



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

Wednesday, 12 March, 2025

1. The House met at 11.10 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House sang the National Anthem and recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**  
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 11 March, 2025.

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

4. **Announcement**  
*Visitors in the Gallery:*  
Mr Speaker announced the presence of the following visitors:
  - (i) Staff and Students of Wonderful School Limited, Apo, Abuja;
  - (ii) Staff and Students of St. Mary's Nursery & Primary School, Suleja, Niger State;
  - (ii) Staff and Students of Genesis of Knowledge Academy, Dutse, Bwari, Abuja.

5. **Petition**  
A petition from Maduka & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Henry Enyeribe and 2 others, on the murder of Precious Chiedozie James, and alleged assassination attempt on his family members by men suspected to be officers of the Directorate of State Services (DSS), was presented and laid by Hon. Chris Nkwonta (*Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency*).

*Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.*

6. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 5)**
  - (i) ***Need for Federal Government Intervention in Erah, Ake and Other Communities in Owan East Local Government Area of Edo State Affected by Flood and Windstorm:***  
Hon. Julius Ihonvbere (*Owan East/Owan West 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 for Federal Government Intervention in Erah, Ake and Other Communities in Owan East Local Government Area of Edo State Affected by Flood and Windstorm:**

The House:

*Notes* with concern the unprecedented flooding disaster that affected Ekeke-Erah, and massive windstorm that affected Ake, Amoya-Otuo other communities in Owan East Local Government Area of Edo State, resulting in widespread destruction of homes, infrastructure including a bridge in Ekeke, farmlands, and livelihoods;

*Also notes* that the affected communities have been plunged into total darkness as a result of the flood that pulled down electric poles and damaged solar street lights;

*Recognizes* that the affected communities are in dire need of emergency assistance, including relief food and medical materials, and reconstruction of damaged infrastructure;

*Acknowledges* the efforts of the Edo State Government, the Minority Leader of the Edo State House of Assembly and the Local Government in responding to the disaster, but notes that the magnitude of the disaster requires additional support from the Federal Government;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide immediate relief materials, including food, water, blankets, mats, shelter, and medical supplies, to the affected communities;
- (ii) also urge the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development to urgently respond to the needs of the people of Ekeke-Erah, Ake, Amoya-Otuo and other communities affected by the disasters (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* with concern the unprecedented flooding disaster that affected Ekeke-Erah, and massive windstorm that affected Ake, Amoya-Otuo other communities in Owan East Local Government Area of Edo State, resulting in widespread destruction of homes, infrastructure including a bridge in Ekeke, farmlands, and livelihoods;

*Also noted* that the affected communities have been plunged into total darkness as a result of the flood that pulled down electric poles and damaged solar street lights;

*Recognized* that the affected communities are in dire need of emergency assistance, including relief food and medical materials, and reconstruction of damaged infrastructure;

*Acknowledged* the efforts of the Edo State Government, the Minority Leader of the Edo State House of Assembly and the Local Government in responding to the disaster, but notes that the magnitude of the disaster requires additional support from the Federal Government;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide immediate relief materials, including food, water, blankets, mats, shelter, and medical supplies, to the affected communities;
  - (ii) also urge the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development to urgently respond to the needs of the people of Ekeke-Erah, Ake, Amoya-Otuo and other communities affected by the disasters **(HR. 79/03/2025)**.
- (ii) ***Outbreak of Diphtheria in King's College, Lagos State:***  
Hon. Akintunde Rotimi (*Ikole/Oye 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.*

### **Outbreak of Diphtheria in King's College, Lagos State:**

The House:

*Notes* with deep concern the outbreak of diphtheria in the boarding house of King's College, Victoria Island Annexe, a Federal Government-owned institution, which has regrettably resulted in the demise of a 12-year-old student and the hospitalization of several others;

*Also notes* that from week 19 of 2022 to week 04 of 2025, there were 24,804 confirmed cases of diphtheria across 25 states in Nigeria according to data from the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) Weekly Diphtheria Situation Report of 26 January, 2025;

*Concerned* that out of the 24,804 confirmed cases reported in the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) Weekly Diphtheria Situation Report of 26 January, 2025, there were 1,269 fatalities across 18 states, with some states having as high as 80-83% Case Fatality Rate (CFR);

*Also concerned* that this unfortunate incident exposes significant lapses in infection prevention and control (IPC) measures in federal unity colleges and underscores the Federal Ministry of Education's responsibility to ensure the health and safety of students in its institutions;

*Acknowledges* the prompt intervention of the Lagos State Government in activating an Emergency Operations Committee (EC), isolating and treating affected students, and initiating a mass vaccination campaign to contain the spread of the disease;

*Recognizes* the collaborative efforts of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), and Lagos State in managing the crisis, while emphasizing the need for a comprehensive and proactive nationwide strategy for health and safety in schools;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) observe a moment of silence in honour of the deceased student and extend heartfelt condolences to his family and the King's College community;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Education to —
  - (a) take immediate and decisive measures to strengthen health and safety protocols in all Federal Unity Colleges, with particular attention to addressing the situation at King's College,
  - (b) undertake an urgent and comprehensive review of health infrastructure in unity colleges and establish a clear and effective framework for responding to infectious disease outbreaks in educational institutions;
- (iii) call upon the Federal Ministry of Health, the NPHCDA, and the NCDC to intensify diphtheria vaccination and awareness campaigns in schools across the country to prevent future outbreaks;
- (iv) also call on the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to establish and implement a structured disease surveillance system within all Federal Unity Colleges to ensure early detection and rapid response to infectious disease outbreaks;
- (v) commend the Lagos State Government, the NCDC, and other health authorities for their swift and commendable response, and encourage continued collaboration between Federal and State Agencies to safeguard the health and well-being of students;
- (vi) further urge the Executive Arm of Government to provide appropriate compensation to the family of the deceased student, in recognition of the tragic loss suffered and the duty of care owed to students in federal institutions;
- (vii) mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, and Basic Education and Services to engage with relevant agencies, including the NCDC, to assess and enhance infection prevention and emergency response measures in federal schools (*Hon. Akintunde Rotimi — Ikole/Oye Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.**Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* with deep concern the outbreak of diphtheria in the boarding house of King's College, Victoria Island Annexe, a Federal Government-owned institution, which has regrettably resulted in the demise of a 12-year-old student and the hospitalization of several others;

*Also noted* that from week 19 of 2022 to week 04 of 2025, there were 24,804 confirmed cases of diphtheria across 25 states in Nigeria according to data from the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) Weekly Diphtheria Situation Report of 26 January, 2025;

*Concerned* that out of the 24,804 confirmed cases reported in the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) Weekly Diphtheria Situation Report of 26 January, 2025, there were 1,269 fatalities across 18 states, with some states having as high as 80-83% Case Fatality Rate (CFR);

*Also concerned* that this unfortunate incident exposes significant lapses in infection prevention and control (IPC) measures in federal unity colleges and underscores the Federal Ministry of Education's responsibility to ensure the health and safety of students in its institutions;

*Acknowledged* the prompt intervention of the Lagos State Government in activating an Emergency Operations Committee (EC), isolating and treating affected students, and initiating a mass vaccination campaign to contain the spread of the disease;

*Recognized* the collaborative efforts of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), and Lagos State in managing the crisis, while emphasizing the need for a comprehensive and proactive nationwide strategy for health and safety in schools;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) observe a moment of silence in honour of the deceased student and extend heartfelt condolences to his family and the King's College community;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Education to —
  - (a) take immediate and decisive measures to strengthen health and safety protocols in all Federal Unity Colleges, with particular attention to addressing the situation at King's College,
  - (b) undertake an urgent and comprehensive review of health infrastructure in unity colleges and establish a clear and effective framework for responding to infectious disease outbreaks in educational institutions;
- (iii) call upon the Federal Ministry of Health, the NPHCDA, and the NCDC to intensify diphtheria vaccination and awareness campaigns in schools across the country to prevent future outbreaks;
- (iv) also call on the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to establish and implement a structured disease surveillance system within all Federal Unity Colleges to ensure early detection and rapid response to infectious disease outbreaks;
- (v) commend the Lagos State Government, the NCDC, and other health authorities for their swift and commendable response, and encourage continued collaboration between Federal and State Agencies to safeguard the health and well-being of students;
- (vi) further urge the Executive Arm of Government to provide appropriate compensation to the family of the deceased student, in recognition of the tragic loss suffered and the duty of care owed to students in federal institutions;
- (vii) mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, and Basic Education and Services to engage with relevant agencies, including the NCDC, to assess and enhance infection prevention and emergency response measures in federal schools (**HR. 80/03/2025**).

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

## 7. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Chartered Institute for Medical Dialysis Studies of Nigeria, Oleh, Isoko South Local Government Area, Delta State (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2129).
- (2) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2134).
- (3) Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2128).
- (4) National Tourism Development Corporation Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2130).
- (5) National Palm Oil and Cassava Production, Processing and Research Institute, Otor-Iyede, Delta State (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2131).
- (6) Nigeria Police Academy Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2132).
- (7) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2133).
- (8) Orthopaedic Hospitals Management Board Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2159).
- (9) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2136).
- (10) Lithium Development Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2137).
- (11) Electricity Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2138).
- (12) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2158).
- (13) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2168).
- (14) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2177).
- (15) Chartered Institute of Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Educators, Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2181).
- (16) Fiscal Responsibility Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2182).
- (17) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2183).
- (18) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2185).
- (19) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2135).
- (20) Federal University of Education, Gusau, (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2092).
- (21) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2173).

## 8. Presentation of Reports

### (i) *Committee on Public Accounts:*

*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Accounts on the annual Report of the Auditor- General for the Federation for the year ended December 31, 2019 (Part 1) Non-compliance and Internal Control Weakness Issues in MDAs" pursuant to Order Twenty Rules 6 (2) (i) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives" (*Hon. Bamidele Salam — Ede North/Ede South/Egbedore/Ejigbo Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

(ii) **Committee on Public Accounts:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Accounts on the Annual Report of the Auditor-General of the Federation for the year ended 31 December, 2020 (Part 1) Non-compliance and Internal Control Weakness Issues in MDAs” pursuant to Order Twenty Rules 6 (2) (i) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives” (*Hon. Bamidele Salam — Ede North/Ede South/Egbedore/Ejigbo Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

(iii) **Committee on Public Accounts:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Accounts on the Investigation into Revenue Leakages through the Remita Platform and Non-compliance Substantively with Standard Operating Procedures and Other Allied Service Level Agreements (**HR. 22/11/2023**)” (*Hon. Bamidele Salam — Ede North/Ede South/Egbedore/Ejigbo Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

(iv) **Committee on Basic Education and Services:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Basic Education and Services on a Bill for an Act to Establish Gifted and Talented Centres in the Six Geo-Political Zones in Nigeria and in Tran-Ekulu, Enugu State and for Related Matters (HB. 931 and HB. 1086)” (*Hon. Mark Bako Useni — Takum/Donga/Ussa Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

(v) **Committee on Basic Education and Services:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Basic Education and Services on the Need to Reverse the Recent Hike of School Fees in Unity Secondary Schools in Nigeria (**HR. 50/07/2023**)” (*Hon. Mark Bako Useni — Takum/Donga/Ussa Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

9. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Insurance Act, Cap. I 17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; the Marine Insurance Act, Cap. M3, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; the Motor Vehicle (Third Party) Insurance Act, Cap. M22, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; the National Insurance Corporation of Nigeria, Act, Cap. N54, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; the Nigerian Reinsurance Corporation Act, Cap. N131, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Nigerian Insurance Industry Reform Act, 2005 to Provide for a Comprehensive Legal and Regulatory Framework for Insurance Business in Nigeria and for Related Matters (SB. 393) — Third Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Insurance Act, Cap. I 17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; the Marine Insurance Act, Cap. M3, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; the Motor Vehicle (Third Party) Insurance Act, Cap. M22, Laws of the

Federation of Nigeria, 2004; the National Insurance Corporation of Nigeria, Act, Cap. N54, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; the Nigerian Reinsurance Corporation Act, Cap. N131, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Nigerian Insurance Industry Reform Act, 2005 to Provide for a Comprehensive Legal and Regulatory Framework for Insurance Business in Nigeria and for Related Matters (SB. 393) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third Time and passed.*

10. **A Bill for an Act to Establish South West Development Commission charged with the Responsibility among other things, to 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 to Tackle the Ecological, Environmental and other Developmental challenges in the Region and for Related Matters (HB.283) — Third Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish South West Development Commission charged with the Responsibility among other things, to 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 to tackle the Ecological, Environmental and other Developmental challenges in the Region and for Related Matters (HB.283) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third Time and passed.*

11. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act, Cap. A 12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (as amended) to make Provision for the Establishment of Federal College of Agriculture, Zaria, Kaduna State and for Related Matters (HB. 2116) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act, Cap. A 12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (as amended) to make Provision for the Establishment of Federal College of Agriculture, Zaria, Kaduna State and for Related Matters (HB. 2116) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Abubakar Makki Yalleman — Mallam Madori/Kaugama Federal Constituency and one other*).

*Debate.*

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

*Bill read the Second Time.*

*Bill referred to the Committee on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions.*

12. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Universities of Agriculture Act, Cap. F22, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make Provision for Establishment of Federal University of Agriculture, Okeho, Oyo State and for Related Matters (SB.675) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Universities of Agriculture Act, Cap. F22, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make Provision for Establishment of Federal University of Agriculture, Okeho, Oyo State and for Related Matters (SB.675) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Debate.*

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

*Bill read the Second Time.*

*Bill referred to the Committee of the Whole.*

13. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Universities of Agriculture Act, Cap. F22, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make Provision for Establishment of Federal University of Agriculture, Obioakpa Orukanam, Akwa Ibom State and for Related Matters (SB.720) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Universities of Agriculture Act, Cap. F22, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make Provision for Establishment of Federal University of Agriculture, Obio Akpa, Oruk Anam, Akwa Ibom State and for Related Matters (SB.720) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Debate.*

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

*Bill read the Second Time.*

*Bill referred to the Committee of the Whole.*

14. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Orthopaedic Hospitals Management Board Act, Cap. O10, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2003, to Provide for Establishment of Orthopaedic Hospitals Toro, Bauchi State and for Related Matters (SB.364) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Orthopaedic Hospitals Management Board Act, Cap. O10, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2003, to Provide for Establishment of Orthopaedic Hospitals Toro, Bauchi State and for Related Matters (SB.364) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Debate.*

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

*Bill read the Second Time.*

*Bill referred to the Committee of the Whole.*

15. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Universities of Technology Act, Cap. F23 Laws of the Federation, 2004 to Establish Federal University of Technology, Etche, Rivers State and for Related Matters (HB.657) — Second Reading**

*Order read; deferred by leave of the House.*

16. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Institute of Information Communication Technology, Idanre, Ondo State to Provide Full-Time Courses, Teaching, Instruction and Training in Information Communication Technology and to Provide for the Appointment of the Provost and other Officers of the Institute to carry out the Administration and the Discipline of Students of the Institute and for Related Matters (HB.783) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Institute of Information Communication Technology, Idanre, Ondo State to Provide Full-Time Courses, Teaching, Instruction and Training in Information Communication Technology and to Provide for the Appointment of the Provost and other Officers of the Institute to carry out the Administration and the Discipline of Students of the Institute and for Related Matters (HB.783) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Akingbaso Festus Olanrewaju — Idanre/Ifedore 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 Digital and Information Technology.*

17. **A Bill for an Act to Promote Information Technology Education, Entrepreneurship, and Infrastructure Development Across Nigeria's Six Geopolitical Zones with Atisbo as the Hub for the South West Zone and for Related Matters. (HB.1360) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Promote Information Technology Education, Entrepreneurship, and Infrastructure Development Across Nigeria's Six Geopolitical Zones with Atisbo as the Hub for the South West Zone and for Related Matters. (HB.1360) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Kareem Tajudeen Abisodun — Saki East/Saki West/Atigbo 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 Digital and Information Technology.*

18. **Rescission of Clauses 9 and 14 of the North West Development Commission Bill, 2025, Clause 15 of the South East Development Commission and Clause 4 of the National Youth Service Corps Trust Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2025 pursuant to Order Nine, Rule (1) (6) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the aforementioned Bills were passed by the National Assembly;

*Aware* of the need to rescind the provisions of Clauses 9 and 14 of the North West Development Commission Bill, 2025, Clause 15 of the South East Development Commission and Clause 4 of the National Youth Service Corps Trust Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2025 to be in tandem with similar Federal Government bodies;

*Cognizant* of the need to incorporate the new changes into the Bills;

*Resolves to:*

Rescind its decisions on Clauses 9 and 14 of the North West Development Commission Bill, 2025, Clause 15 of the South East Development Commission and Clause 4 of the National Youth Service Corps Trust Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2025 and recommit the Clauses to the Committee of the Whole for reconsideration (Hon. Waive Ejiroghene Francis — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency).

*Agreed to.*

19. **Need to Construct Earth Dam in Ramin Buzai, Kahuru, Igabi, Igabi Local Government Area, Kaduna State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that an earth dam, also known as an embankment dam, is a type of dam constructed from natural materials like soil, gravel, and rock with a barrier built across a watercourse or valley to impound water, control flooding, and provide water storage for various uses;

*Also notes* that Igabi Federal Constituency is one of the major food-producing communities in Kaduna, Northwest Nigeria;

*Disturbed* that the Constituency frequently experience seasonal flooding, resulting in loss of lives, property, and agricultural produce due to lack of functional earth dam;

*Also disturbed* that the existing water sources are inadequate to meet the increasing demands of irrigation, industrial, and domestic use, as potential dry season storage water is lost thereby leading to poor harvest;

*Cognizant* that the earth dam, when constructed, will provide a reliable and sustainable solution to the challenges as well as provide job (farming) opportunities to thousands of inhabitants of Igabi, Sabon Garin Igabi, Kahuru, Ashafa, Gidan Malamai, Gidan Damo, Kyamfa, Runji, Wuriya, Kwankwani, Tudun Ummar, Hura, Gidan Lalli, Unguwan Bai, Unguwan Accha, Birnin Barwa, Rimaye, Fako, Ashahu, Baushe, Sarauni, Hayin malam, Sheka, and Bakin kasuwar daji Communities;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to:
  - (a) conduct feasibility studies, environmental impact assessments, and community consultations to ensure the dam's sustainability and benefits to the local population,
  - (b) source the required funds and resources to finance the Construction of the Earth Dam Project in Ramin Buzai, Kahuru, Igabi, Igabi Federal Constituency;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Water Resources and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Hussaini Mohammed Jallo — Igabi Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**(HR. 81/03/2025).**

*Motion referred to the mandate the Committees on Water Resources and Legislative Compliance, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 10 (5).*

**20. Need to revamp the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Limited/Nigerian Pipeline Storage Company Depot, Ore, Ondo State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Limited and its subsidiary, the Nigeria Pipelines Storage Company Depot, Ore, Ondo State was commissioned in 1979 with a storage capacity of about twenty two million litres which plays a vital role in the distribution and storage of petroleum pipelines across the country by ensuring availability and price stability;

*Also notes* that Ore Depot, Ondo State was established to serve as a key hub for petroleum pipeline distribution to the southwest region and parts of Edo, Kwara, and Kogi States, facilitating economic

activities and reducing transportation costs for marketers and consumers;

*Aware* that the pipelines supplying or evacuating products to the depot were either vandalized or obsolete for years without repair, thereby disrupting supply, increased costs of petroleum products, and undue hardship for Nigerians;

*Also aware* that the functionality of the Ore Depot will reduce unnecessary road accidents, wear and tear of vehicles, reduce the costs of fuel and diesel consumption, and operational hazards;

*Worried* that the continued neglect of the facility undermines the federal government's efforts towards economic diversification, job creation, and the ease of doing business, particularly for small and medium-scale enterprises relying heavily on petroleum products;

*Informed* that revamping the Ore Depot will not only improve the availability and affordability of petroleum products in the southwest, it will also enhance economic activities, generate employment opportunities, and boost revenue for the government across the country;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Limited to prioritize the repair and rehabilitation of vandalized pipelines linking Ore Depot for immediate resumption of operation in the facility;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Midstream) to liaise with relevant stakeholders and assess the current state of the Ore Depot and ensure prompt action and its restoration (*Hon. Festus Ayodele Adefiranye — Ileoluji/Okeigbo/Idigbo Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

In Prayer (ii), *leave out* the words “Committee on Petroleum Resources (Midstream)”, and *insert* the words “Ad-hoc Committee on the Need to Rehabilitate the Oil and Gas Pipeline Networks Across Nigeria” (*Hon. Muhammad Bello Shehu — Fagge Federal Constituency*).

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

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

The House:

*Noted* that the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Limited and its subsidiary, the Nigeria Pipelines Storage Company Depot, Ore, Ondo State was commissioned in 1979 with a storage capacity of about twenty two million litres which plays a vital role in the distribution and storage of petroleum pipelines across the country by ensuring availability and price stability;

*Also noted* that Ore Depot, Ondo State was established to serve as a key hub for petroleum pipeline distribution to the southwest region and parts of Edo, Kwara, and Kogi States, facilitating economic activities and reducing transportation costs for marketers and consumers;

*Aware* that the pipelines supplying or evacuating products to the depot were either vandalized or obsolete for years without repair, thereby disrupting supply, increased costs of petroleum products, and undue hardship for Nigerians;

*Also aware* that the functionality of the Ore Depot will reduce unnecessary road accidents, wear and tear of vehicles, reduce the costs of fuel and diesel consumption, and operational hazards;

*Worried* that the continued neglect of the facility undermines the federal government's efforts towards economic diversification, job creation, and the ease of doing business, particularly for small and medium-scale enterprises relying heavily on petroleum products;

*Informed* that revamping the Ore Depot will not only improve the availability and affordability of petroleum products in the southwest, it will also enhance economic activities, generate employment opportunities, and boost revenue for the government across the country;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Limited to prioritize the repair and rehabilitation of vandalized pipelines linking Ore Depot for immediate resumption of operation in the facility;
- (ii) mandate the *Ad-hoc* Committee on the Need to Rehabilitate the Oil and Gas Pipeline Networks Across Nigeria to liaise with relevant stakeholders and assess the current state of the Ore Depot and ensure prompt action and its restoration (**HR. 82/03/2025**).

