



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA FIRST VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 14 January, 2025

1. The House met at 11.04 a.m. Mr Deputy Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House sang the National Anthem and recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**  
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Second Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 17 December, 2024.

*The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.*

4. **Announcement**

(i) **Bereavement:**

Mr Deputy Speaker read the following communications from:

- (a) Hon. Gaza Jonathan Gbefwi (*Karu/Keffi/Kokona Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of a former Member, Hon. Ahmed Ishaq Kama (*Karu/Keffi/Kokona Federal Constituency 2011 - 2015*), who passed away on Sunday, 5 January, 2025;
- (b) Hon. Afuape Moruf Afolabi (*Abeokuta South Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of Alhaja Atinuke Monsurat Bankole, the mother of former Speaker, Rt Hon. Dimeji Bankole who passed away on Friday, 10 January, 2025.

*A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.*

(ii) **Conference Committee on a Bill to Amend the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Act, 2023:**

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

- |     |                              |   |                 |
|-----|------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| (1) | Hon. Babajimi Adegoke Benson | — | <i>Chairman</i> |
| (2) | Hon. Magaji Amos Gwamna Abel | — | <i>Member</i>   |
| (3) | Hon. Muktar Tolani Shagaya   | — | <i>Member</i>   |
| (4) | Hon. Chinedu Ogah            | — | <i>Member</i>   |
| (5) | Hon. Donald Kimikanboh Ojogo | — | <i>Member</i>   |
| (6) | Hon. Kwamoti Laori Bitrus    | — | <i>Member</i>   |
| (7) | Hon. Patrick Umoh            | — | <i>Member</i>   |

**5. Mr Speaker's Welcome Remarks:**

Mr Speaker read the following remarks:

***Protocols:***

*It is with great satisfaction and a renewed sense of purpose that I welcome you back from the Christmas and New Year recess. Although brief, I trust the break provided an opportunity for reflection, family engagement, and meaningful interactions with your constituents. Your various acts of generosity and service during the festive period have brought tangible benefits to the lives of many Nigerians, reflecting the essence of our roles as representatives.*

2. *As we reconvene today, I am encouraged by the energy and determination evident in this chamber. Our responsibility to the nation remains paramount, and I am confident that we are prepared to meet the demands of 2025 with unwavering focus and diligence.*

3. *The past year was characterised by moments of progress tempered by significant challenges. Tragic events, such as the stampedes in Ibadan, Abuja, and Okija during the distribution of palliative aid, underline the urgent need for improved planning and safety protocols in humanitarian efforts. On behalf of the House, I extend our deepest sympathies to the families and communities affected. These incidents serve as a stark reminder of the socioeconomic hardships facing our citizens and the imperative for policies that tackle hunger and poverty at their roots.*

4. *We also mourn the heartbreaking loss of our gallant soldiers in Borno State, who paid the ultimate price in the fight against terrorism. Their sacrifice exemplifies the highest dedication to our nation's safety and sovereignty. On behalf of the House, I extend our deepest condolences to the families of the fallen heroes and the Nigerian Armed Forces. We honour their courage and commitment and reiterate our resolve to support efforts to end insecurity in all its forms.*

5. *Similarly, the tragic loss of life in the Gidan Sama and Rumtuwa villages of Sokoto State, resulting from the unintended consequences of military operations, underscores the need for a renewed focus on civilian protection in conflict zones. These incidents emphasise the complexities of governance and the necessity for people-centred, comprehensive solutions.*

6. *Amidst these challenges, the resilience of our security agencies deserves commendation. Their concerted efforts have significantly reduced threats across the country, demonstrating their courage and the growing efficacy of coordinated military operations. The House remains steadfast in supporting these efforts through legislative measures that enhance security frameworks and address emerging threats.*

7. *Turning to the economy, 2024 presented both difficulties and opportunities. While inflation remains a pressing concern, progress in GDP growth and the positive trajectory of economic reforms provide hope for a more stable and prosperous 2025. The ongoing revival of the Warri and Port Harcourt refineries and increased competition in the oil market have already begun to moderate fuel prices. We encourage the swift operationalisation of the Kaduna refinery to alleviate further economic pressures on households and businesses.*

8. *Our legislative agenda for 2025 prioritises the passage of the Appropriation Bill and the Tax Reform Bills, both of which are pivotal to economic recovery and fiscal stability. These reforms are essential for broadening the tax base, improving compliance, and reducing dependency on external borrowing. The House will ensure that these reforms are equitable and considerate of the needs of all Nigerians, particularly the most vulnerable.*

9. *As we engage with the budget and other legislative priorities, we must remain meticulous in our scrutiny, ensuring that every proposal aligns with national objectives and delivers tangible benefits to the citizenry. The planned Citizens' Town Hall on the budget will further reinforce transparency and inclusivity in our decision-making processes.*

10. *The Constitutional Review Committee, under the leadership of the Deputy Speaker, Rt Honourable Benjamin Kalu continues to make commendable progress. The extensive consultations and rigorous review of over 350 memoranda demonstrate the depth of public engagement in shaping our nation's foundational document. We anticipate that the outcomes of this process will address longstanding governance challenges and promote inclusivity, equity, and accountability.*

11. *Besides constitutional amendments, the House is committed to advancing legislative frameworks that address critical national issues, including gender equality, electoral reform, and energy infrastructure. As custodians of the legislative process, we must approach these tasks with resolve and an acute awareness of their implications for Nigeria's development trajectory.*

12. *Honourable Colleagues, one of the key mandates of the legislature is to promote accountability. Nigerians look to us for transparent, responsive, and results-oriented leadership. The success of initiatives such as the Open Parliament and the "State of the House" live chats underscores the value of direct engagement with the public. These platforms will remain integral to our efforts to foster trust and demonstrate our commitment to the ideals of representative democracy.*

13. *Collaboration with the executive arm is equally crucial. While upholding this institution's independence, we must continue to engage constructively with other branches of government to achieve our shared aim of national progress. This partnership, built on mutual respect and a common vision, is essential for addressing the complex challenges our nation confronts.*

14. *As we commence this legislative year, let us renew our commitment to the principles of service, equity, and progress. Nigerians have legitimate expectations, and rightly so. Our citizens aspire to a safer, more prosperous nation where opportunities flourish and governance reflects the highest standards of integrity and accountability.*

15. *We should embrace these expectations not as burdens but as the driving force behind our collective mission. By working with purpose, unity, and resolve, we can transform challenges into opportunities and aspirations into realities.*

16. *As we observe Armed Forces Remembrance Day tomorrow, let us honour the sacrifices of our fallen heroes and the unwavering commitment of our service members. The House will continue championing their welfare and ensuring their contributions to our nation are met with the recognition and support they deserve.*

17. *Honourable Colleagues, 2025 demands our best efforts and our unwavering focus on the mandate entrusted to us by the people. Let us work together to ensure that this year stands as a testament to the transformative power of effective governance.*

18. *Thank you, and may God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.*

## 6. Petitions

- (i) A petition from Romeo Aruguoteinsi, on the non-payment of his pension and benefits by the Nigeria Police Force Pensions Limited, was presented and laid by Hon. Obordor Mitema (Ogbia Federal Constituency);
- (ii) A petition from Stephen Eleojo Uloko, on alleged murder of his brother, Sunday F. M. Uloko, and his unlawful arrest, false accusation, theft and defamation of character by the Management of African Book Publishers, was presented and laid by Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali (Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro Federal Constituency);
- (iii) A petition from Concerned Indigenes of Idima Abam, Arochukwu Local Government Area, Abia State, on alleged murder of four (4) indigenes of Idima Abam by the Red Chamber Cult in Idima Abam, led by Jonah Chukwu, was presented and laid by Hon. Ibe Okwara Osonwa (Arochukwu/Ohafia Federal Constituency).

*Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.*

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

**(i) *Need to Ensure Compliance with Constitutional Provision of Scrutiny and Appropriation of TETFund's Expenditure/Allocation and Approved Guidelines for Intervention:***

Hon. Sulaiman Abubakar Gumi (*Gummi/Bukkuyum 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 Ensure Compliance with Constitutional Provision of Scrutiny and Appropriation of TETFund's Expenditure/Allocation and Approved Guidelines for Intervention:**

The House:

*Notes* that Section 1 of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund Act, 2011, authorizes the assessment and collection of the Education Tax from the assessable profit of all companies registered in Nigeria;

*Also notes* that the tax is to be assessed and collected by the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) for remittance to the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund);

*Further notes* that TETFund among other statutory responsibilities, has a duty to administer and disburse the tax fund to eligible public Tertiary Institutions for the advancement of education, knowledge and skills;

*Cognizant* that section 4 — *vide* paragraph 1 of the Concurrent Legislative List, section 59 (1), as well as section 80 (3) - (4) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), requires the use of Appropriation Bills for the control, payment, issue, withdrawal, or allocation of public revenue from both the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation and any other Public Fund of the Federation;

*Also cognizant* that an Appropriation Bill is the legislative tool with which the National Assembly exercises control over proposed public receipts and expenditures;

*Aware* that Order 20, Rule 132 (2) (a) and (b) mandates the Committee on TETFund and Other Services to among other things scrutinize TETFund's Annual budget estimates;

*Also aware* that Sections 88 and 89 of the Constitution gives powers to the National Assembly to conduct Investigations with a view to exposing Corruption, wastage, and inefficiency in the management of public funds;

*Disturbed* by the reported cases of discrepancies in the tax collections, accruals, remittances, transfers and issues surrounding the judicious utilisation and equitable disbursements of the Education Tax fund;

*Also disturbed* that TETFund's 2024 Budget came without the necessary breakdowns and

details of its expenditures/approved guidelines for legislative scrutiny as required by extant laws;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) to:
  - (a) supply the House with the detailed breakdowns of its 2024 allocations, as well as 2025 proposed budget/allocation estimates to beneficiary Institutions before further implementation,
  - (b) avail the House the Reports of Audited Accounts of the Fund and the Beneficiary Institutions' receipts from 2018 till date;
- (ii) also urge TETFund not to effect nor authorize any fund disbursements until the detailed breakdowns of its proposed 2025 budget is scrutinized and approved by the House;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) to submit to the House the List of the Education Tax Payers and total yearly amounts collected from 2011 till date;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on TETFund and Other Services to act on the above Resolutions and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Sulaiman Abubakar Gumi — Gummi/Bukkuyum Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that Section 1 of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund Act, 2011, authorizes the assessment and collection of the Education Tax from the assessable profit of all companies registered in Nigeria;

*Also noted* that the tax is to be assessed and collected by the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) for remittance to the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund);

*Further noted* that TETFund among other statutory responsibilities, has a duty to administer and disburse the tax fund to eligible public Tertiary Institutions for the advancement of education, knowledge and skills;

*Cognizant* that section 4 — *vide* paragraph 1 of the Concurrent Legislative List, section 59 (1), as well as section 80 (3) - (4) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), requires the use of Appropriation Bills for the control, payment, issue, withdrawal, or allocation of public revenue from both the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation and any other Public Fund of the Federation;

*Also cognizant* that an Appropriation Bill is the legislative tool with which the National Assembly exercises control over proposed public receipts and expenditures;

*Aware* that Order 20, Rule 132 (2) (a) and (b) mandates the Committee on TETFund and Other Services to among other things scrutinize TETFund's Annual budget estimates;

*Also aware* that Sections 88 and 89 of the Constitution gives powers to the National Assembly to conduct Investigations with a view to exposing Corruption, wastage, and inefficiency in the management of public funds;

*Disturbed* by the reported cases of discrepancies in the tax collections, accruals, remittances, transfers and issues surrounding the judicious utilisation and equitable disbursements of the Education Tax fund;

*Also disturbed* that TETFund's 2024 Budget came without the necessary breakdowns and details of its expenditures/approved guidelines for legislative scrutiny as required by extant laws;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) to:
    - (a) supply the House with the detailed breakdowns of its 2024 allocations, as well as 2025 proposed budget/allocation estimates to beneficiary Institutions before further implementation,
    - (b) avail the House the Reports of Audited Accounts of the Fund and the Beneficiary Institutions' receipts from 2018 till date;
  - (ii) also urge TETFund not to effect nor authorize any fund disbursements until the detailed breakdowns of its proposed 2025 budget is scrutinized and approved by the House;
  - (iii) further urge the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) to submit to the House the List of the Education Tax Payers and total yearly amounts collected from 2011 till date;
  - (iv) mandate the Committee on TETFund and Other Services to act on the above Resolutions and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 01/01/2025**).
- (ii) ***Need to Address the Deadly and Unsafe Condition of the Nmuri Bridge and the F107 Road in Ebem Ohafia, Abia State:***  
Hon. Ibe Okwara Osonwa (*Arochukwu/Ohafia Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
  - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

**Need to Address the Deadly and Unsafe Condition of the Nmuri Bridge and the F107 Road in Ebem Ohafia, Abia State:**

The House:

*Notes* with grave concern the deteriorating state of the Nmuri Bridge Access and the F107 road in Ebem Ohafia, Abia State, which serve as critical infrastructure connecting the Umuahia-Bende-Arochukwu-Ohafia to other neighbouring towns and fostering socioeconomic activities in the region;

*Also notes* that the Nmuri access of the F107 Road has suffered extensive damage, rendering it hazardous for commuters, while the F107 road is riddled with potholes and erosion gullies, causing accidents and delays, particularly during the rainy season;

*Aware* that the unsafe condition of the road has resulted in numerous fatalities, loss of properties, and has significantly hampered the movement of goods and services, which is detrimental to the economic wellbeing of the people of Ohafia and surrounding Communities;

*Acknowledges* that the contract for the reconstruction of the F107 Ohafia-Bende-Umuahia road was awarded in 2018 to Hartland Setraco for the sum of ₦5.49 billion under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Works;

*Also aware* that the Federal Executive Council approved an additional ₦12 billion for the project, with over ₦300 million allocated in the 2021 and ₦400 Million in 2024 Appropriation Bill, raising suspicions of corruption and mismanagement;

*Further aware* that the continued neglect of these critical infrastructures poses a serious threat to public safety, hinders access to essential services such as healthcare, education and businesses undermines the government's commitment to equitable development across all regions;

*Disturbed* that the bad condition of the F107 Road made Sunday, 22 December, 2024, a black Sunday in the Constituency, as a tragic accident occurred at approximately 1.30 pm, involving a chippings-filled trailer that overturned, tragically claiming the lives of seven innocent travelers;

