. Roads, engineering Production and Construction Materials and for Related Matters (HB.1283) (Committee of the Whole):***

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an act to Establish Nigerian Building and Road Research Institute (NBRRI) to build capacity and conduct collaborative Engineering Research and Development in the area connected with buildings. Roads, engineering Production and Construction Materials and for Related Matters (HB.1283)” (Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase 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 ESTABLISH NIGERIAN BUILDING AND ROAD
RESEARCH INSTITUTE (NBRRI) TO BUILD CAPACITY AND CONDUCT
COLLABORATIVE ENGINEERING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE
AREA CONNECTED WITH BUILDINGS. ROADS, ENGINEERING PRODUCTION
AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Consideration deferred for further consultation.

Chairman to report Bill:

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole deferred consideration of the Report on a Bill for an act to Establish Nigerian Building and Road Research Institute (NBRRI) to build capacity and conduct collaborative Engineering Research and Development in the area connected with buildings. Roads, engineering Production and Construction Materials and for Related Matters (HB.1283).

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

- (viii) ***A Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Examinations Council (NECO) (Establishment) Act, Cap. N37, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, and Enact the National Examinations Council (NECO) (Establishment) Act, 2024 to Provide for National Common Entrance Examination (NCEE), the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) and the Senior Secondary Certificate Examination (Internal) (SSCE) (I) Compulsory for Every Nigerian Child, and to Design the Scope of the Powers and Functions of the Governing Board of the Council; and for Related Matters (HB.421) (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 Examinations Council (NECO) (Establishment) Act, Cap. N37, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, and Enact the National Examinations Council (NECO) (Establishment) Act 2024 to Provide for National Common Entrance Examination (NCEE), the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) and the Senior Secondary Certificate Examination (Internal) (SSCE)(I) Compulsory for Every Nigerian Child, and to

Design the Scope of the Powers and Functions of the Governing Board of the Council; and for Related Matters (HB.421)” (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase 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 EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL (NECO) (ESTABLISHMENT) ACT, CAP. N37, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004, AND ENACT THE NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL (NECO) (ESTABLISHMENT) ACT, 2024 TO PROVIDE FOR NATIONAL COMMON ENTRANCE EXAMINATION (NCEE), THE BASIC EDUCATION CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION (BECE) AND THE SENIOR SECONDARY CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION (INTERNAL) (SSCE)(I) COMPULSORY FOR EVERY NIGERIAN CHILD, AND TO DESIGN THE SCOPE OF THE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE COUNCIL; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB.421)

Consideration deferred for further consultation.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole deferred consideration of the Report on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Examinations Council (NECO) (Establishment) Act, Cap. N37, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, and Enact the National Examinations Council (NECO) (Establishment) Act 2024 to Provide for National Common Entrance Examination (NCEE), the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) and the Senior Secondary Certificate Examination (Internal) (SSCE)(I) Compulsory for Every Nigerian Child, and to Design the Scope of the Powers and Functions of the Governing Board of the Council; and for Related Matters (HB.421).

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

- (ix) ***A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres (Establishment) Act, No. 33 of 2022, to Establish the Federal Medical Centre, Sabongida-Ora, Edo State, to Provide Primary to Tertiary Healthcare Services in all Their Ramifications; and for Related Matters (HB.478) (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 Federal Medical Centres (Establishment) Act, No. 33 of 2022, to Establish the Federal Medical Centre, Sabongida-Ora, Edo State, to Provide Primary to Tertiary Healthcare Services in all Their Ramifications; and for Related Matters (HB.478)” (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase 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 (ESTABLISHMENT) ACT NO. 33 OF 2022, TO ESTABLISH FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE, SABONGIDA-ORA, EDO STATE, TO PROVIDE PRIMARY TO TERTIARY HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN ALL THEIR RAMIFICATIONS AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Clause 1: **Amendment of the Medical Centres (Establishment) Act, No. 33 of 2022.**
The Federal Medical Centres (Establishment) Act, No. 33 of 2022 is amended (in this Bill referred to as "the Principal Act") as set out under this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 2: **Amendment of the Second Schedule.**
The Second Schedule to the Principal Act is amended by inserting after the existing paragraph "21 Federal Medical Centre, Hong", a new paragraph "Federal Medical Centre, Sabongida-Ora, Edo State" (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 3: **Citation.**
This Bill may be cited as the Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to amend the Federal Medical Centres (Establishment) Act No. 33 of 2022, to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Sabongida-Ora, Edo State, to provide primary to Tertiary Healthcare Services in all their ramifications (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres (Establishment) Act No. 33 of 2022, to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Sabongida-Ora, Edo State, to Provide Primary to Tertiary Healthcare Services in All Their Ramifications and for Related Matters (HB.478) (*Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase 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 Federal Medical Centres (Establishment) Act, No. 33 of 2022, to Establish the Federal Medical Centre, Sabongida-Ora, Edo State, to Provide Primary to Tertiary Healthcare Services in all Their Ramifications; and for Related Matters (HB.478) 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.

27. **A Bill for an Act to Authorise the issue from the Federal Capital Territory Administration's Statutory Revenue Fund of the Federal Capital Territory Administration account, the total sum of ₦98,500,000,000 (ninety-eight billion, five hundred million Naira) only, for Capital Projects; for the Service of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, for the Financial ending 31 December, 2024 (HB. 1440) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Authorise the issue from the Federal Capital Territory Administration's Statutory Revenue Fund of the Federal Capital Territory Administration account, the total sum of ₦98,500,000,000 (ninety-eight billion, five hundred million) only for Capital Projects; for the Service of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, for the Financial ending 31 December, 2024 (HB. 1440) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

28. **Adjournment of First Sitting**

That the House do adjourn the First Sitting till 2.30 p.m. (Hon. Ahmed Idris — Wase Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.56 p.m.

Benjamin Okezie Kalu
Deputy Speaker