**21. Need to Investigate the Allegations of Abuse of Appropriation Act, Violation of Extant Laws, Rules and Directives by Leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Nigerian Missions**  
*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for implementing Nigeria's Foreign Policy, promoting its interests, economic relations, consular services managing trade, fostering African unity and international cooperation, upholding democratic values, and safeguarding Nigerian citizens;

*Recalls* that Nigeria has about 109 Diplomatic Missions abroad, with substantial funding provided to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the missions for effective implementation of its mandates;

*Worried* that over the past decade, the Ministry's staff have consistently committed financial malfeasance and corruption, leading to embezzlement and corruption;

*Further notes* that despite the provision in the budget over a 10 year period and generation of Internally Generated Revenue, projects in Nigerian Foreign Missions in Guinea Bissau, Bata, Sao Tome and Principe, New York, Gabon, Congo Brazzaville, Conakry and other Missions have been mismanaged and abandoned. Also capital projects in Morocco, Bern, Chad, among others were illegally blocked by Director level officers in the Missions and at the Ministry Headquarters;

*Also recalls* that there has been a Presidential Ceiling on manpower to the Missions, however, this has repeatedly been violated by senior Officers including former Ambassadors through setting up ghost workers schemes resulting in huge financial loss for the Missions, Ministry and the Federation;

*Also worried* that most Foreign Staff Officers were posted overseas, but their entitlements and passage allowances were denied, while assets in some missions, particularly in Liverpool, Manchester, and Edinburgh, were abused and misused;

*Aware* that the Missions have been in breach of Financial Control Regulations for over a decade by refusing to remit operating surplus to the Federal Government's Consolidated Revenue Fund, resulting in significant financial and administrative oversight;

*Also aware* that within the Foreign Missions there have been strong complaints of nepotism, non-payment of local staff salaries and allowances, and over bloated Foreign Staff Officers in Foreign Missions;

*Cognizant* that if urgent steps are not taken to investigate these allegations, identify the actual problems, and the extent of harm these actions and inactions have caused the financial and reputational losses suffered by the Nigerian Government, the nation's international image will continue to be disparaged, especially in a world where nationalism and protectionism are increasingly prevalent;

*Resolves to:*

Mandate the Committee on Foreign Affairs to investigate the allegations and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Aguye Suleiman Danladi — Lokoja/Kogi/Koton-Karfi Federal Constituency and Forty-Two others*).

*Debate.*

*Debate adjourned for further consultation.*

**22. Need to Restore Nyamatsor Constituency of Benue State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that Nyamatsor State Constituency in Buruku Local Government Area existed among other State Constituencies in Benue State under the defunct Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1979; and made up of eight (8) Council Wards, comprising of Mbakyaan, Mbayaka, Mbaakura, MbatyoUgh, Mbaade, Mbazagee, Etulo and Shorov;

*Also notes* that the Nyamatsor State Constituency produced members into the Benue State House of Assembly from 1979 until the Third Republic was aborted by the Military in 1993;

*Convinced* that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) acted *ultra vires* when it excluded Nyamatsor State Constituency, which existed under the 1979 Constitution of Nigeria, during the conduct of the 1999 general elections;

*Aware* that Section 91 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 provides that "a House of Assembly of a State shall consist of three or four times the number of seats which that State has in the House of Representatives divided in a way to reflect, as far as possible, nearly equal population";

*Also aware* that Benue State which has eleven (11) seats in the House of Representatives, is expected to have at least 33 State Constituencies as each seat in the House of Representatives is expected to have 3 State Constituencies in the State House of Assembly;

*Concerned* that the situation in the Benue State House of Assembly and Buruku Federal Constituency is such that Benue State House of Assembly has only 32 members instead of 33 as mandated by sections 91 and 112 of the Constitution;

*Worried* that Buruku Federal Constituency has only one member or seat instead of three members or seats as envisaged by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) in the Benue State House of Assembly;

*Further aware* that in 2004, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), wrote to the National Assembly to approve the restoration of the suppressed State Constituencies across the nation;

*Cognizant* that Section 114 (1) the Constitution of the Federal republic of Nigeria, 1999 provides for periodic review of State Constituencies, it states that the Independent National Electoral Commission shall review the division of every State into constituencies at intervals of not less than ten years, and may alter such constituencies following the provision of this section to such extent as it may consider

desirable in the light of the review;

*Also cognizant* that the last review of State Constituencies in Nigeria by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) was in 1998, resulting in the Suppression of Nyamatsor and 65 other State Constituencies;

*Regrets* that from 1998 till date, over twenty-seven (27) years, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has continued to suppress the Nyamatsor State Constituency and other State Constituencies across 19 States of the Federation, even after this house through a motion by Hon. Kingsley Chinda resolved and directed INEC to restore the suppressed constituencies;

*Also regrets* that the essence of participatory democracy is to ensure inclusive governance to bring about a balanced development in society but the people of Buruku have remained excluded and under-represented as a result of this unconstitutional Suppression of Nyamatsor State Constituency.

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to as a matter of urgency restore Nyamatsor State Constituency in Buruku Local Government Area of Benue State to comply with extant Laws and the Provisions of Sections 91 and 112 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Electoral Matters and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and implementation (*Hon. Sekav Dzua Iyortyom — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that Nyamatsor State Constituency in Buruku Local Government Area existed among other State Constituencies in Benue State under the defunct Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1979; and made up of eight (8) Council Wards, comprising of Mbakyaan, Mbayaka, Mbaakura, MbatyoUgh, Mbaade, Mbazagee, Etulo and Shorov;

*Also noted* that the Nyamatsor State Constituency produced members into the Benue State House of Assembly from 1979 until the Third Republic was aborted by the Military in 1993;

*Convinced* that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) acted *ultra vires* when it excluded Nyamatsor State Constituency, which existed under the 1979 Constitution of Nigeria, during the conduct of the 1999 general elections;

*Aware* that Section 91 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 provides that "a House of Assembly of a State shall consist of three or four times the number of seats which that State has in the House of Representatives divided in a way to reflect, as far as possible, nearly equal population";

*Also aware* that Benue State which has eleven (11) seats in the House of Representatives, is expected to have at least 33 State Constituencies as each seat in the House of Representatives is expected to have 3 State Constituencies in the State House of Assembly;

*Concerned* that the situation in the Benue State House of Assembly and Buruku Federal Constituency is such that Benue State House of Assembly has only 32 members instead of 33 as mandated by sections 91 and 112 of the Constitution;

*Worried* that Buruku Federal Constituency has only one member or seat instead of three members or seats as envisaged by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) in the Benue State House of Assembly;

*Further aware* that in 2004, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), wrote to the National Assembly to approve the restoration of the suppressed State Constituencies across the nation;

*Cognizant* that Section 114 (1) the Constitution of the Federal republic of Nigeria, 1999 provides for periodic review of State Constituencies, it states that the Independent National Electoral Commission shall review the division of every State into constituencies at intervals of not less than ten years, and may alter such constituencies following the provision of this section to such extent as it may consider desirable in the light of the review;

*Also cognizant* that the last review of State Constituencies in Nigeria by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) was in 1998, resulting in the Suppression of Nyamatsor and 65 other State Constituencies;

*Regretted* that from 1998 till date, over twenty-seven (27) years, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has continued to suppress the Nyamatsor State Constituency and other State Constituencies across 19 States of the Federation, even after this house through a motion by Hon. Kingsley Chinda resolved and directed INEC to restore the suppressed constituencies;

*Also regretted* that the essence of participatory democracy is to ensure inclusive governance to bring about a balanced development in society but the people of Buruku have remained excluded and under-represented as a result of this unconstitutional Suppression of Nyamatsor State Constituency.

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to as a matter of urgency restore Nyamatsor State Constituency in Buruku Local Government Area of Benue State to comply with extant Laws and the Provisions of Sections 91 and 112 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Electoral Matters and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and implementation (**HR. 83/03/2025**).

## 23. Consideration of Reports

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

*Agreed to.*

- (i) ***A Bill for an Act to Amend the Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act, No. 5, 2003 to restrict the use of Foreign Vessels in Domestic Coastal and Inland Commercial activities, to Promote the Development of Indigenous Tonnage and Establish a Cabotage Vessel Financing Fund and for Related Matters (HB.1593) (Committee of the Whole):***

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act, No. 5, 2003 to restrict the use of Foreign Vessels in Domestic Coastal and Inland Commercial activities, to Promote the Development of Indigenous Tonnage and Establish a Cabotage Vessel Financing Fund and for Related Matters (HB.1593)” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

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

**(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)**

*(Mr Speaker in the Chair)*

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE COASTAL AND INLAND SHIPPING (CABOTAGE) ACT, No. 5, 2003 TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDIGENOUS MARITIME CAPACITY IN COASTAL AND INLAND TRADE, RESTRICT THE USE OF FOREIGN VESSELS IN DOMESTIC COASTAL AND INLAND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES, PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDIGENOUS TONNAGE AND TO ESTABLISH A CABOTAGE VESSEL AND INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING FUND; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 1593)

**Clause 1: Amendment of the Cabotage Act, No.5, 2003.**

The Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act, No. 5 2003 (in this Bill referred to as "the Principal Act") is amended as set out in this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 2: Deletion of sections 1 and 2.**

Sections 1 and 2 of the Principal Act are deleted (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

**Clause 3: Amendment of head note of Part I.**

The head note of Part I of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for the head note of Part I, a new head note —

"PART II — OBJECTIVES AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE ACT" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 4: Amendment of section 1.**

Section 1 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for a new section "1" —

**"Objectives of the Act.**

1. The objectives of the Act are to —

- (a) promote the development of indigenous maritime capacity;
- (b) establish a Cabotage Vessel and Infrastructure Financing Fund; and
- (c) regulate vessels used in coastal and inland commercial activities on Nigerian waters" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 5: Amendment of section 2.**

Section 2 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for a new section "2" —

**"Administration of the Act.**

2. The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency shall be responsible for the administration of this Bill" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 6: Amendment of section 3.**

Section 3 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for a new section "3" —

**"Prohibition.**

3. Vessels other than a vessel wholly owned and manned by Nigerian citizens, built and registered in Nigeria shall not engage in coastal carriage of cargo and passengers within the coastal, territorial, inland waters, island, or any point within the waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone of Nigeria" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 7: Amendment of section 8.**

Section 8 of the Principal Act is amended —

- (a) in subsection (1) by substituting for paragraph (a), a new paragraph "(a)" —

"(a) engaged in salvage operation, where such salvage operation is determined by the Agency to be beyond the capacity of Nigerian owned and operated salvage vessels and companies, provided such salvage vessels operation is in compliance with the International Convention on Salvage, 1989 and its amendments, and industry standards;"

- (b) in subsection (1) (b) by substituting for the word "Minister", the word "Agency"; and

- (c) in subsection (2) by substituting for the word "ministerial", the words "the Agency's" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 8: Amendment of section 9.**

Section 9 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for a new section "9" —

**"Waiver on wholly Nigerian ownership.**

9. The Agency may on the receipt of an application grant a waiver to a duly registered vessel on the requirement for a vessel under this Bill to be wholly owned by Nigerian citizens where the Agency is satisfied that there is no wholly Nigerian owned and registered Vessel in the Nigerian Ship Registry that is suitable to provide the services or perform the activity described in the application" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 9: Amendment of section 10.**

Section 10 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for the word "Minister", the word "Agency" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 10: Amendment of section 11.**

Section 11 of the Principal Act is amended —

- (a) in subsection (1) by substituting for the word "Minister", in line 3, the word "Agency"; and
- (b) in subsection (2) by substituting for the word "Ministry", the word "Agency" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 11: Amendment of section 12.**

Section 12 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for the word "Minister", in line 1, the word "Agency" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 12: Insertion of new sections 12A and 12B.**

Section 12 of the Principal Act by inserting after section 12, new sections "12A" and "12B" —

**"Condition for grant of waivers.**

**12A.** Any application for a waiver under this Bill shall include an undertaking by the applicant to comply with the local content requirement with respect to employment, training, and succession planning, as may be stipulated under any other legislation with provisions relating to it and any guidelines made under this Bill."

**"Processing time for waivers.**

**12B.** Any application for waiver under this Bill shall be granted within 30 days following the submission of all required documents, and where the waiver is not granted, a notification shall be given to the applicant" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 13: Amendment of section 13.**

Section 13 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for a new section "13" —

**"Duration of a waiver.**

**13.** A waiver under this Bill shall be granted for a period not exceeding one year in any circumstance" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 14: Amendment of section 14.**

Section 14 of the Principal Act is amended —

- (a) in the marginal note by substituting for the word "Minister", the word "Agency"; and
- (b) in subsection (1), by substituting for the word, "Minister", the word "Agency" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 15: Amendment of section 15.**

Section 15 of the Principal Act is amended by —

- (a) in subsection (1), by substituting for the word "Minister" in lines 2 and 4, the word "Agency";
- (b) in subsection (1) (a) by substituting for the expression "sections 9-12", the expression "Part III of this Act"; and
- (c) in subsection (2) by substituting for the word "Minister" in lines 2 and 4, the word "Agency" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 16: Amendment of section 16.**

Section 16 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for subsection (1), a new subsection "(1)" —

- "(1) The Agency may issue a license under this Part, subject to any terms and conditions that the Agency considers appropriate including without restricting the generality of the foregoing terms and conditions respecting the —
- (a) the service or foregoing that is to be performed by the foreign vessel to which the license relates; and
  - (b) the place or places where the foreign vessel may perform that service or activity" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 17: Amendment of section 18.**

Section 18 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for the word "Minister" in line 1, the word "Agency" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 18: Amendment of section 20.**

Section 20 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for the word "Minister" in line 1, the word "Agency" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 19: Amendment of section 22.**

Section 22 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for subsection (5), a new subsection "(5)" —

- "(5) Vessels eligible for registration under this Bill includes —
- (a) passenger vessels;
  - (b) crew boats;
  - (c) security boats;

- (d) bunkering vessels;
- (e) fishing vessels and trawlers;
- (f) barges;
- (g) off-shore service vessels;
- (h) tugs;
- (i) anchor handling tugs and supply vessels;
- (j) floating petroleum storage;
- (k) dredgers;
- (l) tankers;
- (m) carriers;
- (n) drilling rigs;
- (o) seismic survey vessels;
- (p) data vessels;
- (q) floating production, storage and offloading platforms;
- (r) Floating Storage Offloading Unit (FSOU);
- (s) Mobile Off-shore Drilling Units (MODU);
- (t) hydrographic vessels; and
- (u) any other craft or vessel used for carriage on, through or underwater of persons, passengers, goods or any substance (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 20: Amendment of section 23.**

Section 23 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for the expression "Part II" in subsection (1) (d), the expression "Part IV" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 21: Deletion of sections 26 and 27.**

Sections 26 and 27 of the Principal Act are deleted (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

**Clause 22: Amendment of section 28.**

Section 28 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for a new section "28" —

**"Age of vessels.**

- 28.** A vessel registered under the Nigerian Registry that is over 15 years old shall continue to be eligible for participation in the coastal trade, provided that the vessel possesses a certificate of registration and a certificate of seaworthiness" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 23: Amendment of section 29.**

Section 29 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for the word "Minister" in line 1, the word "Agency" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 24: Amendment of section 30.**

Section 30 of the Principal Act is amended —

- (a) by substituting for subsection (1), a new subsection "(1)" —

"(1) The Agency shall maintain an Enforcement Unit with appropriate operational guidelines and shall designate the officers in that unit as enforcement officers"; and

- (b) in subsection (2) by substituting for the words "National Maritime Authority", the words "Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 25: Insertion of a new section 32A.**

Section 32 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting after section 32, a new section "32A" —

**"Recovery of cost for detained vessels.**

- 32A.** (1) Where a vessel is detained by an enforcement officer under this Bill, and it is determined that the vessel is not in compliance with any of the provisions of this Bill, the Agency shall recover all costs emanating from detention from the owner of the vessel, and the cost shall be determined as set out in the Guidelines.
- (2) Where a shipowner fails to bring the vessel in compliance as prescribed by the enforcement officer, the shipowner shall be liable to scale 4 of the Scale of Administrative Fines in the Second Schedule to this Bill" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 26: Amendment of section 35.**

Section 35 of the Principal is amended by substituting for a new section "35" —

**"Offences.**

- 35.** (1) A vessel that contravenes the provisions of Part II of the Act shall be liable to an administrative fine in accordance with scale 4 of the Scale of Administrative Fines in the Second Schedule to this Bill.

- (2) A foreign-owned and foreign crewed vessel that operates without a license in accordance with the provisions of this Bill, shall be liable to an administrative fine in accordance with scale 5 of the Scale of Administrative Fines in the Second Schedule to this Bill.
- (3) Where a vessel prescribed in subsection (1) fails to comply with the administrative fines imposed within a period of 30 days, the vessel is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding ₦300,000,000, in addition to the administrative fine imposed.
- (4) Where the Agency imposes administrative fines, a dissatisfied applicant may within 14 days make a written application for appeal to the Director-General for review" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 27: Insertion of a new section 35A.**

Section 35 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting after section 35, a new section "35A" —

**"35. Penalty for under-declaration and evasion of payment.**

- (1) A company or person that fails to remit payment on invoices issued under this Bill within the stipulated period is liable to —
  - (a) a penalty of 10% of the outstanding amount for each month the payment remains unpaid; and
  - (b) suspension of operational permits until full payment, including penalties, are made.
- (2) A company or person that under-declares the value of invoices or charges payable under this Bill is liable to —
  - (a) payment of the full amount under-declared, along with an administrative penalty of 200% of the under-declared amount; and
  - (b) an additional fine not exceeding ₦50,000,000 or imprisonment of the director of such company for a term not exceeding three years, or both.
- (3) A company or person engaged in any act to evade payment of fees, charges, or levies imposed under this Bill is liable to —
  - (a) payment of the evaded amount with an additional penalty of 300% of the evaded sum; and
  - (b) revocation of such company's license to operate within Nigerian waters for a period not exceeding two years.
- (4) The Agency may publish the names of erring shipping companies in at least two national newspapers and on its official website.
- (5) A shipping company penalised under this section may appeal to the Agency on the decision within 30 days of the notice of penalty (*Hon.*

*Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader).*

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

**Clause 28: Amendment of section 36.**

Section 36 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for a new section "36" —

**"Failure to comply with directives.**

- 36.** (1) A person who fails to comply with a requirement made or direction given by an enforcement officer under this Bill, or fails to make a required disclosure is liable —
- (a) in the case of an individual to a fine in accordance with scale 2 of the Scale of Administrative Fines in the Second Schedule to this Bill; and
  - (b) in the case of a body corporate, to a fine in accordance with scale 3 of the Scale of Administrative Fines in the Second Schedule to this Bill.
- (2) Where the offence is of a continuous nature or a repeated one, the offender shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year with an option of fine as the Court may deem fit.
- (3) Where an offence under this Bill or regulations made under it, is committed by a person or other body of persons, any person who at the time of the commission is a director, manager or partner in the corporate body or other body of persons, who acted in such capacity may be charged with the same offence and is liable on conviction to a fine in accordance with scale 2 of the Scale of Administrative Fines in the Second Schedule to this Bill" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 29: Amendment of section 37.**

Section 37 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for subsection (2), a new subsection "(2)" —

- "(2) A person who contravenes subsection (1), commits an offence and is liable on conviction —
- (a) in the case of an individual to a fine in accordance with scale 1 of the scale of Administrative fines in the Second Schedule to this Bill, or imprisonment for a term of not exceeding six months, or both; and
  - (b) in the case of a body corporate to a fine in accordance with scale 3 of the Scale of Administrative Fines in the Second Schedule to this Bill" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 30: Amendment of section 39.**

Section 39 of the Principal Act is amended in subsection (2), by substituting for the words "body of person" in line 5, the words "body corporate or persons" (*Hon.*

*Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader).*

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

**Clause 31: Amendment of section 40.**

Section 40 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for the figures "₦500,000.00" in line 3, the expression "in accordance with scale 1 of the Scale of Administrative Fines in the Second Schedule to this Bill" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 32: Insertion of new sections 40A and 40B.**

Section 40 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting after section 40, new sections "40A and 40B" —

**"Appeal for fines and charges under Part VII.**

- 40A.** (1) In the event of a dispute or disagreement, applicants may by written application, appeal to the Agency within 14 days of the decision.
- (2) The Director-General shall, for any application, constitute an internal review panel consisting of at least three directors from departments not involved in the initial decision to review the decision of the Enforcement Unit.
- (3) The decision of the Internal Review Panel shall be communicated to the applicant within 14 days from the constitution of the Internal Review Panel.
- (4) Where the applicant remains dissatisfied, the applicant may further appeal to the Minister."