*Cognizant* of the urgent need to avert further loss of lives and damage to properties by prioritizing the reconstruction of the Nmuri axis and the rehabilitation of the F107 road;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) urge the Inspector-General of Police to thoroughly investigate the circumstances surrounding the accident and to consider charging Hartland Setraco Limited with corporate manslaughter;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Works, Anti-Corruption, Public Accounts, and Public Procurement to jointly conduct a comprehensive investigation into the activities and funding of Hartland Setraco Limited in relation to the F107 road project (*Hon. Ibe Okwara Osonwa — Arochukwu/Ohafia Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* with grave concern the deteriorating state of the Nmuri Bridge Access and the F107 road in Ebem Ohafia, Abia State, which serve as critical infrastructure connecting the Umuahia-Bende-Arochukwu-Ohafia to other neighbouring towns and fostering socioeconomic activities in the region;

*Also noted* that the Nmuri access of the F107 Road has suffered extensive damage, rendering it hazardous for commuters, while the F107 road is riddled with potholes and erosion gullies, causing accidents and delays, particularly during the rainy season;

*Aware* that the unsafe condition of the road has resulted in numerous fatalities, loss of properties, and has significantly hampered the movement of goods and services, which is detrimental to the economic wellbeing of the people of Ohafia and surrounding Communities;

*Acknowledged* that the contract for the reconstruction of the F107 Ohafia-Bende-Umuahia road was awarded in 2018 to Hartland Setraco for the sum of ₦5.49 billion under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Works;

*Also aware* that the Federal Executive Council approved an additional ₦12 billion for the project, with over ₦300 million allocated in the 2021 and ₦400 Million in 2024 Appropriation Bill, raising suspicions of corruption and mismanagement;

*Further aware* that the continued neglect of these critical infrastructures poses a serious threat to public safety, hinders access to essential services such as healthcare, education and businesses undermines the government's commitment to equitable development across all regions;

*Disturbed* that the bad condition of the F107 Road made Sunday, 22 December, 2024, a black Sunday in the Constituency, as a tragic accident occurred at approximately 1.30 pm, involving a chippings-filled trailer that overturned, tragically claiming the lives of seven innocent travelers;

*Cognizant* of the urgent need to avert further loss of lives and damage to properties by prioritizing the reconstruction of the Nmuri axis and the rehabilitation of the F107 road;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) urge the Inspector-General of Police to thoroughly investigate the circumstances surrounding the accident and to consider charging Hartland Setraco Limited with corporate manslaughter;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Works, Anti-Corruption, Public Accounts, and Public Procurement to jointly conduct a comprehensive investigation into the activities and funding of Hartland Setraco Limited in relation to the F107 road project (**HR. 02/01/2025**).

*A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.*

- (iii) ***Call to Honour, Celebrate and Support the Heroism of the Armed Forces of Nigeria in Safeguarding National Unity and Global Peace to Commemorate the Armed Forces Remembrance Day:***

Hon. Babajimi Adegoke Benson (*Ikorodu 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.*

**Call to Honour, Celebrate and Support the Heroism of the Armed Forces of Nigeria in**



**Safeguarding National Unity and Global Peace to Commemorate the Armed Forces Remembrance Day:**

The House:

*Notes* that the Armed Forces of Nigeria, comprising the Nigerian Army, Nigerian Navy and Nigerian Air Force, have demonstrated unparalleled dedication, bravery and professionalism in combating various forms of insecurity across the country, including insurgency, banditry and other criminal activities;

*Aware* of the immense sacrifices made by the officers and men of the Armed Forces of Nigeria in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of Nigerian citizens, often at the risk of their own lives;

*Also aware* that the annual Armed Forces Remembrance Day, marked on the 15th of January, is a solemn occasion to honor the bravery and sacrifices of fallen heroes who paid the ultimate price for our nation's peace and unity;

*Further aware* that the event also provides an opportunity for all Nigerians to reflect on the remarkable achievements of our Armed Forces and recommit to supporting their efforts;

*Recognizes* the significant victories recorded in the fight against insurgency, particularly in the Northeast region, where previously inaccessible communities have been liberated, enabling displaced persons to return to their homes;

*Also recognizes* the immense contributions of the Armed Forces of Nigeria to regional peace and stability through their involvement in joint military operations, collaborations with neighboring countries, and commitment to securing Nigeria's borders;

*Further recognizes* the distinguished record of the Armed Forces of Nigeria in international peacekeeping and other missions under the auspices of the United Nations, African Union and ECOWAS, where their professionalism, discipline, integrity and commitment to global peace have earned the respect and admiration of the international community;

*Acknowledges* the Armed Forces' role in humanitarian missions, disaster response and support to civil authorities during emergencies, which underscores their multifaceted contribution to nation-building;

*Also acknowledges* that these achievements were recorded in the face of daunting challenges, including inadequate funding, obsolete equipment and welfare concerns;

*Concerned* that lack of commendation for these outstanding achievements would likely dampen the morale of these gallant officers and men of the Armed Forces of Nigeria;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of deceased soldiers;
- (ii) commend the Armed Forces of Nigeria for their giant strides in the fight against insecurity and their exemplary conduct during peacekeeping and humanitarian missions worldwide;
- (iii) urge the Executive Arm of Government to sustain its support for the Armed Forces through increased funding, provision of modern equipment, and enhanced welfare packages;

- (iv) mandate the relevant Committees of the House to regularly assess and provide recommendations for the improvement of the Armed Forces' operations, ensuring their continued efficiency and effectiveness (*Hon. Babajimi Adegoke Benson — Ikorodu Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendments Proposed:**

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (v) as follows:  
“urge the House to institute an annual award ceremony to honour the best serving officers in the various Services based on the recommendation from the Defence Headquarters” (*Hon. Waive Ejiroghene Francis — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.*

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (vi) as follows:  
“urge the Executive Arm of Government to include automatic scholarship to children of fallen heroes through Basic Secondary and Tertiary Education, as a means of boosting patriotism and morale among officers in the line of duty” (*Hon. Onuoha Miriam Odinaka — Isiala Mbano/Okigwe/Onuimo Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.*

*Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the Armed Forces of Nigeria, comprising the Nigerian Army, Nigerian Navy and Nigerian Air Force, have demonstrated unparalleled dedication, bravery and professionalism in combating various forms of insecurity across the country, including insurgency, banditry and other criminal activities;

*Aware* of the immense sacrifices made by the officers and men of the Armed Forces of Nigeria in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of Nigerian citizens, often at the risk of their own lives;

*Also aware* that the annual Armed Forces Remembrance Day, marked on the 15th of January, is a solemn occasion to honor the bravery and sacrifices of fallen heroes who paid the ultimate price for our nation's peace and unity;

*Further aware* that the event also provides an opportunity for all Nigerians to reflect on the remarkable achievements of our Armed Forces and recommit to supporting their efforts;

*Recognized* the significant victories recorded in the fight against insurgency, particularly in the Northeast region, where previously inaccessible communities have been liberated, enabling displaced persons to return to their homes;

*Also recognized* the immense contributions of the Armed Forces of Nigeria to regional peace and stability through their involvement in joint military operations, collaborations with neighboring countries, and commitment to securing Nigeria's borders;

*Further recognized* the distinguished record of the Armed Forces of Nigeria in international peacekeeping and other missions under the auspices of the United Nations, African Union and ECOWAS, where their professionalism, discipline, integrity and commitment to global peace have earned the respect and admiration of the international community;

*Acknowledged* the Armed Forces' role in humanitarian missions, disaster response and support to civil authorities during emergencies, which underscores their multifaceted contribution to nation-building;

*Also acknowledged* that these achievements were recorded in the face of daunting challenges, including inadequate funding, obsolete equipment and welfare concerns;

*Concerned* that lack of commendation for these outstanding achievements would likely dampen the morale of these gallant officers and men of the Armed Forces of Nigeria;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of deceased soldiers;
- (ii) commend the Armed Forces of Nigeria for their giant strides in the fight against insecurity and their exemplary conduct during peacekeeping and humanitarian missions worldwide;
- (iii) urge the Executive Arm of Government to sustain its support for the Armed Forces through increased funding, provision of modern equipment, and enhanced welfare packages;
- (iv) also urge the House to institute an annual award ceremony to honour the best serving officers in the various Services based on the recommendation from the Defence Headquarters;
- (v) further urge the Executive Arm of Government to include automatic scholarship to children of fallen heroes through Basic Secondary and Tertiary Education, as a means of boosting patriotism and morale among officers in the line of duty;
- (vi) mandate the relevant Committees of the House to regularly assess and provide recommendations for the improvement of the Armed Forces' operations, ensuring their continued efficiency and effectiveness (**HR. 03/01/2025**).