**"Power of the Minister to review fines.**

**40B.** The Minister shall review the Scale of Fines contained in the Second Schedule to the Bill every three years, in accordance with economic realities and government policy" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 33: Insertion in the head note to Part VIII.**

Insert after the word "VESSEL" in the head note to Part VIII of the Principal Act, the words "AND INFRASTRUCTURE" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 34: Amendment of section 42.**

Section 42 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for a new section "42" —

**"Cabotage Vessel and Infrastructure Financing Fund.**

- 42.** (1) There is established the Cabotage Vessel and Infrastructure Financing Fund (CVIFF).
- (2) The purpose of the Fund shall be to promote the development of indigenous ship acquisition, ship building, ship repair and capacity

development by providing financial assistance to Nigerian operators in domestic coastal shipping" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 35: Amendment of section 43.**

Section 43 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for a new section "43" —

**"Funding.**

**43.** (1) There shall be paid into the Fund —

- (a) a surcharge of 2% of the contract sum performed by any vessel engaged in the coastal trade;
  - (b) a surcharge of 0.25% of the contract sum performed by all ship building and repair yards;
  - (c) a surcharge of 0.25% of the annual gross earnings of Maritime Training Institutions (MTIs);
  - (d) money generated under this Bill including the tariffs, fines and fees for licenses and waivers; and
  - (e) such other sums accruable to the Fund by way of interests paid on and repayment of the principal sums of any loan granted from the Fund.
- (2) The surcharges in subsection (1) (a), (b) and (c) shall be calculated and collected as specified in the Cabotage Guidelines.
- (3) Where a ship owning company engages in cabotage operations utilising its own vessel to further its operations, the company shall pay into the Fund a surcharge of 2% from the activities of the vessel to be determined by a joint assessment as provided in the Cabotage Guidelines (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 36: Amendment of section 44.**

Section 44 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for the existing section 44, a new section "44" —

**"Collection of the Fund.**

- (1) The Fund shall be collected by the Agency and deposited in commercial banks and administered under the CVIFF Guidelines issued by the Agency in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.
- (2) A surcharge of 1% of the CVIFF shall be deducted by the Agency for the administration and management of the Fund" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 37: Amendment of section 45.**

Section 45 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for a new section "45" —

**"Beneficiaries.**

**45.** The beneficiaries of the Fund shall be —

- (a) shipping companies;
- (b) ship owning companies;
- (c) Maritime Training Institutes (MTIs); and
- (d) shipbuilding and ship repair yards,

wholly owned by Nigerians, who have contributed to the Fund" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 38: Amendment of section 46.**

Section 46 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for a new section "46" —

**"Regulations.**

**46.** The Minister shall have the power to make Regulations for the implementation of this Act" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 39: Insertion of a new section 50A.**

Section 50 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting after section 50, a new section "50A" —

**"Inconsistency with this Bill.**

**50A.** Subject to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 Cap. C23, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, on the commencement of this Bill, where the provisions of any other law are inconsistent with the provisions of this Bill, the provisions of this Bill shall prevail and the provisions of that other law shall, to the extent of that inconsistency, be void in relation to matters provided for in this Bill" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 40: Deletion of section 52.**

Section 52 of the Principal Act is deleted (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

**Clause 41: Amendment of section 53.**

Section 53 of the Principal Act is amended in line 1, by deleting the figure "(1)" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 42: Insertion of new sections 56 and "57".**

Section 55 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting after section 55, new sections "56" and "57" —

**"Interpretation.**

**56.** In this Bill —

"Agency" means Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"cargo" means goods carried in or on a vessel whether or not of commercial value and includes livestock (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"coastal trade" which includes, "domestic trade" or "Cabotage" means coastal and inland commercial activities on Nigerian waters that covers —

- (a) the carriage of persons, passengers or goods by vessels from any place in Nigeria to any place above or under Nigerian waters, or from any place above Nigerian waters to the same place or to any other place above or under Nigerian waters and includes the carriage of persons or passengers or goods in relation to the exploration or exploitation of mineral, living or non-living resources in or under Nigerian waters,
- (b) any activity of commercial nature within Nigerian waters, including the carriage of goods and persons, for exploration or exploitation of mineral and other natural resources in or under Nigerian waters,
- (c) the carriage of goods, persons or passengers by vessel or any other mode of transport from one place in Nigeria, or above or under Nigerian waters to any place in Nigeria, above or under Nigerian waters, either directly or through a place within Nigerian waters and includes the carriage of goods, persons or passengers in relation to the exploration, exploitation or transportation of mineral, living or non-living resources or material of any kind in or under Nigerian waters, and
- (d) the engaging, by vessel, in any other marine transportation activity of a commercial nature in Nigerian waters and, the carriage of any goods or substances whether or not of commercial value within the waters of Nigeria (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Enforcement Officer" means a person so designated by the Agency to be an enforcement officer for the purposes of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"enforcement unit" means a Unit within the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency charged with the responsibility of enforcing the provisions of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Exclusive Economic Zone" has the meaning given to it under the Exclusive Economic Zone Act, Cap E16, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "Exclusive Economic Zone" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"foreign vessel" means a vessel other than a Nigerian vessel (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"hull" means the shell, or outer casing, and internal structure below the main deck which provide both the floatation envelope and structural integrity to the vessel in its normal operation (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"in-transit call" means any call, other than an emergency or technical call, by a vessel at any place where passengers go ashore temporarily but re-board the vessel before the vessel leaves that place or are transported by land to another location to re-board the same vessel and include cargo not discharged at the transit call (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "in-transit call" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"inland waters" has the meaning given to it under the National Inland Waterways Authority Act, Cap N47 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"licence" means a document issued under this Act, authorising a foreign ship or vessel to be registered for participation in the coastal trade while in Nigerian waters (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"maritime infrastructure" includes any installation, platforms, subsea structures, pipelines, intermodal connections, shipyards, and repair facilities crucial to offshore activities in oil and gas, energy, telecom and the maritime

industry (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"maritime navigation" includes all activities involved in the process of planning, recording and controlling the movement of vessels from one place to another and activities includes, shipping and transportation of goods and people within Nigerian territorial waters and recognized zones, sea tourism, servicing by ports, services to vessels at ports and any other activity that affects the ships' traffic and the transportation of goods and people (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Question that the meaning of the words “maritime navigation” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"master" in relation to a vessel has the same meaning as in the Merchant Shipping Act No. 27, 2007 (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Minister" means the Minister responsible for matters relating to maritime (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Ministry" means the Federal Ministry responsible for matters relating to maritime (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Maritime Training Institutions (MTIs)" means private training institutions approved by the Agency for the training of seafarers to the level stipulated under the relevant International Maritime Organisation and Labour Convention and for the issuance of relevant international certifications (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Question that the meaning of the words “Maritime Training Institutions (MTIs)” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Nigerian citizen" means a citizen of Nigeria as defined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, Cap. C23, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Nigerian vessel" means a vessel which is registered in Nigeria and has the meaning given to it in section 23 (1) or (2) of the Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Question that the meaning of the words “Nigerian vessel” be as defined in*

*the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Nigerian waters" includes inland waters, territorial waters or waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (respectively, together or any combination thereof) (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"owner" in relation to a vessel, includes the person having for the time being, either by law or by contract, the rights of the owner of the ship as regards the possession and use thereof (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"place above Nigerian waters" in the context of coastal trade includes any vessel, offshore drilling unit, production platform, artificial island, subsea installation, pumping station, living accommodation, storage structure, loading or landing platform, dredge, floating crane, pipe laying or other barge or pipeline, rigs, floating production storage and offloading platform (FPSO), floating storage unit (FSU) and any anchor cable or rig pad used in connection therewith (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "place above Nigerian waters" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"shipping company" means a company which offers shipping services on commercial basis and same is contained in the objective clause of its memorandum and article of association that has been duly registered and licensed by the Agency (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"ship owning company" means a company who owns and operates vessels in furtherance of its objective (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "ship owning company" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"superstructure" means the main deck and any other structural part above the main deck (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"territorial waters" has the meaning given to it under the Territorial Waters (Amendment) Act, 1998 (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Vessel" means anything constructed or used for the carriage on, through or under water of persons, passengers or goods and includes a hovercraft and an aircraft when waterborne (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"vessel built in Nigeria" means where all the major component of its hull and superstructure are fabricated in Nigeria or assembled entirely in Nigeria (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "vessel built in Nigeria" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"vessel wholly manned by Nigerians" means where all the shipboard officers and crew-employed aboard the vessel are exclusively of Nigerian citizenship (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "vessel wholly manned by Nigerians" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"wholly owned Nigerian shipping company" means a company registered in Nigeria with 100% of its share capital beneficially owned by Nigerian citizens and the shares in the shipping company shall be held by Nigerian citizens free from any trust or obligation in favour of non-Nigerians; and (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "wholly owned Nigerian shipping company" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"wholly owned Nigerian vessel" means a vessel which is owned and registered in Nigeria whose 100% shares are beneficially owned by Nigerian citizens and share in the vessel shall be held by Nigerian citizens free from any trust or obligation in favour of non-Nigerians (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Question that the meaning of the words "wholly owned Nigerian vessel" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

**"Short Title.**

**57.** This Act may be cited as the Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act, 2003" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 43: Amendment to the Schedule.**

The Schedule to the Principal Act is amended by substituting for the word "SCHEDULE", the words "First Schedule" (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 44: Insertion of the Second Schedule.**

First Schedule to the Principal Act is amended by inserting after First Schedule, a "Second Schedule" —

"SECOND SCHEDULE

SCALE OF ADMINISTRATIVE FINES FOR OFFENCES UNDER PART VII

**For Individuals:**

Scale 1 — ₦5 Million  
Scale 2 — ₦10 Million  
Scale 3 — ₦15 Million  
Scale 4 — ₦20 Million  
Scale 5 — ₦25 Million  
Scale 6 — ₦30 Million  
Scale 7 — ₦40 Million

**For Corporations:**

Scale 1 — ₦50 Million  
Scale 2 — ₦75 Million  
Scale 3 — ₦100 Million  
Scale 4 — ₦125 Million  
Scale 5 — ₦150 Million  
Scale 6 — ₦200 Million (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 45: Citation.**

This Bill may be cited as the Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Explanatory Memorandum:**

This Bill seeks to amend the Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act No. 5, 2003 to promote the development of indigenous maritime capacity in coastal and inland trade, and to establish the Cabotage Vessel and Infrastructure Financing Fund (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

**Long Title:**

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act, No. 5, 2003 to Promote the Development of Indigenous Maritime Capacity in Coastal and Inland Trade, Restrict the Use of Foreign Vessels in Domestic Coastal and Inland Commercial Activities, Promote the Development of Indigenous Tonnage and to Establish a Cabotage Vessel and Infrastructure Financing Fund; and for Related Matters (HB. 1593) (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

*Chairman to report Bill.*

**(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act, No. 5, 2003 to restrict the use of Foreign Vessels in Domestic Coastal and Inland Commercial activities, to Promote the Development of Indigenous Tonnage and Establish a Cabotage Vessel Financing Fund and for Related Matters (HB.1593) and approved Clause 1, rejected Clause 2, approved Clauses 3 - 45, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

- (ii) ***A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Agriculture and Entrepreneurship, Bama, Borno State make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (SB. 186) (Committee of the Whole):***

*Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Agriculture and Entrepreneurship, Bama, Borno State make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (SB. 186)" (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).*

*Agreed to.*

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

**(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)**

*(Mr Speaker in the Chair)*

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF  
AGRICULTURE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP, BAMA, BORNO STATE, MAKE  
COMPREHENSIVE PROVISIONS FOR ITS DUE MANAGEMENT,  
ADMINISTRATION; AND RELATED MATTERS (SB.186)

PART I — ESTABLISHMENT, CONSTITUTION AND FUNCTIONS  
OF FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, BAMA

**Clause 1: Establishment and Objects of the Federal University of Agriculture and Entrepreneurship, Bama.**

- (1) There is established the Federal University of Agriculture and Entrepreneurship, Bama (in this Bill referred to as "the University").
- (2) The University:
  - (a) shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal; and
  - (b) may sue or be sued in its corporate name (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 2: Objects of the University.**

The objects of the University shall be to:

- (a) encourage the advancement of learning and to hold out to all persons without distinction of race, creed, sex or political conviction the opportunity of acquiring tertiary education in Agriculture and Entrepreneurship;
- (b) develop and offer academic and professional programmes leading to the award of diplomas, first degrees, post-graduate research and higher degrees with emphasis on Agricultural research, entrepreneurship, planning, adaptive, technical, maintenance, developmental and productive skills in the engineering, scientific, and allied professional disciplines with the aim of producing socially mature men and women with capability not only to understand, use and adapt existing technologies in the Agriculture, but also

to improve on them and develop new ones;

- (c) act as agents and catalysts through post-graduate training, research and innovation for the effective and economic utilization, exploitation and conservation of the country's Agricultural resources;
- (d) offer to the general population particularly in the area of Agriculture as a form of public service, the results of training and research and to foster the practical applications of these results;
- (e) establish appropriate relationships with other national institutions involved in training, research and development of technologies in the Agricultural sector and Entrepreneurship;
- (f) identify the problems and needs of the Agriculture sector in Nigeria and find solutions to them within the context of overall national development;
- (g) provide and promote sound basic scientific training as a foundation for the development of Agriculture in Nigeria, taking into account indigenous cultures and the need to enhance national unity;
- (h) encourage and promote scholarship and conduct research in restricted fields of learning and human endeavor;
- (i) relate its activities to the technological, social, cultural and economic needs of the people of Nigeria; and
- (j) undertake any other activities appropriate for an Agriculture university of the highest standard (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonybere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 3: Constitution of the University and its constituent bodies, etc.**

- (1) The University shall consist of:
  - (a) a Chancellor;
  - (b) a Pro-Chancellor and a Council;
  - (c) a Vice Chancellor and a Senate;
  - (d) a Deputy Vice-Chancellor;
  - (e) a body to be called Congregation;
  - (f) a body to be called Convocation;
  - (g) the Campuses and Colleges of the University;
  - (h) the Faculties, Schools, Institutes and other teaching and research units of the University;
  - (i) the persons holding the offices constituted by the First Schedule to this Bill other than those mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (c) of this subsection;
  - (j) all graduates and undergraduates; and

- (k) all other persons who are members of the University in accordance with provisions made by Statute in that behalf.
- (2) The First Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the Principal Officers of the University mentioned therein.
- (3) Provision shall be made by Statute with respect to the constitution of the following bodies, namely:
  - (a) the Council;
  - (b) the Senate;
  - (c) the Congregation; and
  - (d) the Convocation (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 4: Powers of the University.**

- (1) For the carrying out of its objects as specified in Section 2 of this Bill, the University shall have power to:
  - (a) establish such Campuses, Colleges, Faculties, Institutes, Schools, Extra-mural Departments and other teaching and research units within the University as may from time to time seem necessary or desirable, subject to the approval of the National Universities Commission;
  - (b) institute professorships, readerships and associate professorships, lectureships and other posts and offices and to make appointments thereto;
  - (c) institute and award fellowships, scholarships, exhibitions, bursaries, medals, prizes and other titles, distinctions, awards and forms of assistance;
  - (d) provide for the residence, discipline and welfare of members of the University;
  - (e) hold examinations and award degrees, diplomas, certificates and other distinctions to persons who have pursued a course of study approved by the University and have satisfied such other requirements as the University may lay down;
  - (f) award honorary degrees, fellowships or academic titles;
  - (g) demand and receive from any student or any other person attending the University for the purpose of instruction such fees as the University may from time to time determine, subject to the overall directives of the appropriate authority;
  - (h) subject to section 22 of this Bill, to acquire, hold, grant, charge or otherwise deal with or dispose of movable and immovable property wherever situate;

- (i) accept gifts, legacies and donations, but without obligation to accept the same for a particular purpose unless it approves the terms and conditions attaching thereto;
  - (j) enter into contracts, establish trusts, act as trustee, solely or jointly with any other person, and employ and act through agents;
  - (k) erect, provide, equip and maintain libraries, laboratories, lecture halls, halls of residence, refectories, sports grounds, playing fields and other buildings or things necessary, suitable or convenient for any of the objects of the University;
  - (l) hold public lectures and undertake printing, publishing and book selling;
  - (m) subject to any limitations or conditions imposed by Statute, to invest any moneys appertaining to the University by law of endorsement, whether for general or special purposes, and such other moneys as may not be immediately required for current expenditure, in any investments or securities or in the purchase or improvement of land, with power from time to time to vary any such investments and to deposit any moneys for the time being un-invested with any bank on deposit or current account;
  - (n) borrow, whether on interest or not, and if need be, upon the security of any or all of the property movable or immovable of the University, such moneys as the Council may from time to time in its discretion find necessary or expedient to borrow or to guarantee any loan, advances or credit facilities;
  - (o) make gifts for any charitable purpose;
  - (p) do anything which it is authorized or required by this Bill or by any other Statute to do; and
  - (q) do all such acts or things, whether or not incidental to the foregoing powers, as may advance the objects of the University.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Bill and of the Statutes made thereunder and without prejudice to Section 9 (2) of this Bill, the powers conferred on the University by subsection (1) of this section shall be exercisable on behalf of the University by the Council or by the Senate or in any other manner which may be authorized by this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 5: Functions of the Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor.**

- (1) The Chancellor shall in relation to the University, take precedence before all other members of the University, and when he is present shall preside at all meetings of convocation held for conferring degrees.
- (2) The Pro-Chancellor shall, in relation to the University, take precedence before all other members of the University except the Chancellor, and except for the Vice Chancellor when acting as Chairman of Congregation or Convocation, and the Pro-Chancellor shall when he is present, be the Chairman at all meetings of the Council (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere*

— *House Leader*).

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

**Clause 6: Establishment and Composition of Council.**

- (1) There shall be a Council for the University consisting of:
  - (a) the Pro-Chancellor;
  - (b) the Vice-Chancellor;
  - (c) the Deputy Vice-Chancellor;
  - (d) one person from the Ministry responsible for Education;
  - (e) four persons representing a variety of interest and broadly representative of the whole Federation;
  - (f) four persons appointed by the Senate from among its members;
  - (g) two persons appointed by the congregation from among its members; and
  - (h) one person appointed by Convocation from among its members.
- (2) Persons to be appointed to the Council shall be persons of proven integrity, knowledgeable and familiar with the affairs and tradition of the University (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 7: Functions of Council and its Finance and General Purpose Committee.**

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill relating to the Visitor, the Council shall be the Governing Body of the University and shall be charged with the general control and superintendence of the policy, finances and property of the University, including its public relations.
- (2) There shall be a Committee of the Council to be known as the Finance and General Purposes Committee, which shall, subject to the directions of the Council, exercise control over the property and expenditure of the Council as the Council may from time to time delegate to it.
- (3) Provision shall be made by Statute with respect to the Constitution of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.
- (4) The Council shall ensure proper accounts of the University are kept and that the accounts of the University are audited annually by auditors appointed by the Council from the list and in accordance with guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General of the Federation, and that an annual report is published by the University together with certified copies of the said accounts as audited.
- (5) Subject to this Bill and the Statutes, the Council and the Finance and General Purposes Committee may each make rules for the purpose of exercising any of their respective functions or of regulating their own procedure.
- (6) Rules made under subsection (5) of this section by the Finance and General

Purposes Committee shall not come into force unless approved by the Council, and where any rule so made by the Committee conflict with any directions given by the Council (whether before or after the coming into force of the rules in question), the direction of the Council shall prevail.

- (7) There shall be paid to the members of the Council, the Finance and General Purposes Committee and of any other committee set up by the Council, allowances in respect of travelling and other reasonable expenses, at such rates as may from time to time be fixed by extant government circulars.
- (8) The Council shall meet as and when necessary for the performance of its functions under this Bill and shall meet at least four times every year.
- (9) If required in writing by any five members of the Council the Chairman shall within 28 days after the receipt of such request call a meeting of the Council:

Provided that if after 28 days of the receipt or delivering to him of such request, the chairman fails or neglects to call a meeting, the Registrar shall within 14 days thereof cause a meeting of the Council to be convened for that purpose. The request shall specify the business to be considered at the meeting and no business not so specified shall be transacted at that meeting (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 8: Functions of the Senate.**

- (1) Subject to section 5 of this Bill and subsections (3) and (4) of this section and to the provisions of this Bill relating to the Visitor, it shall be the general function of the Senate to organize and control teaching in the University, admission to Postgraduate courses and other admission of students, the discipline of students and to promote research in the University.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, it shall in particular be the function of the Senate to make provision for the:
  - (a) establishment, organization and control of campuses, colleges, faculties, departments, schools, institutes and other teaching and research units of the University, and the allocation of responsibility for different branches of learning;
  - (b) organization and control of courses of study in the University and of the examinations held in conjunction with those courses, including the appointment of examiners, both internal and external;
  - (c) award of degrees, and such other qualifications as may be prescribed, in connection with examinations conducted by the University;
  - (d) making of recommendations to the Council with respect to the award to any person of an honorary fellowship or honorary degree or the title of professor emeritus;
  - (e) establishment, organization and control of halls of residence and similar institutions in the University;

- (f) supervision of the welfare of students in the University and the regulation of the conduct;
  - (g) granting of fellowships, scholarships, prizes and similar awards in so far as the awards are within the control of the University; and
  - (h) determination of what description of dress shall be academic dress for the purpose of the University, and regulating the use of academic dress.
- (3) The Senate shall not establish any new campus, college, faculty, department school, institute or other teaching and research units of the University, or any hall of residence or similar institution at the University without the approval of the Council.
- (4) Subject to this Bill and the Statutes, the Senate shall —
  - (a) may make regulations for the purpose of exercising any function conferred on it either by the provisions of this section or for the purpose of providing for any matter for which provision by regulation is authorized or required by this Bill or by Statute;
  - (b) by regulation, provide that at least one of the persons appointed as examiners at each final or professional examination held in conjunction with any course of study in the University is not a teacher at the University but is a teacher at the branch of learning to which the course relates in some other university of high repute.
- (5) Subject to a right of appeal to the Council from a decision of the Senate under this subsection, the Senate may deprive any person of any degree, diploma or other award of the University which has been conferred on him if after due enquiry he is shown to have been guilty of any dishonorable or scandalous conduct in gaining admission into the University or obtaining that award (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 9: Functions of the Vice Chancellor.**

- (1) The Vice-Chancellor shall, in relation to the University, take precedence before all other members of the University except the Chancellor and, subject to section 5 of this Bill, the Pro-Chancellor and any other person for the time being acting as Chairman of the Council.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Vice-Chancellor shall have general function, in addition to any other functions conferred on him by this Bill or otherwise, of directing the activities of the University, and shall to the exclusion of any other person or authority be the Chief Executive and Academic Officer of the University and Ex-officio Chairman of the Senate (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**PART II — TRANSFER OF PROPERTY**

**Clause 10: Transfer of property to the University.**

- (1) All property held by or on behalf of the Provisional Council shall, by virtue

of this subsection and without further assurance, vest in the University and be held by it for the purpose of the University.