*A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.*

## **8. Personal Explanation (Order Eight, Rule 6)**

Hon. Terseer Ugbor (*Kwande/Ushongo Federal Constituency*), drew the attention of the House to the revised Harmonized Armed Forces Terms and Conditions of Service (HAFTCS) signed into effect by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on 16 December, 2024, wherein officers were banned from holding membership of any secret society or political party. He noted that placing secret societies and political parties in the same category sends an enormous impression that there is a similarity between them. He further noted that political parties are platforms for democracy and national development, and have no similarities whatsoever with secret societies.

*Mr Speaker noted the matter.*

## **9. Presentation of Reports**

### **(i) Report of the Conference Committee:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That the House do receive the Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission Act, Cap. R7 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission Bill, to enhance its Funding in the Monitoring of Accruals to and Disbursement of Revenue from the Federation Account and for Related Matters" (*Hon. Waive Ejiroghene Francis — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

**(ii) *Report of the Conference Committee:***

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Conference Committee 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” (*Hon. Isah Bello Ambarura — Illela/Gwadabawa Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

**(iii) *Committee on University Education:***

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on University Education on a Bill for an Act to Establish Akanu Federal University of Technology, Unwana to Provide Training and Teaching Instruction in every aspect of Education and other fields of Applied Learning relevant to the needs of the Development of Education in Nigeria, Matters of Administration and Discipline of Students and for Related Matters (HB. 672)” (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasama Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

**(iv) *Committee on University Education:***

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on University Education on a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of the Federal University of Technology, Badagry, Lagos State and for Related Matters (HB. 1500)” (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasama Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

**(v) *Committee on University Education:***

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on University Education on a Bill for an Act to Establish Ibile Entrepreneurship University, Lagos and make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (HB. 639)” (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasama Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

**(vi) *Committee on University Education:***

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on University Education on a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Medical and Health Sciences, Item Bende to make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due

Management and Administration and for Related Matters (HB. 25)” (Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasama Federal Constituency).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

**(vii) Committee on University Education:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on University Education on a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Solid Mineral Development, Michika, Adamawa State as a Training Institution for the Development of Solid Mineral, make Comprehensive Provisions for the Management and Administration of the University and for Related Matters (HB.705)” (Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasama Federal Constituency).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

**(viii) Committee on University Education:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on University Education on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of Oba Obafemi Vocational Skills and Entrepreneurship University, Owode and for Related Matters (HB. 726)” (Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasama Federal Constituency).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

**(ix) Committee on Communications:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Communications on the Need to Investigate Private Internet Service Providers in Nigeria (HR. 253/06/2024)” (Hon. Peter Ohiozogh Akpatason — Akoko Edo Federal Constituency).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

**(x) Committee on Communications:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Communications on the Need to stop Global Service for Mobile Communication (GSM) Providers from reassigning paid SIM Cards” (HR. 142/07/2023)” (Hon. Peter Ohiozogh Akpatason — Akoko Edo Federal Constituency).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

**10. ABill for an Act to Establish Federal University Kisi, Oyo State and for Related Matters (HB.1387) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University Kisi, Oyo State and for Related Matters (HB.1387) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Olaide Lateef Muhammed — Irepo/Orelope/Olorunsogo 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 Universal Education.*

11. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Directorate for Employment Act, Cap. N28, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Establish National Agency for Job Creation and Human Capital Development to be responsible for Stimulating Job Creation, Fostering Business Growth and Connecting Employers with Skilled Workers, Promoting Humans and Capital Development to ensure a strong, Qualified Workforce that fuels a Vibrant and Prosperous National Economy and for Related Matters (HB.1319) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Directorate for Employment Act, Cap. N28, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Establish National Agency for Job Creation and Human Capital Development to be responsible for Stimulating Job Creation, Fostering Business Growth and Connecting Employers with Skilled Workers, Promoting Humans and Capital Development to ensure a strong, Qualified Workforce that fuels a Vibrant and Prosperous National Economy and for Related Matters (HB.1319) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Bamidele Salam — Ede North/Ede South/Egbendore/Ejigbo 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 Labour, Employment and Productivity.*

12. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Potiskum, Yobe State and for Related Matters (HB.1911) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Potiskum, Yobe State and for Related Matters (HB.1911) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Fatima Talba — Nangere/Potiskum 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.*

13. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Wesley Guild Ilesa, Osun State and for Related Matters (HB.1871) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Wesley Guild Ilesa, Osun State and for Related Matters (HB.1871) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Emmanuel Omirin — Atakumosa East/Atakumosa West/Ilesa East/Ilesa West Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

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

*Bill read the Second Time.*

*Bill referred to the Committee on Health Institutions.*

14. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Vocational and Skills Acquisition College Ilaro, Ogun State to make Provision for Research, Teaching Instruction and Training on Vocational and Skills Acquisition and for Related Matters (HB.1827) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Vocational and Skills Acquisition College Ilaro, Ogun State to make Provision for Research, Teaching Instruction and Training on Vocational and Skills Acquisition and for Related Matters (HB.1827) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Abiodun Isiaq Akinlade — Egbado South/Ipokia 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 Federal Polytechnic and Higher Technical Education.*

15. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Nursing And Midwifery Kafin Malamai, Garko, Kano State to Provide Training in Nursing and Midwifery and other Specialties of Medicine and to make Provision for the General Administration of the College and for Related Matters (HB.1208) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Nursing And Midwifery Kafin Malamai, Garko, Kano State to Provide Training in Nursing and Midwifery and other Specialties of Medicine and to make Provision for the General Administration of the College and for Related Matters (HB.1208) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Abdulhakeem Kamilu Ado — Wudil/Karko 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. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Land Resources Technology, Rabah, Sokoto State to, among other things, Provide for Teaching, Research, Instruction and Training of Students to Produce Middle and High-Level Professionals in Land Resources Technology and for Related Matters (HB. 717) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Land Resources Technology, Rabah, Sokoto State to, among other things, Provide for Teaching, Research, Instruction and Training of Students to Produce Middle and High-Level Professionals in Land Resources Technology and for Related Matters (HB. 717) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Ibahim Almustapha Aliyu — Wurno/Rabbah 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 Agricultural Colleges and Institutions.*

17. **Prevalence of Viral Hepatitis in Nigeria**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that viral hepatitis is caused by infectious and non-infectious viruses which is a liver inflammation causing fatal health problems, it has five main strains comprising types A, B, C, D, and E, with types B and C being lethal, causing both acute and chronic diseases in hundreds of millions of people, and together are the most common causes of liver cirrhosis, liver cancer, and viral hepatitis-related deaths;