- (2) The provisions of the Second Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the transfer of property by this section and to matters arising there from and with respect to other matters mentioned in that Schedule (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

#### PART III — STATUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY

**Clause 11: Power of the University to make statutes.**

- (1) Subject to this Bill, the University may make Statutes for any of the following purposes:
  - (a) making provision with respect to the composition and Constitution of any authority of the University;
  - (b) specifying and regulating the powers and duties of any authority of the University, and regulating any other matter connected with the University or any of its authorities;
  - (c) regulating the admission of students where it is done by the University, and their discipline and welfare;
  - (d) determining whether any particular matter is to be treated as an academic or non-academic matter for the purposes of this Bill and of any Statute, regulation or other instrument made there-under; and
  - (e) making provision for other matters for which provision by Statute is authorized or required by this Bill.
- (2) Subject to section 25 (6) of this Bill, the Interpretation Act shall apply in relation to any Statute made under this section as it applies to a subsidiary instrument within the meaning of section 27 (1) of that Act.
- (3) The Statute contained in the Third Schedule to this Bill shall be deemed to have come into force on the commencement of this Bill and shall be deemed to have been made under this section by the University.
- (4) The power to make Statute conferred by this section shall not be prejudiced or limited in any way by reason of the inclusion or omission of any matter in or from the Statute contained in the Third Schedule to this Bill or any subsequent Statute (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 12: Mode of exercising the power to make Statutes.**

- (1) The power of the University to make Statutes shall be exercised in accordance with the provisions of this section.
- (2) A proposed Statute shall not have the force of law until it has been approved at a meeting of the:

- (a) Senate, by the votes of not less than two thirds of the members present and voting; and
  - (b) Council by the votes of not less than two thirds of the members present and voting.
- (3) A proposed Statute may originate either in the Senate or Council, and may be approved as required by subsection (2) of this section by both bodies in no particular order.
  - (4) A Statute which makes provision for or alters the composition or constitution of the Council, the Senate or any other authority of the University; or provides for the establishment of a new campus or college or for the amendment or revocation of any Statute whereby a campus or college is established, shall not come into operation unless it has been approved by the Visitor.
  - (5) For the purpose of section 2 (2) of the Interpretation Act, a Statute shall be treated as being made on the date on which it is approved by the Council and the Senate in accordance with subsection (3) of this section or in the case of a Statute falling within subsection (4) of this section, on the date on which it is approved by the President (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 13: Proof of Statutes.**

A Statute may be proved in any Court by the production of a copy thereof bearing or having affixed to it a certificate signed by the Vice Chancellor or the Registrar to the effect that the copy is a true copy of a Statute of that University (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 14: Power to decide the meaning of statute.**

- (1) In the event of any doubt or dispute arising at any time as to the meaning of any provision of a Statute, the matter may be referred to the Visitor, who shall take such advice and make such decision thereon as he deems fit.
- (2) The decision of the Visitor on any matter referred to him under this section shall be binding upon the authorities, staff and students of that University and where any question as to the meaning of any provision of a statute has been decided by the Visitor under this section, no question as to the meaning of that provision shall be entertained by any other authority in Nigeria:

Provided that nothing in this subsection shall affect the power of a court of competent jurisdiction to determine whether any provision of a statute is wholly or partly void as being ultra vires or as being inconsistent with the Constitution.

- (3) The foregoing provisions of this section shall apply in relation to any doubt or dispute as to whether any matter is, for the purposes of this Bill, academic or a non- academic matter as they apply in relation to any such doubt or dispute as is mentioned in subsection (1) of this section, and accordingly the reference in subsection (2) of this section to any question as to the meaning of any provision of a statute shall include references to any question as to

whether any matter is for the said purposes an academic or non-academic matter (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

PART IV — SUPERVISION AND DISCIPLINE

**Clause 15: The Visitor.**

- (1) The President shall be the Visitor of the University.
- (2) The Visitor shall as often as the circumstances may require, not being less than once every five years, conduct a visitation of the University or direct that such a visitation be conducted by such persons as the Visitor may deem fit and in respect of any of the affairs of the University.
- (3) It shall be the duty of the bodies and persons comprising the University to:
  - (a) make available to the Visitor, and to any other persons conducting a visitation in pursuance of this section, such facilities and assistance as he or they may reasonably require for the purpose of the visitation; and
  - (b) give effect to any instructions consistent with the provisions of this Bill which may be given by the Visitor in consequence of the visitation (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 16: Removal of certain members of the Council.**

- (1) If it appears to the Council that a member (other than the Pro-Chancellor or the Vice-Chancellor) should be removed from office on grounds of misconduct or inability to perform the functions of his office, the Council shall make a recommendation to that effect through the Minister to the Federal Executive Council and if the Federal Executive Council after making such enquiries (if any) as may be considered necessary, approves the recommendation it may direct the removal of the member from office.
- (2) It shall be the duty of the Minister to use his best endeavours to cause a copy of the instrument embodying a direction under subsection (1) of this section to be served as soon as reasonably practicable on the person to whom it relates (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 17: Removal and Discipline of Academic, Administrative, and Professional Staff.**

- (1) If it appears to the Council that there are reasons for believing that any person employed as a member of the academic, administrative or professional staff of the University, other than the Vice Chancellor, should be removed from office or on grounds of misconduct or inability to perform the functions of his office Council shall:
  - (a) give notice of those reasons to the person in question;
  - (b) afford such person an opportunity of making representation in person on the matter to the Council; and

- (c) take a decision to terminate or not to terminate the appointment.
- (2) If the affected staff or any three members of the Council so request within a period of one month from the date of receipt of the notice of the Council's decision, the Council shall make arrangements for:
  - (a) a Joint Committee of the Council and the Senate to review the matter and to report on it to the Council;
  - (b) the person in question to be afforded an opportunity to appear before and be heard by an investigating Committee with respect to the matter; and
  - (c) if the Council after considering the report of the investigating Committee, is satisfied that the person in question should be removed, the Council may so remove him by an instrument in writing signed on the directions of the Council.
- (3) The Vice-Chancellor may, in a case of gross misconduct by a member of staff which in the opinion of the Vice-Chancellor is prejudicial to the interest of the University, suspend such member and any such suspension shall immediately be reported to the Council.
- (4) Any member of staff may be suspended from duty or his appointment may be terminated by Council for a good cause and for the purposes of this subsection "good cause" means:
  - (a) conviction for any offence which the Council considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit for the discharge of the functions of his office;
  - (b) any physical or mental incapacity which the Council, after obtaining medical advice, considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit to continue to hold office;
  - (c) conduct of a scandalous or disgraceful nature which the Council considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit to continue to hold office; or
  - (d) conduct which the Council considers to be such as to constitute failure or inability of the person concerned to discharge the functions of his office or to comply with the terms and conditions of his service.
- (5) Any person suspended pursuant to subsection (3) of this section shall be on half pay and the Council shall before the expiration of a period of three months from the date of such suspension consider the case against that person and come to a decision as to whether to:
  - (a) continue such person's suspension and if so on what terms (including the proportion of his emoluments to be paid to him);
  - (b) reinstate such person in which case the Council shall restore his full emoluments with effect from the date of suspension;
  - (c) terminate the appointment of the person concerned in which case such a person will not be entitled to the proportion of his

emoluments withheld during the period of suspension; or

- (d) take such lesser disciplinary action against such person (including the restoration of such proportion of his emoluments that might have been withheld) as the Council may determine.
- (6) Where the Council, pursuant to this section, decides to continue a person's suspension or decides to take further disciplinary action against the person, the Council shall, before the expiration of three months from such decision come to a final determination in respect of the case concerning such a person.
- (7) It shall be the duty of the person by whom an instrument of removal is signed in pursuance of subsection (1) above to use his best endeavors to cause a copy of the instrument to be served as soon as reasonably practicable on the person to whom it relates.
- (8) Nothing in the foregoing provisions of this section shall prevent the Council from making regulations for the discipline of staff and workers of the University as may be appropriate (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 18: Removal of Examiners.**

- (1) If, on the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor, it appears to the Senate that a person appointed as an examiner for any examination of the University ought to be removed from his office or appointment, then, the Senate may, after affording the examiner an opportunity of making representations in person on the matter, direct the Vice-Chancellor to remove the examiner by an instrument in writing signed by the Registrar.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of any regulation made pursuant to section 8 (4) of this Bill, the Vice-Chancellor may, on the recommendation of Senate, appoint an appropriate person as examiner in the place of the examiner removed.
- (3) It shall be the duty of the Registrar on signing an instrument of removal pursuant to this section, to use his best endeavours to cause a copy of the instrument to be served as soon as reasonably practicable on the person to whom it relates (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 19: Discipline of Students.**

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, where after due process it appears to the Vice-Chancellor that any student is guilty of misconduct, the Vice-Chancellor may, without prejudice to any other disciplinary powers conferred on him by Statute or regulations, direct that the:
  - (a) student shall not, during such period as may be specified in the direction, participate in such activities of the University or make use of such facilities of the University as may be so specified;
  - (b) activities of the student shall, during such period as may be specified in the direction, be restricted in such manner as may be so specified;

- (c) student be rusticated for such period as may be specified in the direction.
- (2) Where a direction is given under subsection (1) paragraphs (a) to (d) of this section in respect of any student, the student may, within the prescribed period and in the prescribed manner, appeal against the direction to the Senate.
- (3) Where an appeal is brought pursuant to subsection (2) of this section, the Senate shall, after causing such inquiry to be made in the matter as the Senate considers just, either confirm or set aside the direction or modify it in such manner as the Senate thinks fit.
- (4) The fact that an appeal from a direction is brought pursuant to subsection (3) of this section shall not affect the operation of the direction while the appeal is pending.
- (5) The Vice-Chancellor may delegate his powers under this section to a disciplinary Board consisting of such members of the University as he may nominate.
- (6) Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing the restriction or termination of a student's activities at the University for conduct which in the opinion of Senate is prejudicial to the interest of the University or to its corporate objective or image.
- (7) A direction under subsection (1) (a) of this section may be combined with a direction under subsection (1) (b) of this section (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

#### PART V — MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

**Clause 20: Exclusion or discrimination on account of race, religion, etc.**

- (1) No person shall be required to satisfy requirements as to any of the following matters, that is to say, race (including ethnic grouping) sex, place of birth, family origin, religious or political persuasion, as a condition for becoming or continuing to be a student in the University; holder of any degree, appointment or employment in the University; or member of anybody established by virtue of this Bill.
- (2) No person shall be subjected to any disadvantage or accorded any advantage in relation to the University by reference to any of the matters referred to in subsection (1) of this section (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 21: Transfer of land to the University.**

- (1) No person shall be required to satisfy requirements as to any of the following matters, that is to say, race (including ethnic grouping) sex, place of birth, family origin, religious or political persuasion, as a condition for becoming or continuing to be a student in the University; holder of any

degree, appointment or employment in the University; or member of anybody established by virtue of this Bill.

- (2) No person shall be subjected to any disadvantage or accorded any advantage in relation to the University by reference to any of the matters referred to in subsection (1) of this section (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 22: Transfer of land to the University.**

Without prejudice to the provisions of the Land Use Act, the University shall not dispose of or charge any land or an interest in any land (including any land transferred to the University by this Bill) except with the prior written consent, either general or special, of the Visitor:

Provided that such consent shall not be required in the case of any lease or tenancy at a rack-rent for a term not exceeding twenty-one years of any lease or tenancy to a member of the University for residential purpose (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 23: Quorum and procedure of bodies established by this Bill.**

Except as may be otherwise provided by Statute or by Regulation, the quorum and procedure of any body of persons established by this Bill shall be such as may be determined by that body (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 24: Appointment of Committee, etc.**

- (1) Anybody of persons established by this Bill shall, without prejudice to the generality of the powers of that body, have power to appoint committees, which need not consist exclusively of members of that body and authorize a Committee established by it to:
- (a) exercise on its behalf, such of its functions as it may determine; and
  - (b) co-opt members and direct whether or not co-opted members shall be entitled to vote in that Committee.
- (2) Any two or more such bodies may arrange for the holding of joint meetings of those bodies or for the appointment of Committees consisting of members of those bodies, for the purpose of considering any matter within the competence of those bodies or any of them and either dealing with it or of reporting on it to those bodies or any of them.
- (3) Except as may be otherwise provided by Statute or Regulations, the quorum and procedure of a Committee established or meeting held pursuant to this section shall be such as may be determined by the body or bodies which have decided to establish the Committee or hold the meeting.
- (4) The Pro-Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor shall be members of every Committee of which the members are wholly or partly appointed by the Council, (other than a Committee appointed to inquire into the conduct of the officer in question) and the Vice-Chancellor shall be a member of every

Committee of which the members are wholly or partly appointed by the Senate.

- (5) Nothing in the foregoing provisions of this section shall be construed as enabling:
- (a) statutes to be made otherwise than in accordance with section 11 of this Bill; or
  - (b) the Senate to empower any other body to make Regulations or to award degrees or other qualifications (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 25: Miscellaneous Administrative provisions.**

- (1) The seal of the University shall be such as may be determined by the Council and approved by the Chancellor and the affixing of the seal shall:
  - (a) in the case of certificates issued by the University, be authenticated by the Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar; and
  - (b) in the case of any other document, be authenticated by any member of Council, the Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar or any other person authorized by Statute.
- (2) Any document purporting to be a document executed under the seal of the University shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be so executed.
- (3) Any contract or instrument which, if made or executed by a person not being a body corporate, would not be required to be under seal, may be made or executed on behalf of the University by any person generally or specially authorized to do so by the Council without seal.
- (4) The validity of the proceedings of anybody established pursuant to this Bill shall not be affected by.
- (5) Any member of any such body who has a personal interest in any matter proposed to be considered by that body shall disclose his interest to the body and shall not vote on any question relating to that matter.
- (6) Nothing in section 12 of the Interpretation Act (which provides for the application, in relation to subordinate legislation, of certain incidental provisions) shall apply to Statutes or Regulations made pursuant to this Bill.
- (7) The power conferred by this Bill on anybody to make Statute or Regulations shall include power to revoke or vary any:
  - (a) Statute (including the Statute contained in the Third Schedule to this Bill; or
  - (b) regulation by a subsequent Statute or Regulation as the case may be:

Provided that the Statutes and Regulations may have different provisions in relation to different circumstances.

- (8) No stamp or other duty shall be payable in respect of any transfer of property to the University by virtue of sections 10, 21 and the Second Schedule to this Bill.
- (9) Any notice or other instrument authorized to be served by virtue of this Bill may, without prejudice to any other mode of service, be served by post (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 26: Interpretation.**

- (1) In this Bill:

"appropriate authority" means any person, body or authority authorized by law to act in a specific or general capacity in relation to a subject-matter (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"campus" means any campus which may be established by the University (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"college" means any college which may be established by the University (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"graduate" means a person on whom a degree (other than an honorary degree) has been conferred by the University (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"gross misconduct" means any act of misconduct and improper behavior that may be designated as gross misconduct by any Statute or Regulation made, pursuant to this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Minister" means the Minister charged with responsibility for education (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"misconduct" means any conduct which is prejudicial to the good name of

the University and or discipline and the proper administration of the business of the University (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"notice" means notice in writing (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"officer" does not include the Visitor (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"prescribed" means prescribed by Statute or Regulation made under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"professor" means a person designated as a professor of the University in accordance with provisions made in that behalf by Statute or by Regulations (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"property" includes rights, liabilities and obligations (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"the provisional Council" means the provisional Council appointed for the University by the President at the takeoff of the University (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"regulations" means regulations made by the Senate or Council (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Senate" means the Senate of the University established by the Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Statute" means a Statute made by the University under section 11 of this Bill and in accordance with the provisions of section 12 of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"the Statutes" means all such Statutes as are in force from time to time (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"teacher" means a person holding a full time appointment as a member of the teaching or research staff of the University (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"President" means the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Constitution" means the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"undergraduate" means a person in statu pupillari the University, other than:

- (a) a graduate; and
- (b) a person of such description as may be prescribed for the purposes of this definition (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"the University" the Federal University of Agriculture and Entrepreneurship, Bama incorporated and constituted by this Bill; and (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"the Bill" means the Federal University of Agriculture and Entrepreneurship, Bama Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

- (2) Where in any provision of this Bill, it is laid down that proposals are to be submitted or a recommendation is to be made by one authority to another through one or more intermediate authorities, it shall be the duty of every such intermediate authority to forward any proposals or recommendations received by it pursuant to that provision to the appropriate authority; but any such intermediate authority may, if it thinks fit, forward therewith its own comments thereon (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 27: Citation.**

This Bill is cited as the Federal University of Agriculture and Entrepreneurship, Bama (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2025 (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

## SCHEDULES

### FIRST SCHEDULE

#### Section 3 (2)

#### PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

##### *The Chancellor*

1. The Chancellor shall be appointed by and hold office at the pleasure of the President.

##### *The Pro-Chancellor*

2. (1) The Pro-Chancellor shall be appointed or removed from office by the President.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Pro-Chancellor shall hold office for a period of four years from the date of his appointment.

##### *The Vice-Chancellor*

2. The procedure for the appointment and removal of the Vice Chancellor shall be in accordance with the provisions of the University (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993 as amended.

##### *Deputy Vice-Chancellor*

4. (1) There shall be for the University, two Deputy Vice-Chancellors or such number of Deputy Vice Chancellors as the Council may, from time to time, deem necessary for the proper administration of the University.
- (2) The procedure for the appointment and removal of the Deputy Vice Chancellor shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993 as amended.
- (3) A Deputy Vice-Chancellor shall:
- (a) assist the Vice-Chancellor in the performance of his functions;

- (b) act in place of the Vice-Chancellor when the post of the Vice Chancellor is vacant or if the Vice-Chancellor is, for any reason, absent or unable to perform his functions as Vice-Chancellor; and
- (c) perform such other functions as the Vice-Chancellor or the Council may, from time to time, assign to him.

*Office of the Registrar, Bursar and University Librarian*

- 5. (1) There shall be for the University, a Registrar, who shall be the Chief Administrative Officer of the University and shall be responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the day-to-day administration of the University except as regards matters for which the Bursar is responsible in accordance with paragraph 6 (2) below.
- (2) The person holding the office of Registrar shall by virtue of that office be Secretary to the Council, the Senate, Congregation and Convocation.
- (3) The Registrar shall hold office for such period and on such terms and conditions as to emoluments as may be specified in his letter of appointment.
- 6. (1) There shall be for the University, the following Principal Officers in addition to the Registrar, that is:
  - (a) the Bursar; and
  - (b) the University Librarian.
- (2) The Bursar shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the University and shall be responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the day-to-day administration and control of the financial affairs of the University.
- (3) The University Librarian shall be responsible to the Vice Chancellor for the administration of the University Library and the coordination of all library services in the University and its campuses, colleges, faculties, schools, departments and institutes and other teaching or research units.
- (4) The Bursar and the University Librarian shall each hold office for such period and on such terms and conditions as to emoluments as may be specified in their letter of appointment.

*Other Officers of the University*

- 7. There shall be for the University, a Director of Works, who shall be responsible to the Vice Chancellor for the administration of the Works Department. He shall be responsible for all works, services and maintenance of University facilities.
- 8. There shall be for the University, a Director of Health Services, who shall be responsible to the Vice Chancellor for the administration of the Health Centre. He shall be the Chief Medical Officer of the University and shall coordinate all matters relating to the health of all staff and students.

*Resignation and Re-appointment*

- 9. (1) Any officer mentioned in the foregoing provisions of this schedule may resign his office in:
  - (a) the case of the Chancellor or Pro-Chancellor, by notice to the Visitor;

- (b) the case of the Vice-Chancellor by notice to the Council which shall immediately notify the Minister;
- (2) A person who has ceased to hold an office so mentioned otherwise than by removal for misconduct shall be eligible for re-appointment to that office, subject to the limits of tenure of office (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

## SECOND SCHEDULE

### Section 10 (2)

#### TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS AS TO PROPERTY; FUNCTIONS, ETC.

##### *Transfer of Property to the University*

1. Without prejudice to the generality of Section 10 (1) of this Bill:
  - (a) the reference in the subsection to property held by the provisional Council and the University shall include a reference to the right to receive and give a good discharge for any grants or contributions which may have been voted or promised to the provisional Council and the University; and
  - (b) all outstanding debts and liabilities of the provisional Council shall become debts and liabilities of the University established by this Bill.
2.
  - (1) All agreements, contracts, deeds and other instruments to which the provisional Council was a party shall, so far as possible and subject to any necessary modifications, have effect as if the University established by this Bill had been a party to it in place of the provisional Council.
  - (2) Documents not falling within sub-paragraph (1) above, including enactments, which refer whether specially or generally to the provisional Council shall be construed in accordance with that subparagraph so far as applicable.
  - (3) Any legal proceedings or application to any authority pending by or against the provisional Council may be continued by or against the University established by this Bill.

##### *Registration of Transfers*

3.
  - (1) If the law in force at the place where any property transferred by this Bill is situated provides for the registration of transfers of property of the kind in question (whether by reference to an instrument of transfer or otherwise), the law shall, so far as it provides for alterations of a register (but not for avoidance of transfers, the payment of fees of any other matter) apply, with the necessary modifications to the transfer of the property in question.
  - (2) It shall be the duty of the body to which any property is transferred by this Bill to furnish the necessary particulars of the transfer to the proper officer of the registration authority, and of that officer to register the transfer accordingly.
4.
  - (1) The first meeting of the Council shall be convened by the Pro-Chancellor on such date and in such manner as he may determine.