*Also notes* that viral hepatitis is highly communicable from mother to child through child delivery, contact with infected blood, infected body fluids such as saliva, vaginal fluids, and semen during unsafe sexual intercourse, contact with infected injections, or exposure to sharp instruments, as well as from infected to uninfected children between the ages of 0-5 years;

*Alarmed* by the World Health Organization's 2024 Global Hepatitis Report, that the number of lives lost due to viral hepatitis is on the increase, making it the second leading infectious cause of death globally with an estimated 1.3 million deaths annually, or 3,500 per day, similar to tuberculosis, a top infectious killer with an estimated 345 million people living with the infection worldwide;

*Also alarmed* that the larger percent of the global scorecard of infection is found in Africa, where it is estimated that about 5 -10% of the population suffers from chronic infection with the Hepatitis B virus, while Hepatitis C virus spreads among about 5.3 % of the African population, without adequate care or treatment;

*Worried* that Nigeria is said to have the highest prevalence rate of Hepatitis B and C in Africa, which, according to the Report by the WHO and Federal Ministry of Health suggests that approximately more than 20 Million representing more than 10% of the Nigeria's population are living with chronic infection of Hepatitis B or C with the greater percentage of the population at risk of infection or death from the viral hepatitis related diseases;

*Concerned* that despite the adoption by the Federal Government of a \$3 billion Nigeria Strategy on Immunization and Primary Health Care Systems Strengthening 2018 - 2028, perhaps due to low public awareness, ignorance or institutions negligence, most infected patients are yet to benefit from the available 100% safe vaccine and effective treatment, consequently, new infections from mother to child and from one infected child to other uninfected children ages 0-5years have spiraled, further increasing the spread of viral hepatitis and risk of death from the lethal infection throughout the country;

*Convinced* by the wise words of Late President Madiba Nelson Mandela that "a healthy nation is a wealthy nation" and the popular phrase by Ralph Waldo Emerson that "Health is Wealth", most certainly, a healthier population will enjoys quality life with prolonged years free from illness and disability;

*Cognizant* of the need to urgently investigate the prevalence of viral hepatitis to prevent its wide spread.

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Development and relevant agencies to make testing, vaccination, and treatment mandatory for children below five years of age to prevent mother-to-child transmission, ensure safety standards are adhered to both in public and private health care facilities in the country towards containment and prevention of further spread of viral hepatitis;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation and relevant agencies to create awareness promoting testing, vaccination, treatment, and prevention of the spread of viral hepatitis in the country;



- (iii) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to investigate the alarming rate of viral hepatitis, recommend public awareness, wider testing and vaccination coverage and effective treatment of viral hepatitis and report within three (3) weeks; and
- (iv) also mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, Information, and National Orientation as well as Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Kwamoti Bitrus Laori — Demsa/Lamurde/Numan Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that viral hepatitis is caused by infectious and non-infectious viruses which is a liver inflammation causing fatal health problems, it has five main strains comprising types A, B, C, D, and E, with types B and C being lethal, causing both acute and chronic diseases in hundreds of millions of people, and together are the most common causes of liver cirrhosis, liver cancer, and viral hepatitis-related deaths;

*Also noted* that viral hepatitis is highly communicable from mother to child through child delivery, contact with infected blood, infected body fluids such as saliva, vaginal fluids, and semen during unsafe sexual intercourse, contact with infected injections, or exposure to sharp instruments, as well as from infected to uninfected children between the ages of 0-5 years;

*Alarmed* by the World Health Organization's 2024 Global Hepatitis Report, that the number of lives lost due to viral hepatitis is on the increase, making it the second leading infectious cause of death globally with an estimated 1.3 million deaths annually, or 3,500 per day, similar to tuberculosis, a top infectious killer with an estimated 345 million people living with the infection worldwide;

*Also alarmed* that the larger percent of the global scorecard of infection is found in Africa, where it is estimated that about 5 -10% of the population suffers from chronic infection with the Hepatitis B virus, while Hepatitis C virus spreads among about 5.3% of the African population, without adequate care or treatment;

*Worried* that Nigeria is said to have the highest prevalence rate of Hepatitis B and C in Africa, which, according to the Report by the WHO and Federal Ministry of Health suggests that approximately more than 20 Million representing more than 10% of the Nigeria's population are living with chronic infection of Hepatitis B or C with the greater percentage of the population at risk of infection or death from the viral hepatitis related diseases;

*Concerned* that despite the adoption by the Federal Government of a \$3 billion Nigeria Strategy on Immunization and Primary Health Care Systems Strengthening 2018 - 2028, perhaps due to low public awareness, ignorance or institutions negligence, most infected patients are yet to benefit from the available 100% safe vaccine and effective treatment, consequently, new infections from mother to child and from one infected child to other uninfected children ages 0-5years have spiraled, further increasing the spread of viral hepatitis and risk of death from the lethal infection throughout the country;

*Convinced* by the wise words of Late President Madiba Nelson Mandela that "a healthy nation is a wealthy nation" and the popular phrase by Ralph Waldo Emerson that "Health is Wealth", most certainly, a healthier population will enjoys quality life with prolonged years free from illness and disability;

*Cognizant* of the need to urgently investigate the prevalence of viral hepatitis to prevent its wide spread.

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Development and relevant agencies to make testing, vaccination, and treatment mandatory for children below five years of age to prevent mother-to-child transmission, ensure safety standards are adhered to both in public and private health care facilities in the country towards containment and prevention of further spread of viral hepatitis;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation and relevant agencies to create awareness promoting testing, vaccination, treatment, and prevention of the spread of viral hepatitis in the country;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to investigate the alarming rate of viral hepatitis, recommend public awareness, wider testing and vaccination coverage and effective treatment of viral hepatitis and report within three (3) weeks; and
- (iv) also mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, Information, and National Orientation as well as Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance **(HR. 04/01/2025)**.

**18. Need to Address the Spate of Insecurity and Kidnappings in Ikara Local Government Area of Kaduna State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that on 15 December 2024, a group of armed men stormed into Ikara ward in Ikara Local Government Area of Kaduna state and abducted up to 10 people, including a pregnant woman;

*Also notes* that 12 days after the first incident, on the 27 December 2024, the same suspected group invaded the same community in Ikara ward, kidnapping five people;

*Aware* that the two kidnappings are the first of their kind, following a mosque attack in Ikara where bandits killed a vigilante leader and six worshippers a year ago;

*Also aware* that Ikara ward and Saya Saya ward, along with two (2) other wards in Ikara Local Government Area, share a boundary with a large forest, which boundaries Kaduna State and Tudun Wada ward of Kano State;

*Concerned* that the criminals are suspected to have camps in their large numbers in the forest, where they operate and keep abductees;

*Also concerned* that the criminals operate daily on the Ikara to Saya-Saya road, a major road leading to Kano State, where a number of casualties have been recorded, and the road is now becoming inaccessible.