- (2) The persons who were members of the provisional Council shall be deemed to constitute the Council until the date when the Council set up under the Third Schedule to this Bill must have been duly constituted.
  - (3) The first meetings of the Senate as constituted by this Bill shall be convened by the Vice-Chancellor on such date and in such manner as he may determine.
  - (4) The persons who were members of the Senate immediately before the coming into force of this Bill shall be deemed to constitute the Senate of the University until the date when the Senate as set up under the Third Schedule of this Bill must have been duly constituted.
  - (5) Subject to any regulations which may be made by the Senate after the date on which this Bill is made, the faculties, faculty boards and students of the University immediately before the coming into force of this Bill shall on that day become faculties, faculty boards and students of the University as established by this Bill.
  - (6) Persons who were deans or associate deans of faculties or members of faculty boards shall continue to be deans or associate deans or become members of the corresponding faculty boards, until new appointment are made in pursuance of the Statutes under this Bill.
5. Any person who was a member of the staff of the University as established or was otherwise employed by the provisional Council shall be employed at the University on such designation, status and functions which correspond as nearly as possible to those which pertained to him as a member of that staff or as such an employee.
  6. Questions as to the scope of the responsibilities of the aforesaid officers shall be determined by the Vice- Chancellor (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

#### THIRD SCHEDULE

Section 11 (3)

### **FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP, BAMA STATUTE NO. 1**

#### ARRANGEMENT OF ARTICLES

*Articles:*

1. The Council
2. Finance and General Purpose Committee
3. The Senate
4. The Congregation
5. Convocation
6. Organization of Faculties and the Branches thereof
7. Faculty Board
8. The Dean of the Faculty
9. Selection of Certain Principal and other key officers
10. Creation of Academic Post
11. Appointment of Academic Staff
12. Appointment of Administrative and Technical Staff

*The Council*

1. (1) Any member of Council holding office pursuant to section 6 (e) (f) (g) or (h) of this Bill may, by notice to the Council resign his office.
- (2) A member of Council holding office pursuant to section 6 (e) (f) (g) or (h) of this Bill shall, unless he previously vacates it, vacate that office on the expiration of a period of four years starting from 1st August in the year in which he was appointed.
- (3) Where a member of Council holding office pursuant to section 6 (e) (f) (g) or (h) of this Bill vacates office before the expiration of his tenure, the body that appointed him may appoint a successor to hold office for the residue of his unexpired term.
- (4) A person ceasing to hold office as a member of Council otherwise than by removal for misconduct shall be eligible for reappointment for only one further period of four years.
- (5) The quorum of the Council shall be five, at least one of whom shall be a member pursuant to Section 6 (d) and (e) of this Bill.
- (6) If the Pro-Chancellor is not present at a meeting of the Council, the members present at the meeting may appoint one of them to be the Chairman at that meeting, and subject to section 5 of this Bill and the provisions of this paragraph the Council may regulate its own procedure.
- (7) Where the Council desires to obtain advice with respect to any particular matter, it may co-opt not more than two persons for that purpose; and the persons co-opted may take part in the deliberations of the Council at any meeting but shall not be entitled to vote.
- (8) The Council constituted by this Bill shall have a four year tenure from the date of its inauguration provided that where a Council is found to be incompetent and corrupt, it shall be dissolved by the visitor and a new Council shall be immediately constituted for the effective functioning of the University.
- (9) The powers of the Council shall be exercised in accordance with the laws and Statutes of the University, and to that extent, establishment circulars that are inconsistent with the laws and Statutes of the University shall not apply to the University.

*The Finance and General Purpose Committee*

2. (1) The Finance and General Purpose Committee of the Council shall consist of:
  - (a) the Pro-Chancellor, who shall be the Chairman of the committee at any meeting at which he is present;
  - (b) the Vice-Chancellor and a Deputy Vice-Chancellor;
  - (c) six other members of the Council appointed by the Council two of whom shall be selected from among the four members of the Council appointed by the Senate and one of whom shall be selected from among members of the Council appointed by the congregation; and
  - (d) the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education or, in his absence, such member of his Ministry as he may designate to represent him.

- (2) The quorum of the Committee shall be six.
- (3) Subject to any directions given by the Council, the committee may regulate its own procedure.

*The Senate*

3. (1) There shall be a Senate for the University consisting of:
  - (a) the Vice-Chancellor;
  - (b) the Deputy Vice-Chancellor;
  - (c) all Professors of the University;
  - (d) all Deans, Provosts and Directors of Academic units of the University;
  - (e) all Heads of Academic Departments, Units and Research Institutes of the University;
  - (f) the University Librarian; and
  - (g) academic members of the congregation who are not Professors as specified in the Laws of the University.
- (2) The Vice-Chancellor shall be the chairman at all meetings of the Senate when he is present and in his absence, one of the Deputy Vice Chancellors appointed by him shall be the chairman at the meeting.
- (3) The quorum of the Senate shall be one-quarter (or the nearest whole number less than one quarter), and subject to paragraph (2) above the Senate may regulate its own procedure.
- (4) If so requested in writing by any ten members of the Senate, the Vice-Chancellor, or in his absence a person duly appointed by him, shall convene a meeting of the Senate to be held not later than the tenth day following that on which the request was received.

*Congregation*

4. (1) Congregation shall consist of:
  - (a) the Vice-Chancellor and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor;
  - (b) the full time members of the academic staff;
  - (c) the Registrar;
  - (d) the Bursar; and
  - (e) every member of the administrative and technical staff who holds a degree of any University recognized for the purpose of this Statute by the Vice-Chancellor, not being an honorary degree.
- (2) Subject to section 5 of this Bill, the Vice-Chancellor shall be the Chairman at all meetings of congregation when he is present, and in his absence one of the Deputy

Vice Chancellors appointed by him shall be the chairman at the meeting.

- (3) The quorum of congregation shall be one-third (or the nearest whole number to one-third) of the total number of members of congregation or fifty, whichever is less.
- (4) A certificate signed by the Vice-Chancellor specifying:
  - (a) the total number of members of Congregation for the purposes of any particular meeting or meetings of Congregation; or
  - (b) the names of the persons who are members of Congregation during a particular period,shall be conclusive evidence of that number or as the case may be of the names of those persons.
- (5) Subject to the provisions of this schedule, congregation may regulate its own procedure.
- (6) Congregation shall be entitled to express by resolution or otherwise its opinion on all matters affecting the interest and welfare of the University and shall have such other functions in addition to the function of electing a member of the Council, as may be provided by Statute or Regulations.

#### *Convocation*

5. (1) Convocation shall consist of:
  - (a) the Officers of the University mentioned in Schedule 1 to this Bill;
  - (b) all teachers within the meaning of this Bill; and
  - (c) all other persons whose names are registered in accordance with paragraph (2) below.
- (2) A person shall be entitled to have his name registered as a member of convocation if he:
  - (a) is either a graduate of the University or a person satisfying such requirements as may be prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph; and
  - (b) applies for the registration of his name in the prescribed manner and pays the prescribed fee.
- (3) Regulations shall provide for the establishment and maintenance of a register for the purpose of this paragraph and, subject to paragraph (3) below, may provide for the payment from time to time of further fees by persons whose names are on the register and for the removal from the register of the name of any person who fails to pay those fees.
- (4) The person responsible for maintaining the register shall, without the payment of any fees, ensure that the names of all persons who are for the time being members of convocation by virtue of paragraph (1) (a) or (b) of this paragraph are entered and retained on the register.
- (5) A person who reasonably claims that he is entitled to have his name on the register shall be entitled on demand to inspect the register, or a copy of the register at the

principal offices of the University at all reasonable times.

- (6) The register shall, unless the contrary is proved, be sufficient evidence that any person named therein is, and that any person not named therein is not, a member of convocation; but for the purpose of ascertaining whether a particular person was such a member on a particular date, any entries in and deletions from the register made on or after that date shall be disregarded.
- (7) The quorum of convocation shall be fifty or one-third (or the whole number nearest to one-third) of the total number of members of convocation whichever is less.
- (8) Subject to section 5 of this Bill, the Chancellor shall be chairman at all meetings of convocation when he is present, and in his absence the Vice Chancellor shall be the chairman at the meeting.
- (9) Convocation shall have such functions, in addition to the function of appointing a member of the Council, as may be provided by statute.

*Organisation of Faculties and Branches thereof*

6. Each Faculty shall be divided into such number of branches as may be prescribed.
7. (1) There shall Be established in respect of each Faculty, a Faculty Board, which, subject to the provisions of this Bill, and subject to the directions of the Vice-Chancellor, shall:
  - (a) regulate the teaching and study of, and the conduct of examinations connected with the subjects assigned to the faculty;
  - (b) deal with other matters assigned to it by Statute, by the Vice Chancellor or by the Senate; and
  - (c) advice the Vice-Chancellor or Senate on any matter referred to it by the Vice-Chancellor or Senate.
- (2) Each Faculty Board shall consists of:
  - (a) the Vice-Chancellor;
  - (b) the persons severally in charge of the branches of the faculty;
  - (c) such number of the teachers assigned to the faculty and having the prescribed qualifications as the Board may determine; and
  - (d) such persons whether or not members of the University as the Board may determine with the general or special approval of Senate.
- (3) The quorum of the Board shall be eight members or one-quarter of the members of the Board for the time being whichever is greater.
- (4) Subject to the provisions of this statute and to any provision made by regulations in that behalf, the Board may regulate its own procedure.

*The Dean of the Faculty*

8. (1) The Dean of a faculty shall be a professor elected by the Faculty Board and such

Dean shall hold office for a term of two years. He will be eligible for re-election for another term of two years after which he may not be elected again until two years have elapsed.

- (2) If there is no professor in a faculty, the Vice-Chancellor shall appoint an Acting Dean who shall not be below the rank of Senior Lecturer for the faculty, who will act for a period of one year in the first instance, renewable for another one year only.
- (3) In the absence of the Vice-Chancellor, the Dean shall be the chairman at all meetings of the Faculty Board when he is present and he shall be a member of all committees and other boards appointed by the faculty.
- (4) The Dean of a faculty shall exercise general superintendence over the academic and administrative affairs of the faculty and it shall be the function of the Dean to present to the convocation for the conferment of Degrees, persons who have qualified for the Degrees of the University at examinations held in the branches of learning for which responsibility is allocated to that faculty.
- (5) There shall be a committee to be known as the Committee of Deans which shall consist of all the Deans of the several faculties and that committee shall advise the Vice-Chancellor on all academic matters and on particular matters referred to the Committee by the Senate.
- (6) The Dean of a faculty may be removed from office for a good cause by the Faculty Board after a vote would have been taken at a meeting of the Board, and in the event of a vacancy occurring following the removal of the Dean, an Acting Dean may be appointed by the Vice-Chancellor provided that at the next faculty board meeting an election shall be held for a new Dean.
- (7) In this article, "good cause" has the same meaning as in section 17 (4) of this Bill.

*Selection of Certain Principal and other key Officers*

9. (1) When a vacancy occurs in the Office of the Registrar, Bursar, the University Librarian, Director of Works or Director of Health Services, a Selection Board shall be constituted by the Council and shall consist of:
  - (a) the Pro-Chancellor;
  - (b) the Vice-chancellor;
  - (c) two members appointed by the Council, not being members of Senate; and
  - (d) two members appointed by the Senate not being members of Council.
- (2) The Selection Board, after making such inquiries as it thinks fit, shall recommend a candidate to the Council for appointment to the vacant office, and after considering the recommendation of the Board the Council may make an appointment to that office.
- (3) A person appointed to the office of Director of Works or Director of Health Services shall hold office for such period and on such terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of appointment.

*Creation of Academic Post*

10. Recommendation for the creation of posts other than those mentioned in paragraph 9 of this Schedule shall be made by the Senate to the Council through the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

*Appointment of Academic Staff*

11. Subject to this Bill and the Statutes derived from it, the filling of vacancies in academic posts (including newly created ones) shall be as prescribed from time to time by Statutes.

*Appointment of Administrative and Technical Staff*

12. (1) The administrative and technical staff of the University, other than those mentioned in paragraph 9 of this schedule shall be appointed by the Council on its behalf by the Vice-Chancellor or the Registrar in accordance with any delegation of powers made by the Council in that behalf.
- (2) In the case of administrative or technical staff that has close and important contact with the academic staff, there shall be Senate participation in the process of selection (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Explanatory Memorandum:**

This Bill seeks to establish the Federal University of Agriculture and Entrepreneurship, Bama, Borno State, to make comprehensive provisions for its due Management and Administration (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

**Long Title:**

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal University of Agriculture and Entrepreneurship, Bama, Borno State, Make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management, Administration; and Related Matters (SB.186) (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

*Chairman to report Bill.*

**(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Agriculture and Entrepreneurship, Bama, Borno State make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (SB. 186) and approved Clauses 1 - 27, the Schedules, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

- (iii) ***A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Bida, Niger State for the purpose of providing Qualitative Education in Medicine and Health Sciences and for Related Matters (H.B. 411) (Committee of the Whole):***  
*Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Bida, Niger State for the purpose of providing Qualitative Education in Medicine and Health Sciences and for*

Related Matters (H.B. 411)” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

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

**(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)**

*(Mr Speaker in the Chair)*

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES, BIDA, NIGER STATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING QUALITATIVE EDUCATION IN MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 411)

PART I — ESTABLISHMENT, CONSTITUTION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES

**Clause 1: Establishment, Constitution and Functions of the Federal University of Medicine and Health Sciences.**

- (1) There is hereby established the Federal University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Bida, Niger State.
- (2) The University shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in its corporate name,
- (3) The general objects/purposes of the University shall be —
  - (a) to encourage the advancement of learning and to hold out to all persons without distinction of race, creed, sex or political conviction, the opportunity of acquiring a higher education in Medicine and other Health Sciences;
  - (b) to develop and offer academic and professional programs leading to the award of diplomas, first degrees, postgraduate research and higher degrees with emphasis on planning, adaptive, technical, maintenance, developmental and productive skills in the field of Medicine, biomedical engineering, scientific, and allied professional disciplines relating to health resources with the aim of producing socially mature persons with capacity not only to understand, use and adapt existing technologies in the health industry, but also to improve on those disciplines and develop new ones, and to contribute to the scientific transformation of medical and other health practices in Nigeria;
  - (c) to act as agents and catalysts, through postgraduate training, research and innovation for the effective and economic utilization, exploitation and conservation of Nigeria's natural, economic and human resources;
  - (d) to offer to the general population, as a form of public service, the results of training and research in medicine and allied disciplines and to foster the practical application of those results;
  - (e) to establish appropriate relationships with other national institutions

involved in training, research and development of health care;

- (f) to identify the health problems and needs of Nigeria and to find solution to them within the context of overall national development;
  - (g) to provide and promote sound basic scientific training as a foundation for the development of medicine and allied disciplines, taking into account indigenous culture, the need to enhance national unity, the need to vastly increase the practical content of student training, and adequate preparation of graduates for self-employment in medicine and allied professions;
  - (h) to promote and emphasize teaching, research and extension of health knowledge, including health extension services and outreach programs;
  - (i) to offer academic programs in relation to the training of manpower for medicine and allied profession in Nigeria;
  - (j) to organize research relevant to training of manpower and health technology;
  - (k) to organize extension services and outreach programs for technology transfer;
  - (l) to establish institutional linkages in order to foster collaboration and integration of training, research, and extension activities; and
  - (m) to undertake any other activities appropriate for a University of Health Sciences.
- (4) The University has the mandate to:
- (i) teach and train high caliber health-care professionals;
  - (ii) provide healthcare services and consultancy;
  - (iii) conduct research and participate in extension, outreach and community services;
  - (iv) operate various schools and specialties that offer exemplary training and quality research in health care;
  - (v) facilitate the acquisition of knowledge and skills in different specialties for effective and efficient management of health care;
  - (vi) provide solution to the lack and the inequitable distribution of health professionals serving rural communities;
  - (vii) train clinically, competent and socially conscious health workers who will stay and serve in depressed and underserved communities especially in the rural areas of Nigeria,
  - (viii) develop a training model for the training of community oriented health workers that could be replicated in other areas of Nigeria,

- (ix) facilitate collaboration and enhancement of health sciences research and education endeavors;
- (x) advance the national and international reputation as the premier university for health sciences education and research in Nigeria;
- (xi) advise and report regularly to the ministry of education on all matters relevant to the health sciences sector and its education and research programs,
- (xii) work collectively on common health academic issues and their implementation;
- (xiii) provide management support for education and research across the health sciences sector;
- (xiv) promote inter-professional education across all health professional program and optimize the resources to do so; and
- (xv) ensure that the health sciences sector is adequately and appropriately represented at all levels of University governance (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

- Clause 2:**
- (1) The University shall consist of —
    - (a) Chancellor;
    - (b) Pro-Chancellor and a Council;
    - (c) Vice-Chancellor and a Senate;
    - (d) Deputy Vice-Chancellor(s);
    - (e) a body to be called Congregation;
    - (f) a body to be called Convocation;
    - (g) campuses and colleges of the University;
    - (h) schools, institutes and other teaching and research units;
    - (i) persons holding the offices constituted by the First Schedule to this Bill other than those mentioned in paragraph (a) to (d) of this subsection;
    - (j) all graduates and undergraduates of the University; and
    - (k) all other persons who are members of the University in accordance with provisions made by statute in that behalf.
  - (2) The First Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the principal officers of each University therein mentioned. [First Schedule]
  - (3) Subject to section 6 of this Bill, provision shall be made by statute with

respect to the constitution of the following bodies, namely the Council, the Senate, Congregation and Convocation (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

- Clause 3:** (1) For the carrying out of its objects as specified in section 2 of this Bill, the University shall have power —
- (a) to establish such campuses, colleges, institutes, schools, extramural departments and other teaching and research units within the University as may, from time to time, be deemed necessary or desirable, subject to the approval of the Federal Ministry of Education;
  - (b) to institute professorships, readerships or associate professorships, and other posts and offices and to make appointments thereto;
  - (c) to institute and award fellowships, scholarships, exhibitions, bursaries, medals, prizes and other titles, distinctions, awards and other forms of assistance;
  - (d) to provide for the discipline and welfare of members of the University;
  - (e) to hold examinations and grant degrees, diplomas, certificates and other distinctions to persons who have pursued a course of study approved by the University and have satisfied such other requirements as the University may lay down;
  - (f) to grant honorary degrees, fellowships or academic titles;
  - (g) to demand and receive from any student or any other person attending the University for the purpose of instruction such fees as the University may, from time to time, determine subject to the overall directives of the Minister;
  - (h) subject to section 23 of this Bill, to acquire, hold, grant, charge or otherwise deal with or dispose of movable and immovable property wherever situate;
  - (i) to accept gifts, legacies and donations, but without obligation to accept the same for a particular purpose unless it approves the terms and conditions attaching thereto;
  - (j) to enter into contracts, establish trusts, act as trustee, solely or jointly with any other person, and employ and act through agents;
  - (k) to erect, provide, equip and maintain libraries, laboratories, lecture halls, halls of residence, refectories, sports grounds, playing fields and other buildings or things necessary or suitable or convenient for any of the objects of the University;
  - (l) to hold public lectures and to undertake printing, publishing and book-selling;

- (m) subject to any limitations on conditions imposed by statute; to invest any money appertaining to the University by way of endowment, not being immediately required for current expenditure, in any investments or securities or the purchase or improvement of land, with power from time to time to vary any such investments and to deposit any money for the time being not invested with any bank on deposit or current account;
  - (n) to borrow, whether on interest or not if need be upon the security of any or all of the property, movable or immovable, of the University, such moneys as the Council may, from time to time, in its discretion find it necessary or expedient to borrow or to guarantee any loan, advances or credit facilities;
  - (o) to do anything which it is authorized or required by this Bill or by statute to do; and
  - (p) to do all such acts or things, incidental to the foregoing powers, as may advance the objects of the University.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Bill and of the statutes and without prejudice to section 9(2) of this Bill, the powers conferred on the University by subsection (1) of this section shall be exercisable on behalf of the University by the Council or by the Senate or in any other manner, which may be authorized by statute.
- (3) The power of the University to establish further campuses and colleges within the University shall be exercisable by statute and not otherwise (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

- Clause 4:**
- (1) The Chancellor shall, in relation to the University, take precedence before all other members of the University and when he is present shall preside at all meetings of Convocation held for conferring degrees-
  - (2) Every proposal to confer an honorary degree shall be subject to the confirmation of the Chancellor.
  - (3) The Chancellor shall exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be conferred or imposed on him by this Bill or the statutes (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

- Clause 5:**
- (1) The Pro-Chancellor shall, in relation to the University, take precedence before all other members of the University, except the Chancellor and except the Vice-Chancellor when acting as chairman of Congregation or Convocation and the Pro-Chancellor shall, when he is present, be the chairman at all meetings of the Council.
  - (2) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Pro-Chancellor shall hold office for a period of five years beginning with the date of his appointment (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 6:** The Council of each University shall consist of —

- (a) the Pro-Chancellor;
- (b) the Vice-Chancellor;
- (c) the Deputy Vice-Chancellor(s);
- (d) one person from the Ministry responsible for education;
- (e) nine persons representing a variety of interests and broadly representative of the whole Federation to be appointed by the President;
- (f) four persons appointed by the Senate from among its members;
- (g) two persons appointed by the Congregation from among its members;
- (h) one person appointed by Convocation from among its members (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

- Clause 7:**
- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill relating to the Visitor, the Council shall be the governing body of each University and shall be charged with the general control and superintendence of the policy, finance and property of the University.
  - (2) There shall be committee of the Council to be known as the Finance and general purposes Committee, which shall, subject to the directions of the Council, exercise control over the property and expenditure of the University and perform such other functions of the Council as the Council may, from time to time, delegate to it.
  - (3) Provision shall be made by statute with respect to the constitution of the Finance and General purposes Committee.
  - (4) The Council shall ensure that proper accounts of the University are kept and that the accounts of the University are audited annually by an independent firm of auditors approved by the Council, and that an annual report shall be published by the University together with certified copies of the said accounts as audited.
  - (5) Subject to this Bill and the statutes, the Council and the Finance and General Purposes Committee may each make rules for regulating their own procedure.
  - (6) Rules made under subsection (5) of this section by the Finance and General Purposes Committee shall not come into force unless approved by the Council; and in so far and to the extent that any rules so made by that Committee conflict with any directions given by the Council (whether before or after the coming into force of the rules in question), the direction of the Council shall prevail.
  - (7) There shall be paid to the members of the Council, the Finance and General Purposes Committee respectively and of any other committee set up by the Council an allowance in respect of travelling and other reasonable expenses,

at such rates as may, from time to time, be fixed by the Minister.