*Worried* that residents are now living in fear and if measures are not taken, these criminal activities will spread across communities, causing loss of lives and properties and rising insecurity in this region;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Nigerian Army and Nigeria Police to set up patrol teams within the affected communities in Ikara Local Government Area;
- (ii) also urge the Nigerian Army to set up a checkpoint on the Ikara-Saya-Saya Road; and

- (iii) mandate the Committees on Army, Police Affairs and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Aliyu Mustapha Abdullahi —Ikara/Kabau Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

*Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:*

*“observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased” (Hon. Abdulhakeem Kamilu Ado — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency).*

*Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.*

*Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that on 15 December 2024, a group of armed men stormed into Ikara ward in Ikara Local Government Area of Kaduna state and abducted up to 10 people, including a pregnant woman;

*Also noted* that 12 days after the first incident, on the 27 December 2024, the same suspected group invaded the same community in Ikara ward, kidnapping five people;

*Aware* that the two kidnappings are the first of their kind, following a mosque attack in Ikara where bandits killed a vigilante leader and six worshippers a year ago;

*Also aware* that Ikara ward and Saya Saya ward, along with two (2) other wards in Ikara Local Government Area, share a boundary with a large forest, which boundaries Kaduna State and Tudun Wada ward of Kano State;

*Concerned* that the criminals are suspected to have camps in their large numbers in the forest, where they operate and keep abductees;

*Also concerned* that the criminals operate daily on the Ikara to Saya-Saya road, a major road leading to Kano State, where a number of casualties have been recorded, and the road is now becoming inaccessible.

*Worried* that residents are now living in fear and if measures are not taken, these criminal activities will spread across communities, causing loss of lives and properties and rising insecurity in this region;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) observed a minute silence in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) urge the Nigerian Army and Nigeria Police to set up patrol teams within the affected communities in Ikara Local Government Area;
- (iii) also urge the Nigerian Army to set up a checkpoint on the Ikara-Saya-Saya Road; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Army, Police Affairs and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 05/01/2025**).

*A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.*

**19. Consideration of Reports**

- (i) *Report of the Conference Committee:*

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do consider the Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission Act, Cap. R7 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission Bill, to enhance its Funding in the Monitoring of Accruals to and Disbursement of Revenue from the Federation Account and for Related Matters” (*Hon. Waive Ejiroghene Francis — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

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

**(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)**

*(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)*

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO REPEAL THE REVENUE, MOBILIZATION, ALLOCATION AND FISCAL COMMISSION ACT, CAP. R7, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004 AND ENACT THE REVENUE, MOBILIZATION, ALLOCATION AND FISCAL COMMISSION TO GRANT THE COMMISSION ENFORCEMENT POWERS IN THE MONITORING OF ACCRUALS TO AND DISBURSEMENT OF REVENUE FROM THE FEDERATION ACCOUNT AND BRING THE ACT IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE 1999 CONSTITUTION (AS AMENDED) AND FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATED THEREWITH

**Long Title:**

A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission Act, Cap. R7, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission Act, 2024 to Enhance its Funding in the Monitoring of Accruals to and Disbursement of Revenue from the Federation Account; and for Related Matters

**PART I — ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION OF COMMISSION, ETC.**

**Clause 1: Establishment and Composition of the Commission.**

There is for the Federation the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission ("the Commission") established under section 153 (1) (n) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, which —

- (a) shall be a body corporate;
- (b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name; and
- (c) may own property, whether movable or immovable (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 2: Composition of the Commission.**

The Commission shall consist of —

- (a) a Chairman, and
- (b) one member from each State of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, who shall be a person of unquestionable integrity with requisite qualification and experience to be appointed by the President,

subject to confirmation by the Senate (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 3: Qualification of members of the Commission.**

- (1) A person nominated for Chairman or member of the Commission shall have a minimum of first degree or any equivalent professional qualification and a minimum of 15 years post-qualification experience.
- (2) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as Chairman or a member of the Commission, if—
  - (a) within the preceding 10 years, the person has been removed from office as a holder of any public office on ground of misconduct.
  - (b) the person is employed in the public service of the Federation or of a State, or Local Government Council:

Provided that where such person has been appointed, the person shall on his/her appointment, be deemed to have resigned his former office as from the date of the appointment.
- (3) The person has been previously re-appointed for another term as a member of the Commission except as an *ex-officio* member of the Commission (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 4: Tenure of office of members of the Commission.**

Subject to the provisions of Section 5 of this Bill and Section 155 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, a member of the Commission shall hold office for a period of five years from the date of his appointment, renewable for another term and no more (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 5: Removal and cessation of membership.**

The Chairman and members of the Commission, may only be removed from office by the President acting on an address supported by two-thirds majority of the Senate praying that he be so removed for inability to perform the functions of the office, whether arising from infirmity of mind or body or for any cause, or for misconduct (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**PART II — POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION**

**Clause 6: Powers of the Commission/**

- (1) The Commission shall have power to —
  - (a) monitor the accruals to and disbursement of revenue from the Federation Account;

- (b) review from time to time, the revenue allocation formulae and principles in operation to ensure conformity with changing realities:  
  
Provided that any revenue formula which has been accepted by an Act of the National Assembly shall remain in force for a period of not less than five years from the date of commencement of the Act;
  - (c) advise the Federal, State and Local Governments on fiscal efficiency and methods by which their revenue can be increased;
  - (d) determine the remuneration appropriate for political office holders, including the President, Vice- President, Governors, Deputy Governors, Ministers, Commissioners, Special Advisers, Legislators and the holders of the offices mentioned in sections 84 and 124 of the Constitution.
  - (e) demand and obtain from any government agency or company, or any person information, data, books, documents or returns pertaining to the remittance of accruals into or disbursement of revenue from the Federation Account;
  - (f) monitor any —
    - (i) receipt however described arising from the operation of any law,
    - (ii) return, however described, arising from or in respect of any property held by the Government of the Federation, and
    - (iii) return by way of interest on loans and dividends in respect of shares or interest held by the government of the Federation in any company or statutory body;
  - (g) perform such other functions as are conferred on the Commission by the Constitution or any act of the National Assembly.
- (2) For the attainment of the objectives in subsection (1) of this section, the Commission shall —
- (a) be a statutory member of each of the —
    - (i) Federation Account Allocation Committee,
    - (ii) Local Government Joint Account Allocation Committee,
    - (iii) Joint Tax Board,
    - (iv) Ecological Fund Commission,
    - (v) Niger Delta Development Commission, and
    - (vi) any other regional development Commission established by an Act of the National Assembly;
  - (b) have the power to demand and obtain regular and relevant information, data or returns from any Government agencies including the —

- (i) the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation,
  - (ii) the Nigerian Customs Service,
  - (iii) the Federal Inland Revenue Service,
  - (iv) the Central Bank of Nigeria, and
  - (v) the Federal Ministry of Finance.
- (3) Government agencies including those mentioned in subsection (2) (b) of this Section shall comply with any request made by the Commission (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 7: Independence of the Commission.**

The Commission shall be an independent and autonomous body and shall not be subject to the direction or control of any other authority or person in the exercise of its powers to make appointment or to exercise disciplinary control over persons (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 8: Proceedings of the Commission.**

The provision of the Second Schedule to this Bill shall apply with respect to the proceedings of the Commission and other matters contained in it (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**PART III — ORGANISATION AND STAFF OF THE COMMISSION**

**Clause 9: Appointment and function of Secretary of the Commission.**

- (1) There shall be a Secretary for the Commission who shall be —
- (a) appointed by the President; and
  - (b) an officer with requisite qualification and experience.
- (2) The Secretary of the Commission shall —
- (a) be responsible for preparing the minutes of the Commission's meetings;
  - (b) keep and secure the records of the Commission;
  - (c) issue notices of meetings of the Commission as directed by the Chairman or the Commission at plenary;
  - (d) be responsible for the implementation of the Commission's decisions, subject to the direction of the Chairman or the Commission at plenary;