- (8) The Council shall meet as and when necessary for the performance of its functions under t11iBAct and shall meet at least three times in every year.
- (9) If requested in writing by any five members of the Council the chairman shall within 28 days after the receipt of such request call a meeting of the Council.
- (10) Any request made under subsection (9) of this section shall specify the business to be considered at the meeting and a business not so specified shall not be transacted at the meeting (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

- Clause 8:**
- (1) Subject to section 8 of this Bill and subsections (3) and (4) of this section and to the provisions of this Bill relating to the Visitor, it shall be the general function of the Senate to organize and control the teaching by the University, the admission (where no other enactment provides to the contrary, of students) and the discipline of students; and to promote research at the University.
  - (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) of this section and subject as there mentioned, it shall in particular be the function of the Senate to make provision for —
    - (a) the establishment and organization and control of campuses, colleges, schools, institutes and other teaching and research units of the University and allocation of responsibility for different branches of learning;
    - (b) the organization and control of courses of study in the University and of the examinations held in conjunction with those courses, including the appointment of examiners both internal and external;
    - (c) the award of degrees, and such other qualifications as may be prescribed, in connection with examinations held as aforesaid;
    - (d) the making of recommendations to the Council with respect to the award to any person of an honorary fellowship or degree or the title of professor emeritus;
    - (e) the establishment, organization and control of halls of residence and similar institutions at the University;
    - (f) the supervision of the welfare of students at the University and the regulation of their conduct;
    - (g) the granting of fellowships, scholarships, prizes and similar awards in so far as the awards are within the control of the University; and
    - (h) determining what description of dress shall be academic dress for the purposes of the University, and regulating the use of academic dress.

- (3) The Senate shall not establish any new campus, college, school, department, institute or other teaching and research units of the University without the approval of the Council.
- (4) Subject to this Bill and statutes, the Senate may make regulations for the purpose of exercising any function conferred on it either by the foregoing provisions of this section or otherwise or for the purpose of making provisions for any matter for which provision by regulations is authorized or required by this Bill or by statute.
- (5) Regulations shall provide that at least one of the persons appointed as the examiners at each final or professional examination held in conjunction with any course of study at the University, as may be prescribed by the Senate from time to time, is not a teacher at the University but is a teacher of the branch of learning to which the course relates at some other university of high repute or a person engaged in practicing the profession in a reputable organization or institution.
- (6) Subject to a right of appeal to the Council from a decision of the Senate under this subsection, the Senate may deprive any person of any degree, diploma or other award of the University which has been conferred upon him if after due enquiry he is shown to have been guilty of dishonorable or scandalous conduct in gaining admission into the University or obtaining that award (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

- Clause 9:**
- (1) The Vice-Chancellor shall, in relation to each University, take precedence before all other members of the University, except the Chancellor, and any other person for the time being acting as chairman of the Council.
  - (2) Subject to sections 8, 9 and 15 of this Bill, the Vice-Chancellor shall have the general function, in addition to any other functions conferred on him by this Bill or otherwise, of directing the activities of the University and shall be the chief executive and academic officer of the University and *ex-officio* chairman of the Senate (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

**Amendment Proposed:**

**Clause 9:**

In Subclause (1), line 1, immediately after the word “to”, *leave out* the word “each” and *insert* the word “the” (*Hon. Kingsley Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment made — Agreed to.*

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

PART II — TRANSFER OF PROPERTY ETC., TO THE UNIVERSITY

**Clause 10: Statutes of the University.**

- (1) Subject to this Bill, the University may make statutes for any of the following purposes, that is to say —
  - (a) making provision with respect to the composition and constitution of any authority of the University;

- (b) specifying and regulating the powers and duties of any authority of the University and regulating any other matter connected with the University or any of its authorities;
  - (c) regulating the admission of students (where no other enactment provides to the contrary), and their discipline and welfare;
  - (d) determining whether any particular matter is to be treated as an academic or non-academic matter for the purposes of this Bill and of any statute, regulation or other instrument made thereunder;
  - (e) making provision for any other matter for which provision by statute is authorized or required by this Bill.
- (2) Subject to section 28 (6) of this Bill, the Interpretation Act shall apply 2 in relation to any statute made under this section as it applies to a 3 subsidiary instrument within the meaning of section 29 (1) of that Act.
- (3) The statute contained in the Second Schedule to this Bill shall be 5 deemed to have come into force on the commencement of this section 6 of this Bill and shall be deemed to have been made under this section by each University.
- (4) The power to make statutes conferred by this section shall not be prejudiced or limited in any way by reason of the inclusion or omission of any matter in or from the statute contained in the Second Schedule to this Bill or any subsequent statute. [Second Schedule] (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 11: Power to make Statutes.**

- (1) The power of the University to make statutes shall be exercised in accordance with the provisions of this section and not otherwise.
- (2) A proposed statute shall not become law unless it has been approved:
- (a) at a meeting of the Senate, by the votes of not less than two thirds of the members present and voting; and
  - (b) at a meeting of the Council, by the votes of not less than two thirds of the members present and voting.
- (3) A proposed statute may originate either in the Senate or in the Council, and may be approved as required by subsection (2) of this section by either one of those bodies before the other.
- (4) A statute which makes provision for or alters the composition or constitution of the Council, the Senate or any other authority of the University shall not come into operation unless it has been approved by the President.
- (5) For the purposes of section 1 (2) of the Interpretation Act a statute shall be treated as being made on the date on which it is duly approved by the Council after having been approved by the Senate, as the case may be or, in the case of a statute falling within sub-section (4) of this section, on the date on which it is approved by the President. [Cap. 123]

- (6) In the event of any doubt or dispute arising at any time —
- (a) as to the meaning of any provision of a statute; or
  - (b) as to whether any matter is for the purpose of this Bill an academic matter as they relate to such doubt or dispute, the matter may be referred to the Visitor, who shall take such advice and make such decision therein as he shall think fit.
- (7) The decision of the Visitor on any matter referred to him under subsection (6) of this section shall be final and binding upon the authorities, staff and students of the University and where any question as to the meaning of any provision of a statute has been decided by the Visitor under that subsection, the question as to the meaning of that provision shall not be entertained by any court of law in Nigeria.
- (8) Nothing in subsection (7) of this section shall affect any power of a court of competent jurisdiction to determine whether any provision of a statute is wholly or partially void as being ultra vires or as being inconsistent with the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 12:** A statute may be proved in any court by the production of a Proof of statutes copy thereto bearing affixed to it a certificate purporting to be signed by the Vice Chancellor or the secretary to the Council to the effect that the copy is a true copy of a statute of the University (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

### PART III — SUPERVISION AND DISCIPLINE

**Clause 13: The Visitor.**

- (1) The President shall be the Visitor of the University:-
- (2) The Visitor shall as often as the circumstances may require, not being less than once every five years, conduct a visitation of the University or direct that such a visitation be conducted by such person or persons as the Visitor may deem fit and in respect of any of the affairs of the University.
- (3) It shall be duty of the bodies and persons comprising the University to make available to the Visitor and to any other person conducting a visitation in pursuance of this section, such facilities and assistance as he or they may reasonably require for the purposes of a visitation (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 14: Removal of certain members of Council.**

- (1) If it appears to the Council that a member of the Council Removal of (other than the Pro-Chancellor or the Vice-Chancellor) should be removed of Council from office on the ground of misconduct or inability to perform the functions of his office or employment, the Council shall make a recommendation to that effect through the Minister to the President after making such enquiry, if any, as may be considered appropriate, and if the

President approves the recommendation he may direct the removal of the person in question from office.

- (2) It shall be the duty of the minister to use his best endeavor to cause a copy of the instrument embodying a direction under subsection (1) of this section to be served as soon as reasonably practicable on the person to whom it relates (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 15: Removal and discipline of academic, administrative and professional staff.**

- (1) If it appears to the Council that there are reasons for believing that any person employed as a member of the academic, administrative or professional staff of the University, other than Vice-Chancellor, should be removed from his office or employment on the ground of misconduct or of inability to perform the functions of his office or employment, the Council shall —
- (a) give notice of those reasons to the person in question; afford him an opportunity of making representations in person on the matter;
  - (b) appoint a Staff Disciplinary Committee;
  - (c) and if the Council, after considering the report of the Staff Disciplinary Committee, is satisfied that the person in question should be removed as aforesaid, the Council may so remove him by an instrument in writing signed on the directions of the Council.
- (2) The Vice-Chancellor may, in case of misconduct by a member of staff, which in the opinion of the Vice-Chancellor is prejudicial to the interests of the University, suspend such member and any such suspension shall forthwith be reported to the Council.
- (3) For good cause, any member of staff may be suspended from his duties or his appointment may be terminated by the Council; and for the purposes of this subsection "good cause" means —
- (a) conviction for any offence which the Council considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit for the discharge of the functions of his office;
  - (b) any physical or mental incapacity which the Council, after obtaining medical advice, considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit to continue to hold his office;
  - (c) conduct of a scandalous or other disgraceful nature which the Council considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit to continue to hold his office;
  - (d) conduct which the Council considers to be such as to constitute failure or inability of the person concerned to discharge the functions of his office or to comply with terms and conditions of his service; or
  - (e) conduct which the Council considers to be generally of such nature as to render the continued appointment or service of the person

concerned prejudicial or detrimental to the interest of the University.

- (4) Any person suspended pursuant to subsection (2) or (3) of this section shall be on half pay and the Council shall before the expiration of a period of three months after the date of such suspension consider the case against that person and come to a decision as to —
  - (a) whether to continue such person's suspension and if so on what terms (including the proportion of his emoluments to be paid to him);
  - (b) whether to re-instate such person in which case the Council shall restore his full emoluments with effect from the date of suspension;
  - (c) whether to terminate the appointment of the person concerned in which case such person shall not be entitled to the proportion of his emoluments withheld during the period of suspension; or
  - (d) whether to take such lesser disciplinary action against such person (including the restoration of such proportion of his emoluments as might have been withheld) as the Council may determine.
- (5) In any case where the Council, pursuant to this section, decides to continue a person's suspension or decides to take further disciplinary action against a person, the Council shall before the expiration of a period of three months from such decision come to a final determination in respect of the case concerning any such person.
- (6) It shall be the duty of the person by whom an instrument of removal is signed in pursuance of subsection (1) of this section to use his best endeavor to cause a copy of the instrument to be served as soon as reasonably practicable on the person to whom it relates.
- (7) Nothing in the foregoing provisions of this section shall —
  - (a) apply to any directive given by the Visitor in consequence of any visitation; or
  - (b) prevent the Council from making regulations for the discipline of other categories of workers of the University as may be prescribed (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 16: Procedures for staff discipline.**

- (1) The Vice-Chancellor or Senate shall constitute an Investigation Panel to determine whether or not a prima facie case has been established against any member of staff.
- (2) The Investigation Panel shall include the President or the chairman of the union to which the staff being investigated belongs.
- (3) The Vice-Chancellor shall constitute a Staff Disciplinary Committee, which shall consist of such members of the Senate as he may determine, to consider the report of the Investigating Panel.

- (4) The report and recommendation of the Staff Disciplinary Committee shall be forwarded to the Council for consideration and decision (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 17: Appointment of external examiners.**

The Senate shall appoint external examiners (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 18: Removal of examiners.**

- (1) If on the recommendation of the Senate, it appears to the Vice Chancellor that a person appointed as an examiner for any examination of the University ought to be re- moved from his office or appointment, then except in such cases as may be prescribed, the Vice-Chancellor may, after affording the examiner an opportunity of making representations in person on the matter to the Vice-Chancellor, remove the examiner from the office or appointment by an instrument in writing signed by the Vice-Chancellor.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of regulations made in pursuance of section 9 (5) of this Bill, the Vice-Chancellor may, on the recommendation of the Senate, appoint an appropriate person as examiner in place of the examiner removed in pursuance of subsection (1) of this section.
- (3) It shall be duty of the Vice-Chancellor to sign an instrument of removal in pursuance of this section, to use his best endeavor to cause a copy of this instrument to be served as soon as is reasonably practicable on the person to whom it relates (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 19: Discipline of students.**

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, where it appears to the Vice-Chancellor that any student of the University has been guilty of misconduct, the Vice-Chancellor may, in consultation with the Senate and, without prejudice to any other disciplinary power conferred on him by statute or regulations, direct that —
- (a) the student shall not, during such period as may be specified in the direction, participate in such activities of the University, or make use of such facilities of the University, as may be so specified;
- (b) the activities of the student shall, during such period as may be specified in the direction, be restricted in such manner as may be so specified;
- (c) the student be rusticated for such period as may be specified in the direction; or
- (d) the student be expelled from the University.
- (2) Where a direction is given under subsection (1) (c) or (d) of this section in respect of any student, that student may, within the prescribed period and in the prescribed manner, appeal to the Council; and where such an appeal is

brought, the Council shall after causing such inquiry to be made in the matter as the Council considers just, confirm or set aside the direction or modify it in such manner as the Council thinks fit.

- (3) The fact that an appeal from a direction is brought in pursuance of subsection (2) of this section shall not affect the operation of the direction while the appeal is pending.
- (4) The Vice-Chancellor may delegate his powers under this section to a Disciplinary Committee consisting of such members of the University as he may nominate.
- (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing the restriction or termination of a student's activities at the University otherwise than on the ground of misconduct.
- (6) Without prejudice to the provision of subsection (1) of this section, nothing shall prevent the Vice-Chancellor from taking an immediate disciplinary action against a student where he deems fit, and report thereafter to the Senate.
- (7) It is hereby declared that a direction under subsection (1) (a) of this section may be combined with a direction under subsection (1) (b) of this section.
- (8) No staff or student shall resort to a law court without proof of having exhausted the integral avenues for settling disputes or grievances or for seeking redress.
- (9) The Visitor shall be the final arbiter on staff and student discipline, and his decision shall not be contestable in any court of law in Nigeria.
- (10) Nothing in this subsection shall affect any power of a court of competent jurisdiction to enforce the fundamental right of any aggrieved citizen as enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999. [Cap. C23.] (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

### PART III — MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

**Clause 20: Exclusion of discrimination on account of race, religion, etc.**

- (1) No person shall be required to satisfy the requirements as to any of the following matters, that is to say, race (including ethnic grounding), sex, place of birth or family origin, or religious, political persuasion or professional calling, as a condition of becoming or continuing to be a student at the University, the holder of any degree of the University or of any appointment or employment at the University or a member of anybody established by virtue of this Bill; and no person shall be subjected to any disadvantage or accorded any advantage in relation to the University, by reference to any of those matters.
- (2) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section shall be construed as preventing the University from imposing any disability or restriction on any of the aforementioned persons where such person willfully refuses or fails on grounds of religious belief to undertake any duty generally and uniformly imposed on all such persons or any group of them which duty, having regard

to its nature and the special circumstance pertaining thereto, is in the opinion of the University reasonably justifiable in the national interest (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 21: Restriction on disposal of land by University.**

Without prejudice to the provisions of the Land Use Act, the University shall not dispose of or charge any land or an interest in any land (including any land transferred to the University by this Bill) except either with the prior written consent either general or special, of the President:

Provided that such consent shall not be required in the case of any lease or tenancy at a rack-rent for a term not exceeding 21 years or lease or tenancy to a member of the University for residential purposes (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 22: Quorum and procedure of bodies established by this Bill.**

Except as may be otherwise provided by statute or by regulations, the quorum and procedure of any body of persons established by this Bill shall be as determined by that body (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 23: Appointment of committees, etc.**

- (1) Anybody of persons established by this Bill shall, without prejudice to the generality of the powers of that body, have power to appoint committees, which need not consist exclusively of members of that body and to authorize a committee established by it —
  - (a) to exercise, on its behalf, such of its functions as it may determine;
  - (b) to co-opt members, and may direct whether or not co-opted members (if any) shall be entitled to vote in that committee.
- (2) Any two or more such bodies may arrange for the holding of joint meetings of those bodies or for the appointment of committees consisting of members of those bodies or any of them and either of dealing with it or of reporting on it to those bodies or any of them.
- (3) Except as may be otherwise provided by statute or by regulations, the quorum and procedure of a committee established or meeting held in pursuance of this section shall be such as may be determined by the body or bodies which have decided to establish the committee or hold the meeting.
- (4) Nothing in the foregoing provisions of this section shall be construed as —
  - (a) enabling statutes to be made otherwise than in accordance with section 13 of this Bill; or
  - (b) enabling the Senate to empower any other body to make regulations or to award degrees or other qualifications.
- (5) The Pro-Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor shall be members of every

committee of which the members are wholly or partly appointed by the Council (other than a committee appointed to inquire into the conduct of any officer in question); and the Vice-Chancellor shall be a member of the Council and the Vice-Chancellor shall be a member of every committee of which the members are wholly or partly appointed by the Senate (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 24: Retiring age of academic staff of the University.**

- (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Pensions Act, the compulsory retiring age of an academic staff of a University shall be 65 years except for the professor, which is 70 years.
- (2) A law or rule requiring a person to retire from the public service after serving for 35 years shall not apply to an academic staff of the University (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 25: Special provisions relating to pension of professors.**

A person who retires as a professor having served —

- (a) a minimum period of fifteen years as a professor in the University or continuously in the service of a university in Nigeria up to the retiring age; and
- (b) who during the period of service was absent from the University only on approved national or University assignments, shall be entitled to pension at a rate equivalent to his last annual salary and such allowances as the Council may, from time to time, determine as qualifying for pension and gratuity, in addition to any other retirement benefits to which he may be entitled (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 26: Miscellaneous administrative provisions.**

- (1) The seal of each University shall be such as may be determined by the Council and approved by the Chancellor, and the affixing of the seal shall be authenticated by any member of the Council and by the Vice Chancellor, secretary to the Council or any other person authorized by statute.
- (2) Any document purporting to be a document executed under the seal of the University shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be presumed to be so executed.
- (3) Any contract or instrument, which if made or executed by a person not being a body corporate would not be required to be under seal, may be made or executed on behalf of the University by any person generally or specifically authorized to do so by the Council.
- (4) The validity of any proceedings of anybody established in pursuance of this Bill shall not be affected by any vacancy in the membership of the body, or by any defect in the appointment of a member of the body or by reason that any person not entitled to do proceedings.

- (5) Any member of any such body who has a personal interest in any matter proposed to be considered by that body shall forthwith disclose his interest to the body and shall not vote on any question relating to that matter.
- (6) Nothing in section 12 of the Interpretation Act (which provides for the application in relation to subordinate legislation of certain incidental provisions) shall apply to statutes or regulations made in pursuance of this Bill.
- (7) The power conferred by this Bill on anybody to make statutes or regulations shall include power to revoke or vary any statute (including the statute contained in the Second Schedule of this Bill) or any regulation by a subsequent statute, or, as the case may be, by a subsequent regulation and statute and regulations may make different provisions in reaction to different circumstances. [Second Schedule.]
- (8) No stamp duty or other duty shall be payable in respect of any transfer of property to the University by virtue of any provision of this Bill.
- (9) Any notice or other instrument authorized to be served by virtue of this Bill may, without prejudice to any other mode of service, be served by post (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 27: Interpretation.**

- (1) In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires —

"campus" means any campus which may be established by the University (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"college" means any college which may be established by the University (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Council" means the Council established by this Bill for the University (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"graduate" means a person on whom a degree (other than an honorary degree) has been conferred by the University (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Minister" means the Minister charged with responsibility for education (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"notice" means notice in writing (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"office" does not include the Visitor (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"prescribed" means prescribed by statutes or regulations (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"professor" means a person designated as a professor of the University in accordance with provisions made in that behalf by statute or regulations (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"property" includes rights, liabilities and obligations (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"regulations" means regulations made by the Senate or the Council (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Senate" means the Senate of the University established pursuant to section 3 (1) (c) of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"statute" means a statute made by the University under section 12 of this Bill and in accordance with the provisions of section 13 of this Bill; and "the statutes" means all such statutes as are in force from time to time (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"teacher" means a person holding a full-time appointment as a member of the teaching or research staff of the University (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo*

*Ihonybere — House Leader).*

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

"undergraduate" means a person in statu pupillari at the University other than —

- (a) a graduate; and
- (b) a person of such description as may be prescribed for the purposes of this definition (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonybere — House Leader*).

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

"University" means any of the University of Health Sciences established under section 2 of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonybere — House Leader*).

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

- (2) It is hereby declared that where in any provisions of this Bill it is laid down that proposals are to be submitted or a recommendation is to be made by one authority to another through one or more intermediate authorities, it shall be the duty of every such intermediate authority to forward any proposals or recommendations received by it in pursuance of that provision to the appropriate authority, but any such intermediate authority may, if it thinks fit, forward therewith its own comments thereon (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonybere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 28: Short Title.**

This Bill may be cited as the Federal University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Bida, Niger State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2025 (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonybere — House Leader*).

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

## SCHEDULES

### FIRST SCHEDULE

[Section 2 (2)]

#### PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

##### *The Chancellor*

- 1. (1) The Chancellor shall be appointed by the President of Nigeria.
- (2) The Chancellor shall hold office for a period of five years.