- (e) prepare and lay before the Commission for approval in each year, estimates of expenditure and income for submission to the National Assembly;
  - (f) be the head of the Commission's secretariat and be responsible for the administration, direction and control of all other employees of the Commission with the approval of the Chairman; and
  - (g) perform such other functions as may be determined by the Commission.
- (3) The Secretary to the Commission shall hold office for a term of four years and may be reappointed for a further term of four years and no more.
- (4) The Secretary may be removed from office if —
  - (a) he is guilty of gross misconduct as prescribed by the Public Service Rules;
  - (b) he is unable to perform his duties due to infirmity of mind or body or other incapacity; or
  - (c) his tenure expires or he resigns from office (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 10: Other staff of the Commission.**

- (1) The Commission may appoint other staff as may appear to it expedient and necessary for the proper and efficient performance of its functions under this Bill.
- (2) The Commission shall pay its employees such remunerations, allowances and other benefits as it may determine.
- (3) The Commission may make rules relating generally to the conditions of service of employees, and the rules may provide for the appointment, promotion and disciplinary control of all employees (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 11: Secondment of staff.**

- (1) The Commission may appoint such staff, either directly or on secondment, as it may deem necessary and expedient, for the proper and efficient performance of its functions.
- (2) The Commission may appoint persons not in the public service of the Federation to discharge such duties (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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



**Clause 12: Service in the Commission to be pensionable.**

- (1) Service in the Commission shall be public service for the purpose of the Pension Reform Act and the staff shall be entitled to such pension, gratuity and other retirement benefits as may be prescribed in the Pension Reform Act.
- (2) Nothing in this Section shall prevent the appointment of a person to any office in the Commission on terms and conditions which preclude the grant of a pension or gratuity in respect of services in that office (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 13: Establishment of zonal and state offices.**

There is established for the Commission a head office at Abuja, administrative directorates, other Zonal or State offices as the Commission may deem necessary including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**PART IV — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS AND REPORTS****Clause 14: Establishment of Fund of the Commission.**

- (1) The fund of the Commission shall be a direct (first line) charge on the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation, which shall be appropriated by the National Assembly;
- (2) The Commission shall also establish and maintain a fund into which shall be paid —
  - (a) all sums of money accruing to the Commission by way of grant-in-aid, gifts, endowments and contributions from any donor agency;
  - (b) such money as may be granted to the Commission by the Federal, State and Local Government for the effective performance of its functions under this Bill; and
  - (c) all other money that may accrue to the Commission including the disposal, lease, hire of or any other activities such as seminars, workshop or any dealing with any property vested in or acquired by the Commission.
- (3) The Commission shall defray from the Fund established under subsection (1), all the amount payable under this Bill, being sums representing —
  - (a) amounts payable to the Chairman, members and Secretary of the Commission;
  - (b) costs of employment of staff and the recurrent expenditure of the Commission;
  - (c) amounts payable as pensions, gratuities and other retirement benefits under this Bill or any other enactment;

- (d) costs of acquisition and upkeep of premises belonging to the Commission and any other capital expenditure of the Commission; and
  - (e) any other payment for anything incidental to or in connection with any other function of the Commission under this Bill.
- (4) The Chairman of the Commission shall be the Chief Executive and Accounting Officer of the Commission (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 15: Audit and Account.**

- (1) The Commission shall not later than 30th June in each year, submit to the National Assembly an estimate of its income and expenditure during the succeeding financial year.
- (2) The accounts of the Commission shall be audited annually by external auditors appointed by the Commission from the lists of the approved auditors forwarded to it by the Auditor-General for the Federation (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 16: Annual Report.**

- (1) The Commission shall not later than three months before the end of each year, submit to the President a report on the activities and the administration of the Commission during the immediately preceding year and shall include in such reports audited accounts of the Commission and the auditor's report on it.
- (2) In addition to any other report presented under this Bill, the Commission shall prepare and submit to each House of the National Assembly not later than the 30 June in each year an annual report on the accounts of the Commission during the immediately preceding financial year, and shall include in that report a copy of the audited account of the Commission for that year and the auditor's report on it (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

PART V — OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

**Clause 17: Offences and Penalties.**

- (1) A Commission, Board or revenue generating agency of the Government of the Federation shall remit and not withhold revenues generated pursuant to Section 162 (1) of the Constitution into the Federation Account.
- (2) A member of the Board or officer of any Commission or revenue generating agency of the Government of the Federation who -
  - (a) fails, refuses, diverts, delays or neglects to remit money collected on behalf of the Government of the Federation within 30 days of such collection, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a

fine of at least ₦1,000,000 or imprisonment for a term of at least five years or both;

(b) knowingly or willfully submits a false statement of account to the Commission, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of at least ₦1,000,000 or imprisonment for a term of at least one year or both;

(3) A person who unlawfully or fraudulently appropriates or diverts to himself or to any other person, any revenue disbursed from the Federation Account under Section 162 (3) of the Constitution commits an offence and is liable on conviction to —

(a) a fine of 10% of the amount unlawfully or fraudulently appropriated or diverted, and in addition refund the amount unlawfully or fraudulently appropriated or diverted; or

(b) imprisonment for a term and not less than 10 years or both (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

#### PART VI — MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

**Clause 18: Power to make regulations.**

The Commission may make regulations or issue guidelines as may be necessary for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of this Bill (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 19: Repeal and Savings.**

- (1) The Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission Act, Cap. R7, LFN, 2004 is repealed.
- (2) Without prejudice to section 6 of the interpretation Act, the repeal of this Bill, shall not affect anything done or purported to have been done under the repealed Act.
- (3) Any Regulation, order, requirement, contract, notice, direction, decision, authorization, consent, application, ongoing cases in court, requests or things made, issued given or done under the repealed Act shall, if in force at the commencement of this Bill, continue to be in force and have effect as if made, issued, given or done under this Bill.
- (4) Any person who immediately before the commencement of this Bill was a staff of the Commission established under the repealed act shall be deemed to have been appointed under this Bill.
- (5) Properties held immediately before the commencement date of this Bill on behalf of the Commission under the repealed Act by any person, shall by virtue of this Bill, be vested in the Commission established under this Bill (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 20: Interpretation,**  
In this Bill —

"Chairman" means the Chairman of the Commission appointed under section 1 of this Bill (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

"Commission" means the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission established under section 153 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

"Constitution" means the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

"functions" includes powers and duties (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

"Government Agency" includes Ministries, Departments, Commissions and Parastatals of the Government of the Federation (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Government Agency" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Member" includes Chairman and other members of the Commission (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

"Public Service of the Federation" and "Public Service of a State" have the meaning assigned to them in section 318 (1) of the Constitution (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Public Service of the Federation" and "Public Service of a State" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"person" has its ordinary meaning and includes legal personality (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

"President" means the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

"revenue" has the definition given to it under section 162 (10) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999; and (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

"Secretary" means the Secretary of the Commission appointed under this Bill (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

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

**Clause 21: Citation.**

This Bill may be cited as Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission Bill, 2025 (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

## **SCHEDULES**

### **FIRST SCHEDULE**

#### **PART I**

(Section 84 of the Constitution)

Holders of the offices that the Commission is empowered to determine their remuneration, salaries and allowances President, Vice-President, Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice of the Supreme Court, President of the Court of Appeal, Justice of the Court of Appeal, Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, Judge of the Federal High Court, President of the National Industrial Court, Judge of the National Industrial Court, Chief Judge and Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Chief Judge of a State, Judge of the High Court a State, Grand Kadi and Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, President and Judge of the Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Grand Kadi and Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of a State, President and Judge of the Customary Court of Appeal of a State, the Auditor-General for the Federation and the Chairman and members of the following executive bodies, namely, the Code of Conduct Bureau, the Federal Civil Service Commission, the Independent National Electoral Commission, the National Judicial Council, the Federal Judicial Service Commission, the Judicial Service Committee of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, the Federal Character Commission, the Code of Conduct Tribunal, the National Population Commission, the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission, the Nigeria Police Council, and the Police Service Commission, including Chief of Staff to the President, Secretary to Government of the Federation, Special Adviser to the President, Federal Permanent Secretaries and Chairmen and

members of such other Commissions and Agencies established by an Act of the National Assembly conferring on the Commission powers to determined remunerations of their members.