- (3) If it appears to the Visitor that the Chancellor should be removed from his/her office on the ground of misconduct or of inability to perform the functions of his office, the Visitor may by notice in the Federal Gazette remove the Chancellor from office.

*The Pro-Chancellor*

2. (1) The Pro-Chancellor shall be appointed or removed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Pro-Chancellor shall hold office for a period of four years beginning with the date of his/her appointment.

*The Vice-Chancellor*

3. (1) There shall be a Vice-Chancellor of the University who shall be appointed by the President in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph. [1993 No.] 1. 1996 No. 25.]
- (2) Where a vacancy occurs in the post of a Vice-Chancellor, the Council shall —
- (a) advertise the vacancy in a reputable journal or a widely read newspaper in Nigeria, specifying—
- (i) the qualities of the persons who may apply for the post; and
- (ii) the terms and conditions of service applicable to the post, and thereafter draw up a short list of suitable candidates for the post for consideration;
- (b) constitute a search team consisting of —
- (i) a member of the Council, who is not a member of the Senate, as chairman;
- (ii) two members of the Senate who are not members of the Council, one of whom shall be a professor;
- (iii) two members of Congregation who are not members of the Council, one of whom shall be a professor, to identify and nominate for consideration, suitable persons who are not likely to apply for the post on their own volition because they feel that it is not proper to do so.
- (3) A joint Council and Senate Selection Board consisting of —
- (a) the Pro-Chancellor, as chairman;
- (b) two members of the Council, not being members of the Senate;
- (c) two members of the Senate who are professors, but who were not members of the Search Team, shall consider the candidates and persons on the short list drawn up under subparagraph (2) of this paragraph through an examination of their curriculum vitae and interaction with them, and recommend to the Council suitable candidates for further consideration.
- (4) The Council shall select three candidates from among the candidates recommended

to it under subparagraph (3) of this paragraph and may indicate its order of preference stating the reasons therefor and forward the names to the President. [1996 No. 25.]

- (5) The President may appoint as Vice-Chancellor anyone of the candidates recommended to him in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (4) of this paragraph.
- (6) The Vice-Chancellor shall hold office for a single term of five years only on such terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of appointment.
- (7) For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions of subparagraph (6) of this paragraph shall —
  - (a) only be applicable to those appointed to the office of Vice-Chancellor after 1 January, 1993 [1996 No. 25.];
  - (b) not confer on a person serving a first term of office as Vice Chancellor before 1st January, 1993 any right to renewal of the appointment for a further term of four years.
- (8) The Vice-Chancellor may be removed from office by the Visitor after due consultation with the Council and the Senate acting through the Minister of Education.

#### *Deputy Vice-Chancellors*

4. (1) There shall be for the University such number of Deputy Vice Chancellors as the Council may, from time to time, deem necessary for the proper administration of the University. [1996 No. 25.]
- (2) Where a vacancy occurs in the post of Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor shall forward to the Senate a list of two candidates for each post of Deputy Vice-Chancellor that is vacant.
- (3) The Senate shall select for each vacant post one candidate from each list forwarded to it under subparagraph (2) of this paragraph and forward his name to the Council for confirmation.
- (4) A Deputy Vice-Chancellor shall —
  - (a) assist the Vice-Chancellor in the performance of his functions;
  - (b) act in the place of the Vice-Chancellor when the post of the Vice-Chancellor is vacant or if the Vice-Chancellor is, for any reason, absent or unable to perform his functions as Vice-Chancellor; and
  - (c) perform such other functions as the Vice-Chancellor or the Council may, from time to time, assign to him.
- (5) A Deputy Vice-Chancellor —
  - (a) shall hold office for a period of two years beginning from the effective date of his appointment and on such terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of appointment; and

- (b) may be re-appointed for one further period of two years and no more.

*Office of the Registrar*

5. (1) There shall be for the University a Registrar, who shall be the chief administrative officer of the University and shall be responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the day-to-day administrative work of the University except as regards matters for which the Bursar is responsible in accordance with paragraph 6 (2) of this Schedule. [1993 No. 55.]
- (2) The person holding the office of the Registrar shall by virtue of that office be secretary to the Council, the Senate, Congregation and Convocation.
- (3) The Registrar shall hold office for such period and on such terms as to the emoluments of his/her office and otherwise as may be specified Other principal officers of the University
6. (1) There shall be for each University the following principal officers, in addition to the Registrar, that is —
- [1993 No. 11.1993 No. 55.]
- (a) the Bursar; and
- (b) the University Librarian, who shall be appointed by the Council on the recommendation of the Selection Board constituted under paragraph 8 of this Schedule.
- (2) The Bursar shall be the chief financial officer of the University and be responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the day-to-day administration and control of the financial affairs of the University.
- (3) The University Librarian shall be responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the administration of the university library and the co-ordination of the library services in the University and its campuses, colleges, faculties, schools, departments, institutes and other teaching or research units.
- (4) The Bursar and Librarian shall hold office for such period and on such terms as to the emoluments of their offices and otherwise as may be specified. [1993 No 11. 1993 No. 55.]
- (5) Any question as to the scope of the responsibilities of the aforesaid officers shall be determined by the Vice-Chancellor.

*Selection Board for other principal officers*

7. (1) There shall be, for the University, a Selection Board for the appointment of principal officers, other than the Vice-Chancellor or Deputy Vice-Chancellor, which shall consist of —
- [1993 No. 11.]
- (a) the Pro-Chancellor, as chairman;
- (b) the Vice-Chancellor;
- (c) four members of the Council not being members of the Senate; and

- (d) two members of the Senate.
- (2) The functions, procedure and other matters relating to the Selection Board constituted under sub-paragraph (1) of this paragraph shall be as the Council may, from time to time, determine.
- (3) The Registrar, Bursar and Librarian shall hold office for such period and on such terms as to the emoluments of their offices and otherwise as may be specified in their letters of appointment.

*Resignation and re-appointment*

- 8. (1) Any officer mentioned in the foregoing provisions of this Schedule may resign his office —
  - (a) in the case of the Chancellor, by notice to the President; and
  - (b) in any other case, by notice to the Council and the Council shall immediately notify the Minister in the case of the Vice-Chancellor.
- (2) Subject to paragraphs 4 and 5 of this Schedule, a person who has ceased to hold an office so mentioned otherwise than by removal for misconduct shall be eligible for re-appointment to that office (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

SECOND SCHEDULE

[Section 9 (2).]

**UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES STATUTE NO.1**

ARRANGEMENT OF ARTICLES

*Articles:*

- 1. The Council.
- 2. The Finance and General Purposes Committee.
- 3. The Senate.
- 4. Congregation.
- 5. Convocation.
- 6. Division of colleges.
- 7. College Board.
- 8. Appointments and Promotions Committees.
- 9. Dean of college.
- 10. Deputy Dean of college.
- 11. Provost
- 12. Director of institute or center.
- 13. Head of department.
- 14. Selection of certain principal officers.
- 15. Creation of academics posts.
- 16. Appointment of academic staff.
- 17. Funding of the University.
- 18. University Co-ordination Agency.
- 19. Interpretation.
- 20. Citation.

*The Council*

1. (1) The composition of the Council shall be as provided in section 7 of this Bill.
- (2) Any member of the Council holding office otherwise than in pursuance of section 7 (a), (b), (c) or (d) of this Bill may, by notice to the Council, resign his office.
- (3) A member of the Council holding office otherwise than in pursuance of section 7 (a), (b), (c) or (d) of this Bill shall, unless he previously vacates it, vacate that office on the expiration of the period of five years beginning with effect from 1 August in the year in which he was appointed.
- (4) Where a member of the Council holding office otherwise than in pursuance of section 7 (a), (b), (c) or (d) of this Bill vacates before the expiration of the period aforesaid, the body or person by whom he was appointed may appoint a successor to hold office for the residue of the term of his predecessor.
- (5) A person ceasing to hold office as a member of the Council otherwise than by removal for misconduct shall be eligible for re-appointment for only one further period of five years.
- (6) The quorum of the Council shall be five, at least one of whom shall be a member appointed pursuant to section 7 (d), (e), or (h) of this Bill.
- (7) If the Pro-Chancellor is not present at a meeting of the Council, such other member of the Council present at the meeting as the Council may appoint as respects that meeting, shall be the chairman at that meeting, and subject to sections 5 and 6 of this Bill and the fore-going provisions, the Council may regulate its own procedure.
- (8) Where the Council desires to obtain advice with respect to any particular matter, it may co-opt not more than two persons for that purpose and the persons co-opted may take part in the deliberations of the Council at any meeting but shall not be entitled to vote.

*The Finance and General Purposes Committee*

2. (1) The Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Council shall consist of —
  - (a) the Pro-Chancellor, who shall be the chairman of the Committee at any meeting at which he is present;
  - (b) the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellors;
  - (c) six other members of the Council appointed by the Council, two of whom shall be selected from among the three members of the Council appointed by the Senate and one member appointed to the Council by Congregation;
  - (d) the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Education or, in his absence, such member of his Ministry as he may designate to represent him.
- (2) The quorum of the Committee shall be five.
- (3) Subject to any directions given by the Council, the Committee may regulate its own procedure.

*The Senate*

3. (1) The Senate shall consist of —
- (a) the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellors;
  - (b) Deans of Colleges;
  - (c) the Directors of Institutes and Research Centres;
  - (d) the Heads of academic Departments;
  - (e) the Librarian;
  - (f) one member of not less than the rank of senior lecturer of each college;
  - (g) four persons representing the Congregation.
- (2) The Vice-Chancellor shall be the chairman at all meetings of the Senate when he is present; and in his absence any of the Deputy Vice-Chancellors present at the meeting as the Senate may appoint for that meeting shall be chairman at the meeting.
- (3) The quorum of the Senate shall be one quarter (or the nearest whole number less than one quarter) and subject to paragraph 2 of this article, the Senate may regulate its own procedure.
- (4) An elected member may, by notice to the Senate, resign his office.
- (5) Subject to paragraph (7) of this article, there shall be elections for the selection of elected members, which shall be in the prescribed manner on such day in the month of May or June in each year as the Vice-Chancellor may, from time to time, determine.
- (6) An elected member shall hold office for the period of two years beginning with 1 August in the year of his election, and may be a candidate at any election held in pursuance of paragraph (5) of this article in the year in which his period of office expires, so however that no person shall be such a candidate if at the end of his current period of office he will hold office as an elected member for a continuous period of six years or would have so held office if he had not resigned it.
- (7) No election held in pursuance of this article in any year if the number specified in the certificate given in pursuance of paragraph (10) of this article does not exceed by more than one the figure which is thrice the number of those elected members holding office on the date of the certificate who do not vacate office during that year III pursuance of paragraph (6) of this article.
- (8) For the avoidance of doubt it is hereby declared that no person shall be precluded from continuing in or taking office as an elected member by reason only of a reduction in the total of non-elected members occurring on or after 30 April in any year in which he is to continue in or take office as an elected member.
- (9) If so requested in writing by any fifteen members of the Senate, the Vice-Chancellor, or in his absence, any of the Deputy Vice-Chancellors duly appointed by him, shall convene a meeting of the Senate to be held not later than the tenth day following that on which the request was received.
- (10) In this article "total of non-elected members" means as respects any year, such

number as may be certified by the Vice-Chancellor on 30 April of that year to be the number of persons holding office as members of the Senate on that day otherwise than as elected members.

*Congregation*

4. (1) Congregation shall consist of —
  - (a) the Vice-Chancellor and the Deputy Vice-Chancellors;
  - (b) the full-time members of the academic staff;
  - (c) the Registrar;
  - (d) the Bursar;
  - (e) the Librarian;
  - (f) the Director of Works;
  - (g) the Director of Academic Planning;
  - (h) the Director of Physical Planning;
  - (i) the Director of Health Services; and
  - (j) every member of the administrative staff who holds a degree other than an honorary degree of any university recognized for the purposes of this statute by the Vice-Chancellor.
- (2) Subject to sections 5 and 6 of the Act, the Vice-Chancellor shall be the chairman at all meetings of Congregation when he is present; and in his absence any of the Deputy Vice-Chancellors present at the meeting as Congregation may appoint for that meeting, shall be the chairman at the meeting.
- (3) The quorum of Congregation shall be one third (or the whole number nearest to one third) of the total numbers of Congregation or fifty, whichever is less.
- (4) A certificate signed by the Vice-Chancellor specifying —
  - (a) the total number of members of Congregation for the purposes of any particular meeting or meetings of Congregation; or
  - (b) the names of the persons who are members of Congregation during a particular shall be conclusive evidence of that number or as the case may be, of the names of those persons.
- (5) Subject to the foregoing provision of this article, Congregation may regulate its own procedure.
- (6) Congregation shall be entitled to express by resolution or otherwise its opinion on all matters affecting the interest and welfare of the University and shall have such other functions in addition to the function of electing a member of the Council, as may be provided by statute or regulations.

*Convocation*

5. (1) Convocation shall consist of —
- (a) the officers of the University mentioned in the First Schedule to the Act;
  - (b) all teachers within the meaning of the Act;
  - (c) all other persons whose names are registered in accordance with paragraph (2) of this article.
- (2) A person shall be entitled to have his name registered as a member of Convocation if —
- (a) he/she is either a graduate of the University or a person satisfying such requirements as may be prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph; and
  - (b) he/she applies for the registration of his name in the prescribed manner and pays the prescribed fees.
- (3) Regulations shall provide for the establishment and maintenance of a register for the purposes of this paragraph and subject to paragraph (4) of this article may provide for the payment from time to time of further fees by persons whose names are on the register and for any person who fails to pay those fees.
- (4) The person responsible for maintaining the register shall, without the payment of any fees, ensure that the names of all persons who are for the time being members of Convocation by virtue of paragraph (1) (a) or (b) of this article are entered and retained on the register.
- (5) A person who reasonably claims that he is entitled to have his name on the register shall be entitled on demand to inspect the register or a copy of the register at the principal offices of the University at all reasonable times.
- (6) The register shall, unless the contrary is proved, be sufficient evidence that any persons named therein is, and that any person not named therein is not, a member of Convocation; but for the purpose of ascertaining whether a particular person was such a member on a particular date, any entries in and deletions from the register made on or after that date shall be disregarded.
- (7) The quorum of Convocation shall be fifty or one third (or the whole number nearest to one third) of the total number of members of Convocation, whichever is less.
- (8) Subject to section 5 of this Bill, the Chancellor shall be the chairman at all meetings of Convocation when he is present, and in his absence the Vice-Chancellor shall be the chair- man at the meeting.
- (9) Convocation shall have such other functions, in addition to the functions of appointing a member of the Council, as may be provided by statute or regulations.

*Division of colleges*

6. Each college shall be divided into such number of branches as may be prescribed.

*College Boards*

7. (1) There shall be established in respect of each college a College Board, which, subject

to provisions of this statute, and subject to the directions of the Vice-Chancellor, shall —

- (a) regulate the teaching and study of, and the conduct of examinations connected with the subjects assigned to the college;
  - (b) deal with any other matter assigned to it by statute or by the Vice-Chancellor or by the Senate; and
  - (c) advise the Vice-Chancellor or the Senate on any matter referred to it by the Vice-Chancellor or the Senate.
- (2) Each College Board shall consist of —
- (a) the Vice-Chancellor;
  - (b) the Deputy Vice-Chancellor;
  - (c) the Dean;
  - (d) the persons severally in charge of the departments of the college;
  - (e) such of the teachers assigned to the college and having the prescribed qualifications as the Board may determine; and to any provisions of this article and to any provision made by regulations in that behalf, the Board may regulate its own procedure.
  - (f) such persons whether or not members of the University as the Board may determine with the general or special approval of the Senate.
- (3) The quorum of the Board shall be Six members or one quarter, (whichever is greater), of the members for the time being of the Board; and subject to the provisions of this statute and

*Appointments and Promotions Committee*

8. (1) There shall be an Appointments and Promotions Committee of the Council which shall ultimately be responsible for all appointments, promotions and discipline of all categories of senior staff in the University, under the chairmanship of the Vice-Chancellor.
- (2) The Committee shall operate where necessary through the Senate or Selection Board or ad- hoc Committees and its recommendations shall be subject to the approval of the Council.

*Dean of college*

9. (1) The Dean of a college shall be a professor appointed by the Appointments and Promotions Committee and such Dean shall hold office for a term of three years, and shall be eligible for re-appointment for another term of three years after which he may not be re- appointed again until two years have elapsed.
- (2) The Dean shall be the chairman at all meetings of the College Board when he is present and shall be a member of all committees and other boards appointed by the College.

- (3) The Dean of a college shall exercise general superintendence over the academic and administrative affairs of the college and it shall be the function of the Dean to present to Con- vocation or for the conferment of degrees on persons of the University at examinations held in the branches of learning for which responsibility is allocated to that college.
- (4) There shall be a committee to be known as the Committee of Deans consisting of all Deans of the colleges and that Committee shall advise the Vice-Chancellor on all academic matters and on particular matters referred to the University Council.

*Deputy Dean of college*

10. (1) There shall be a Deputy Dean of college who shall be appointed by the Senate on the recommendation of the Dean.
- (2) The Deputy Dean shall be appointed for two years in the first instance and may be re-appointed for a further period of two years after which he shall not be entitled to re-appointment until after two years.

*Director of Institute or Centre*

11. (1) The Director of an Institute or of a Centre shall be appointed by the Appointments and Promotions Committee for academic staff, and such Director shall hold office for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for another term of three years after which he may not be appointed again until two years have elapsed.
- (2) The Director of an Institute or Centre shall exercise general superintendence over the affairs of the Institute or Centre.

*Head of Department*

12. (1) The Head of a Department shall be appointment by the Vice-Chancellor and such Head shall hold office for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for another term of three years after which he may not be appointed again until two years have elapsed.
- (2) The Head of a Department shall exercise general superintendence over the academic and administrative affairs of the department.

*Creation of academic posts*

13. Recommendations for the creation of posts other than those mentioned in article 10 of this statute shall be made by Senate to the Council through the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

*Appointment of academic staff*

14. (1) Subject to the Act and the statutes, the filling of vacancies in academic posts (including newly created ones) shall be the responsibility of the Senate.
- (2) For the purpose of filling such vacancies, the Senate shall set up suitable selection boards to select and make appointments on its behalf.
- (3) For appointments to professorships, associate professorships or readerships or equivalent posts, a board of selection (with power to appoint) shall consist of —

- (a) the Vice-Chancellor;
  - (b) if the post is tenable at a college, or is within a school comprised in a college, the Provost of that college;
  - (c) if the post is within a faculty, school, institute or other teaching unit of the University, the Dean of that teaching unit;
  - (d) two members appointed by the Council;
  - (e) four members of the Senate appointed by the Senate, at least two of whom shall, if the post is tenable at a college, be senior members of the staff of the college;
  - (f) such other persons as the Senate may from time to time appoint.
- (4) Subject to paragraph (5) of this Article, for appointments to associate professorships, readerships, senior lectureships and other academic posts, a selection board (with power to appoint) shall consist of —
  - (a) the Vice-Chancellor;
  - (b) if the post is tenable at a college, or is within a school comprised in a college, the Provost of that college;
  - (c) if the post is within a faculty, school, institute or other teaching unit of the University, the Dean of that teaching unit;
  - (d) four members of the Senate appointed by the Senate, at least two of whom shall, if the post is tenable at a college, be members of the staff of the college; and
  - (e) such other persons as the Senate may from time to time appoint.
- (5) Where an appointment falling within paragraph (4) above is tenable at a college, the Senate may authorize the college to set up a selection board therefore (with power to appoint); but every selection board set up in pursuance of this paragraph shall include the Vice-Chancellor and shall also include at least two members of the Senate, nominated by the Senate, who are not members of the academic staff of the college.
- (6) A college shall have power to make appointments to academic posts within the college below the level of associate professor or reader.
- (7) For the purpose of exercising the power conferred by paragraph (6) above, the college shall set up suitable selection boards to select and make appointments on its behalf.
- (8) Every selection board set up in pursuance of paragraph (7) of this article shall include the Vice-Chancellor and shall also include at least two members of the Senate, nominated by the Senate, who are not members of the academic staff of the college.
- (9) All appointments to senior library posts shall be made in the same way as equivalent appointments in the academic staff; and for all such posts, other than that of librarian, the librarian shall be a member of the selection board.

- (10) Boards of selection may interview candidates directly or consider the reports of assessors or specialist interviewing panels.

*Appointment of administrative and technical staff*

15. (1) The administrative and technical staff of the University, other than principal officers, shall be appointed by the councilor on its behalf by the Vice-Chancellor or the Registrar in accordance with any delegation of powers made by the Council in that behalf.
- (2) Administrative and technical staff of a college, other than principal officers, shall be appointed by the board of governors of the college or by the Provost or secretary of the college in accordance with any delegation of powers made by the court in that behalf.
- (3) In the case of administrative or technical staff who have close and important contracts with the academic staff, there shall be Senate or (in the case of a college) academic board participation in the process of selection.

*Interpretation*

16. In this Statute, the expression "the Act" means the Federal University of Medicine and Health Sciences Bida, Niger State Act and any expression defined in the Act has the same meaning in this Statute.