## PART II

(Section 124 (1) of the Constitution)

Governor, Deputy Governor, Auditor-General for a State, Auditor-General of the Local Government Councils of the State and the Chairman and members of the following bodies, that is to say, the State Civil Service Commission, the state Local Government Service Commission, the State Independent National Electoral Commission and the State Judicial Service Commission (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

## SECOND SCHEDULE

### PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSION

1. The Commission may make standing orders regulating the proceedings of the Commission or any Committee of it.
2. The quorum for a meeting of the Commission shall not be less than one third of the total number of members of the Commission at the date of the meeting and the quorum of any Committee of the Commission shall be one third of the members of the Committee.
3. The Commission shall operate in standing committees and meet in plenary at least once in a month.
4. The standing committee shall perform such functions as may be assigned to it by the Commission.
5. The decision of a standing committee is subject to the ratification of the Commission at plenary.
6. The meeting of a standing committee shall be presided over by a Chairman appointed by the Commission, or the Vice-Chairman in the absence of the Chairman and in the absence of both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, the members present shall nominate one of their members to preside.
7. A meeting of the Commission shall be presided over by the Chairman, and if the chairman is unable to attend the meeting, the Chairman shall nominate a member to preside at the meeting.
8.
  - (1) Subject to the provisions of any applicable standing orders, the Commission shall meet whenever summoned by the Chairman and if the Chairman is required to do so by notice given to him by not less than one third of the members, he shall summon the meeting of the Commission to be held within 21 days from the date on which the notice is given.
  - (2) Whenever the Commission wishes to obtain the services of any person on a particular matter, the Commission may engage such person on such terms and conditions as it may determine.
9. The affixing of the seal of the Commission shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman or any person authorised generally or specifically by the Commission to act for

that purpose (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Explanatory Memorandum:**

This Bill repeals the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission Act, Cap. R7, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and enact the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal commission Act, 2004 to enhance its capacity in the monitoring of accruals to and disbursement of revenue from the Federation Account (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Chairman to report Bill.*

**(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission Act, Cap. R7 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission Bill, to enhance its Funding in the Monitoring of Accruals to and Disbursement of Revenue from the Federation Account and for Related Matters and adopted the Report.

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

**(ii) Report of the Conference Committee:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do consider the Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to 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” (*Hon. Waive Ejiroghene Francis — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

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

**(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)**

*(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)*

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON THE SOUTH WEST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (ESTABLISHMENT, ETC.)  
BILL, 2025

**Long Title:**

A Bill for an Act to Establish the South West Development Commission Charged with the Responsibility among Other Things, Receive and Manage Funds from Allocation of the Federation Account, Including Donations and Gifts for the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Infrastructural Damages Suffered in the Region and as to Tackle the Ecological, Environmental and Other Developmental Challenges in the Region; and for Related Matters (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

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

**Clause 1: Establishment of South West Development Commission.**

- (1) There is established a Commission to be known as the South West 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 and be sued in its corporate name.
- (3) The Headquarters of the Commission shall be located in Ibadan with operational offices in each member States of the Commission (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu 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. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 2 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. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu 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 established in Clause 2 (2) shall rotate amongst the member States of the Commission in the following alphabetical order —

- (i) Ekiti;
- (ii) Lagos;
- (iii) Ogun;
- (iv) Ondo;
- (v) Osun; and
- (vi) Oyo (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu 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;
  - (b) becomes bankrupt;
  - (c) is convicted of a felony or any offence involving dishonesty; and
  - (d) is guilty of serious misconduct in relation to the office.
- (3) A member of the Board other than *ex-officio* member may resigned his or her appointment by notice, in writing to the President which resignation shall take effect upon receipt and approval by the President.
- (4) Where vacancy exists in the membership of the Board, the vacancy 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 (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 6: Remunerations and Allowances.**

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. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**PART II — FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE COMMISSION**

**Clause 7: Functions and Powers of the Commission.**

- (1) The Commission shall —
- (a) formulate policies and guidelines for the development of the South-West States;
  - (b) conceive, plan and implement, in accordance with the set rules and regulations, projects and programmes for the sustainable development of the South-West 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 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 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 utilized;
  - (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 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. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu 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. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu 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 Departments —
  - (a) Administration and Human Resources;
  - (b) Planning Research, Statistics and Management Information System;
  - (c) Community and Rural Development;
  - (d) Environmental Protection and Control, Utilities Infrastructural Development;
  - (e) Finance and Supply; and
  - (f) Legal Services.
- (2) There shall be following Units which shall be under relevant department:
  - (a) Solid Minerals and Agriculture;
  - (b) Education, Health and Social Services;
  - (c) Commercial and Industrial Development; and
  - (d) Projects Monitoring and Supervision.
- (3) The Board may increase the number of Department and Unit as it may deem necessary and expedient to facilitate the realization of the objectives of the Commission (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 10: Management committee.**

- (1) There shall be for the Commission, a Management Committee which shall consist of —
  - (a) a Managing Director; and
  - (b) the Directors responsible for the Department established under Clause 9 of this Bill and such number of other members as may be determined from time to time by the Board.

- (2) The Management Committee shall be responsible to the Board for the general administration of the Commission (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 11: Advisory committee of the Commission.**

- (1) There is 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 other 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 affairs (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu 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. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 13: 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. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu 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, 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. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 15: Application of the Commission Funds.**

- (1) 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.
- (2) 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
- (3) 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.
- (4) 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 exercise of its functions under this Bill (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 16: Annual Estimate and Expenditure.**

- (1) The Board shall, not later than 30th September 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. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 17: Submission of Report.**

- (1) 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.
- (2) 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.
- (3) 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 there on to be submitted to each House of the National Assembly (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**PART VI — MISCELLANEOUS****Clause 18: Monitoring committee.**

- (1) There is 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. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 19: 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. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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



**Clause 20: President Directives.**

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. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 21: Limitation of suits against the Commission.**

- (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. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 22: 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. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 23: Payment 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. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 24: 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. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 25: 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. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

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

**Clause 26: Interpretation.**

In this Bill —

"Chairman" means the Chairman of the Board (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu 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. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu 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. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu 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. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu 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. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu 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 26 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

**Clause 27: Short Title.**

This Bill may be cited as the South West Development Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

*Question that Clause 27 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.
  - (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 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. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu 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 other things to receive and manage fund from allocation of the Federation Account and international donors for the settlement, rehabilitation and reconstruction of roads, houses and business premises destroyed by multi-dimensional crisis as well as tackling the menace of poverty, literacy, ecological problems and any other related environmental or developmental challenges in the South-West States

*Chairman to report Bill.*

**(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Conference Committee 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 and adopted the Report.

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

**20. Adjournment of First Sitting**

*That the House do adjourn the First Sitting till 1.40 p.m. (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).*

*The House adjourned accordingly at 1.25 p.m.*

**Benjamin Okezie Kalu**  
*Deputy Speaker*