*Short Title*

17. This Statute may be cited as Federal University of Medicine and Health Sciences Bida, Niger State No. 1 (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Explanatory Note:**

This Bill seeks to establish the Federal University of Medicine and Health Sciences Bida, Niger State (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

**Long Title:**

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Bida, Niger State for the Purpose of Providing Qualitative Education in Medicine and Health Sciences; and for Related Matters (HB. 411) (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

*Chairman to report Bill.*

**(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Bida, Niger State for the purpose of providing Qualitative Education in Medicine and Health Sciences and for Related Matters (H.B. 411) and approved Clauses 1 - 8, approved Clause 9 as amended, approved Clauses 10 - 28, the Schedules, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

(iv) ***Committee on Science and Technology:***

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Science and Technology on a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) Act to Change the Use of the Word National Interest to Public Benefit and to Increase the Period Provided for a term of Contract as Prerequisite to Registration of the Document under this Act from 10 years to 20 years and strengthen the capacity of the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion to Monitor, on a continual basis, the transfer of Foreign Technology to Nigeria, encourage, regulate, and Commercialize Inventions, Innovations and Research and Development Results more effectively and enhanced diversified Representation in its governance for broader sectorial coverage and for Related Matters (HB.1788 & HB.1846)” (*Hon. Nwaeke Felix Uche — Eleme/Oyigbo/Tai 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 Speaker in the Chair)*

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE NATIONAL OFFICE FOR TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION AND PROMOTION ACT, CAP. N62, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004, TO STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY OF THE NATIONAL OFFICE FOR TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION AND PROMOTION TO MONITOR, ON A CONTINUAL BASIS, THE TRANSFER OF FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY TO NIGERIA; TO ENCOURAGE, REGULATE, AND COMMERCIALIZE INVENTIONS, INNOVATIONS, AND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT RESULTS MORE EFFECTIVELY; AND TO ENSURE ENHANCED AND DIVERSIFIED REPRESENTATION IN ITS GOVERNANCE FOR BROADER SECTORIAL COVERAGE; AND FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS

PART I — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL OFFICE FOR TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION AND PROMOTION (NOTAP)

***Committee’s Recommendation:***

**Clause 1: Establishment of the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP).**

- (1) There is hereby established a body to be known as the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) (hereinafter referred to as "the National Office").
- (2) The Office shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, capable of suing and being sued in its corporate name (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

***Committee’s Recommendation:***

**Clause 2: Governing Board.**

The Office shall have its headquarters in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, and may establish zonal offices in each geopolitical zone of Nigeria (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

*Committee's Recommendation:***Clause 3: Establishment of the Governing Council.**

- (1) There shall be a Governing Council for the National Office to be known as the Governing Council of the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (hereinafter referred to as "the Council"), which shall be responsible for the formulation of policy for the National Office, the discharge of the other functions conferred on it by this Act, and for ensuring the alignment of NOTAP's objectives with national technological and economic priorities.
- (2) The Council shall be composed of a Chairman and the following members:
  - (a) representatives (not below the rank of Director) from each of the following Federal Ministries:
    - (i) Science, Technology, and Innovation,
    - (ii) Finance,
    - (iii) Justice,
    - (iv) Industry, Trade, and Investment,
    - (v) Housing and Urban Development,
    - (vi) Power,
    - (vii) Petroleum Resources,
    - (viii) Environment,
    - (ix) Agriculture and Rural Development,
    - (x) Information and Communications Technology,
    - (xi) Solid Minerals Development,
    - (xii) Steel;
  - (b) the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission or a representative;
  - (c) the Executive Secretary of the National Board for Technical Education or a representative;
  - (d) the Executive Secretary of the National Commission for Colleges of Education or a representative;
  - (e) a representative from the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria;
  - (f) a representative from the Nigerian Bar Association;
  - (g) a representative from the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture;
  - (h) a representative from the Nigerian Society of Engineers;

- (i) one representative of the Nigerian Innovation and Technology sector;
  - (j) one representative of the Nigerian Start-up Ecosystem;
  - (k) one representative of the Academic and Scientific Research communities;
  - (l) the Director General of NOTAP, who shall be the Secretary to the Council.
- (3) The Chairman shall be the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Technology.
- (4) The Council shall:
  - (a) be responsible for the policy direction and overall supervision of the National Office;
  - (b) may make regulations for the efficient operation of the National Office;
  - (c) have the power to approve the budget and accounts of the National Office.
- (5) The Council shall:
  - (a) meet at least four times a year.
  - (b) the quorum for meetings shall be two-thirds of its members.
- (6) The supplementary provisions in the Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Council and other matters therein mentioned (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

#### PART II — OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF NOTAP

***Committee's Recommendation:***

**Clause 2:**

- (1) The objectives of the National Office are:
  - (a) to promote and facilitate the acquisition and development of indigenous technology;
  - (b) to ensure the transfer and adaptation of foreign technology in Nigeria;
  - (c) to foster innovation and technological advancement in all sectors of the Nigerian economy.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of Section 3 (1) of this Bill, the National Office shall:
  - (a) enhance the efficiency of processes for identifying and selecting

- foreign technology;
- (b) develop the negotiating capabilities of Nigerians to secure the most favourable terms in contracts or agreements involving the transfer of foreign technology;
  - (c) register all contracts or agreements that are in effect in Nigeria as of this Act's commencement and those entered thereafter concerning the transfer of foreign technology. Registration is mandatory if, in the National Office's view, any contract or agreement's purpose or intent is connected to, but not limited to:
    - (i) Trademark usage,
    - (ii) Patent rights,
    - (iii) Technical expertise supply,
    - (iv) Engineering services,
    - (v) Machinery and plant supply,
    - (vi) Operational staff, managerial assistance, and personnel training,
    - (vii) Franchising;
  - (d) streamline the adaptation process of imported technology;
  - (e) continuously monitor the implementation of registered contracts or agreements;
  - (f) oversee and regulate private laboratory and individual innovations, inventions, and research and development (R&D) outcomes;
  - (g) foster the commercialization of public and private sector research and development, inventions, and innovations;
  - (h) create and maintain a comprehensive database of foreign technologies imported into Nigeria;
  - (i) implement enlightenment and training programs on intellectual property rights for inventors and researchers;
  - (j) establish and manage Science and Technology Parks within Nigeria;
  - (k) promote collaborations between knowledge institutions and industry to accelerate the commercialization of innovations and inventions
- (Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah —  
Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa).

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

### PART III — STAFF OF THE OFFICE

#### **Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 5:** (1) The Director General shall:

- (a) be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister;
  - (b) hold office for a term of five years, renewable for another term of four years.
- (2) The Director General shall:
  - (a) be the Chief Executive Officer of the National Office and be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Office;
  - (b) have the power to issue guidelines and directives necessary for the effective execution of the functions of the Office;
  - (c) may delegate any of his or her powers to a staff member of the Office, provided that such delegation is in writing.
- (3) The Director General shall have general oversight of all technology transfer agreements subject to this Bill and shall ensure their compliance with the provisions of this Bill and any subsidiary legislation made thereunder.
- (4) The Director General may issue guidelines, directives, or circulars for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Bill and any regulations made thereunder.
- (5) The Director General shall:
  - (a) have the power to monitor, inspect, and audit the activities of any entity involved in technology transfer agreements to ensure compliance with this Bill;
  - (b) for the purposes of monitoring compliance, may require any entity to furnish returns, reports, or other documentation as specified by NOTAP.
- (6) The Director General shall:
  - (a) where any entity is found to be in breach of this Act or any regulations made thereunder, have the authority to impose penalties as prescribed under this Bill.
  - (b) may also recommend the suspension or revocation of technology transfer agreements that are non-compliant with this Bill.
- (7) The Director General shall:
  - (a) have the authority to mediate and resolve disputes arising from the implementation of technology transfer agreements subject to this Bill;
  - (b) any party aggrieved by the decision of the Director General may appeal to the Minister within 30 days of the decision.
- (8) The Director General may delegate any of his or her powers under this Bill to any officer or agent of NOTAP, provided that such delegation does not preclude the Director General from exercising the delegated powers himself

or herself (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

***Committee's Recommendation:***

**Clause 6:** (1) There shall be appointed by the Council, the following principal officers of the Office:

- (a) Directors who shall be Heads of the Departments; and
- (b) Deputy Directors who shall be Heads of the Divisions and Sections respectively.

- (2) The Council shall may appoint such other staff, agents and employees as it deems necessary for the efficient discharge of the duties under this Bill (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

***Committee's Recommendation:***

**Clause 7:** The remuneration of the employees of the Office other than the Director General shall be determined by the Council on recommendation of the Office (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

***Committee's Recommendation:***

**Clause 8:** (1) Service in the Office shall be public service for the Pension Reform Act and, accordingly, officers and other persons employed in the Office shall, in respect of their services in the Office, be entitled to pensions and other retirement benefits as are prescribed under that Act.

- (2) For the purposes of the application of the provisions of the Pension Reform Act, any power exercisable under it by a Minister or other authority of the Government of the Federation, is vested in and shall be exercisable by the Board and not by any other person or authority (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

***Committee's Recommendation:***

**Clause 9:** (1) The Office may, subject to the provisions of this Bill make staff regulations relating generally to the conditions of service of the employees of the Office and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, such regulations may provide for-

- (a) the appointment, promotion and disciplinary control including dismissal of employees of the Office; and
- (b) appeals by such employees against dismissal or other disciplinary measures and until such regulations are made, any instrument relating to the conditions of service of officers in the Public Service of the Federation shall be applicable, with such modifications as may be necessary, to the employees of the Office.

- (2) Staff regulations made under subsection (1) shall not have effect until approved by the Minister and when so approved, they need not be published in the Federal Government Gazette, but the Board shall cause them to be brought to the notice of all affected persons in such a manner as it may determine (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

#### PART IV — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

***Committee's Recommendation:***

- Clause 10:**
- (1) The Office shall establish and maintain a fund which shall be applied towards the promotion of the objectives, mandates, missions, vision and activities of the Office as specified in this Bill.
- (2) There shall be paid and credited to the Fund established under subsection (1):
- (a) such sums as may be provided by the Federal Government of Nigeria into the Fund;
- (b) any fees charged for services rendered by the Office, and;
- (c) all other sums accruing to the Institute by way of gifts, testamentary dispositions and endowments or contributions from philanthropic persons or organisations;
- (d) such sums as may be collected or received by the Office by way of allocations, grants, dues, rates, fines and taxes; and
- (e) such sums as may be collected or received by the Office from other sources in respect of any property vested in the Office.
- (3) The National Office shall:
- (a) prepare and submit its annual budget to the National Assembly for approval;
- (b) keep proper accounts and records of all its transactions.
- (4) The accounts of the National Office shall:
- (a) be audited annually by external auditors appointed by the Council;
- (b) be submitted along with financial reports to the National Assembly and the Minister (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

***Committee's Recommendation:***

- Clause 11:**
- (1) The National Office may charge fees for the registration of technology transfer agreements, issuance of licenses, and other services as may be prescribed by regulations.

- (2) The Office shall determine the fees to be charged under this Bill, subject to the approval of the Council (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

PART V — REGISTRATION, EFFECTS, CANCELLATION, APPEALS,  
COMPLIANCE, ENFORCEMENT, OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

***Committee's Recommendation:***

- Clause 12:** (1) (a) Any contract or agreement active as of this Bill's enactment related to any function described in Section 4 (2) (c) must be registered with the National Office within six months of this Bill's commencement.
- (b) After the commencement of this Bill, any contracts or agreements entered with foreign entities concerning matters outlined in Section 4 (2) (c) must be registered within 30 days following their conclusion.
- (c) Registration applications shall be submitted to the Director General, accompanied by certified true copies, annexures, documents, and information as specified by the Director General on a case-by-case basis.
- (d) Where the Director General is satisfied that none of the specifications mentioned in subsection (5) of this section has been contravened, he or she shall issue the applicant a certificate in a prescribed form.
- (e) The Director General shall not register any contract or agreement where he or she is satisfied that it falls within the following specifications:
- (i) the purpose is for the transfer of technology that is freely available in Nigeria;
  - (ii) the price or other valuable consideration is not commensurate with the technology acquired or to be acquired;
  - (iii) provisions permit the supplier to regulate or intervene directly or indirectly in the administration of any undertaking belonging to the transferee of the technology and are deemed unnecessary for the due implementation or execution of the contract or agreement;
  - (iv) onerous or gratuitous obligations on the transferee to assign patents, trademarks, technical information, or improvements obtained with no assistance from the transferor;
  - (v) limitations imposed on technological research or development by the transferee;
  - (vi) obligation to acquire equipment, tools, or raw materials exclusively from the transferor;

- (vii) prohibited or unreasonably restricted exportation of products or services by the transferee;
  - (viii) prohibition on the use of complementary technologies by the transferee;
  - (ix) requirement for the transferee to use personnel designated by the supplier of the technology permanently or for an unreasonable period;
  - (x) limitation on the volume of production for sale or imposition of resale prices contrary to any price-related enactment;
  - (xi) mandatory appointment of the supplier of technology as the exclusive sales agent or representative;
  - (xii) duration not exceeding five years or any unreasonable term less than five years;
  - (xiii) requirement for consent from the transferor before effecting modifications to products, processes, or plants;
  - (xiv) imposition of obligations on the transferee to introduce unnecessary design changes;
  - (xv) imposition of unnecessary and burdensome quality controls or standards by the transferor;
  - (xvi) requirement for full payment by the transferee for transferred technology left unexploited;
  - (xvii) requirement for the acceptance of additional technology or services not necessary for the principal purpose of technology acquisition;
  - (xviii) obligation of the transferee to submit to foreign jurisdiction in any controversy concerning the interpretation or enforcement of the contract or agreement in Nigeria.
- (f) The Council may direct the Director General to issue a certificate to an applicant if it deems it to be in the national interest, regardless of any divergence between the terms of a contract and the specifications in subsection (5).
- (g) If parties make necessary adjustments after a refusal by the Director General, following a directive or advice, the Director General may issue the registration certificate.
- (h) In evaluating contracts or agreements for registration, the National Office shall also consider the technological and innovative value added to the Nigerian economy and its alignment with national strategic interests.
- (2) (1) No financial transactions shall be conducted in favour of foreign parties for Contracts mentioned in Section 16 without presenting a valid registration certificate, in accordance with the Exchange

Control Bill 1962.

- (2) Beyond financial transactions, registration enables documentation and monitoring of technology inflow and implementation of technology transfer agreements by the National Office.
- (3)
  - (1) In cases where the Director General assesses that any contract or agreement has been illegitimately altered or revised after its initial registration in a manner contradicting this Bill, he or she shall formally notify the involved parties of the intention to annul the registration certificate. This notice initiates a period wherein the procedure outlined in Section 12 concerning appeals becomes applicable as if the notice were a refusal of a registration application.
  - (2) Should there be no appeal lodged in accordance with subsection (1), the Director General, with the endorsement of the Council, is obligated to revoke the certificate of registration of the implicated party.
- (4)
  - (1) Any party aggrieved by the Director General's decision to deny a registration application can, within 60 days following the notice date, submit an appeal to the Secretary, aiming for a Council review.
  - (2) This appeal must be a written document detailing the grounds of the appeal, which the Secretary must present at the ensuing Council meeting after receipt.
  - (3) If the appeal is successful, the Council shall instruct the Director General to proceed with the issuance of a registration certificate. Conversely, if rejected, the aggrieved party may further appeal to the Federal Revenue Court, adhering to applicable court rules.
  - (4) Appeals against Federal Revenue Court decisions under this segment shall proceed in a manner akin to civil case appeals from initial decisions by the Court.
- (5)
  - (1) All technology transfer agreements in Nigeria shall be registered with the National Office.
  - (2) The National Office shall have the authority to prescribe standards and procedures for technology acquisition and transfer.
  - (3) The National Office shall conduct regular audits and inspections of entities involved in technology transfer to ensure compliance with this Bill and any regulations made under it.
  - (4) The National Office may:
    - (a) issue compliance orders to any entity found to be in breach of this Bill;
    - (b) seek the enforcement of its orders through the courts.
  - (5) Any person or entity that contravenes the provisions of this Bill or

fails to comply with an order of the National Office shall be liable to:

- (a) a fine not exceeding ₦5,000,000;
- (b) imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years;
- (c) both such fine and imprisonment.

- (6) (1) It shall be an offence for any person or entity to:
  - (a) fail to register a technology transfer agreement as required under this Bill;
  - (b) provide false or misleading information to the National Office;
  - (c) obstruct an officer of the National Office in the exercise of his or her duties.
- (2) Any person or entity found guilty of an offence under this Bill shall be liable to:
  - (a) a fine not exceeding ₦10,000,000;
  - (b) imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years;
  - (c) both such fine and imprisonment (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

#### PART VI — MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

##### ***Committee's Recommendation:***

- Clause 13:**
- (1) (a) The Minister, on the recommendation of the Council, may make regulations for the proper implementation of the provisions of this Bill subject to the ratification of relevant Committees of the National Assembly.
  - (b) The National Office may issue guidelines and circulars to provide further clarity on the implementation of this Bill.
  - (2) (a) Collaborate with State Governments to promote technology acquisition and adaptation at the state level.
  - (b) May establish state liaison offices to support State Governments in technology-related initiatives.
  - (3) (a) Cooperate with the National Office in the implementation of technology-related policies and programs.
  - (b) Ensure that their technology acquisition and development plans are in line with the policies and guidelines issued by the National Office (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

- Clause 14:** (1) No suit shall be instituted against the National Office or its officers without the prior written consent of the Attorney General of the Federation.
- (2) Officers of the National Office shall be indemnified against any legal proceedings arising from the performance of their duties under this Bill (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 15: Repealed.**

- (1) The Technology Transfer Regulations 1992 are hereby repealed.
- (2) Any existing agreements or arrangements made under the repealed regulations shall continue in force as if made under this Bill (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 16: Interpretation.**

In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Council" means the Governing Council of NOTAP established under this Bill (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

"Director General" means the Director General of NOTAP appointed under this Bill (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

"Minister" refers to the Minister responsible for Innovation, Science and Technology (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

"Technology" includes all systematic applications of knowledge to practical tasks (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 17: Citation.**

This Bill may be cited as the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) Bill, 2025 (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah —*

*Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa).*

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

**Explanatory Memorandum:**

This Bill seeks to establish the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) as a corporate body with the responsibility of promoting and facilitating the acquisition and development of technology in Nigeria. It provides for the registration of technology transfer agreements, compliance and enforcement mechanisms, and collaboration with State Governments and Federal Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs). The Bill also makes provisions for offences and penalties, as well as financial management, staff regulations, and the powers of the Director General (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

*Agreed to.*

**Long Title:**

A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion Act, Cap. N62, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to Strengthen the Capacity of the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion to Monitor, on a Continual Basis, the Transfer of Foreign Technology to Nigeria; to Encourage, Regulate, and Commercialize Inventions, Innovations, and Research and Development Results More Effectively; and to Ensure Enhanced and Diversified Representation in its Governance for Broader Sectorial Coverage; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 1788 & HB. 1846) (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

*Agreed to.*

*Chairman to report Bill.*

**(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Science and Technology on a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) Act to Change the Use of the Word National Interest to Public Benefit and to Increase the Period Provided for a term of Contract as Prerequisite to Registration of the Document under this Act from 10 years to 20 years and strengthen the capacity of the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion to Monitor, on a continual basis, the transfer of Foreign Technology to Nigeria, encourage, regulate, and Commercialize Inventions, Innovations and Research and Development Results more effectively and enhanced diversified Representation in its governance for broader sectorial coverage and for Related Matters (HB.1788 & HB.1846) and approved Clauses 1 - 17, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

**(v) Committee on Science and Technology:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Science and Technology on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Technology Business Incubation Foundation (Takeover) Act, to Provide for Establishment of the National Agency for Technology Incubation and for Related Matters (HB.1055)” (*Hon. Nwaeke Felix Uche — Eleme/Oyigbo/Tai 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 Speaker in the Chair)*

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO REPEAL TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS  
INCUBATION FOUNDATION (TAKEOVER) ACT, AND TO ENACT  
THE NATIONAL AGENCY FOR TECHNOLOGY INCUBATION;  
AND FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS (HB. 1055)

PART I — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL  
AGENCY FOR TECHNOLOGY INCUBATION, ETC.

***Committee's Recommendation:*****Clause 1: Establishment of National Agency for Technology Incubation.**

- (1) There is established an Agency, to be known as the National Agency for Technology Incubation (in this Bill referred to as "the Agency").
- (2) The Agency —
  - (a) shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal;
  - (b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name; and
  - (c) may acquire, hold or dispose of any property, movable or immovable, for the purpose of performing its functions under this Bill.
- (3) The Headquarters of the Agency shall be in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

***Committee's Recommendation:*****Clause 2: Establishment of Governing Board.**

- (1) There is established for the Agency, a Governing Board (in this Bill referred to as the "Board") which shall provide the general policy guidelines for the day to day administration of the Agency.
- (2) The Board shall comprise —
  - (a) a part time Chairman to be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister;
  - (b) one (1) representative from each of the six (6) geo-political zones. A person shall have experience in Science, Technology and Innovation to be appointed as a representative;
  - (c) a representative of the Federal Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (FMSTI) who shall not be less than a Director;
  - (d) a representative of the Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment (FMTI) who shall not be less than a Director;
  - (e) a representative of the National Agency for Food and Drug

- Administration Control (NAFDAC) who shall not be less than a Director;
- (f) a representative of the Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) who shall not be less than a Director;
  - (g) a representative from the Academia (NUC, NBTE, NCCE etc) in rotation;
  - (h) a representative of the Industry (MAN, NASSI, NASME, NATIE, etc.) in rotation;
  - (i) a representative of the Nigeria Society of Engineers (NSE) and Nigerian Academy of Science (NAS) in rotation;
  - (j) the Director-General of the Agency who shall serve as Member and Secretary.
- (3) The Governing Board shall, meet not more than four times a year.
- (4) The supplementary provisions contained in the First Schedule to this Bill, shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Board and other matters mentioned therein (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 3: Tenure of office.**

Members of the Board (other than the Director-General) shall, hold office for a term of four years and may be eligible for re-appointment for another term of 4 years and no more (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 4: Cessation of membership.**

- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 3 of this Bill, a member of the Board shall cease to hold office as a member of the Board if —
- (a) he becomes of unsound mind or is incapable of carrying out his duties, due to infirmity of mind or body; or
  - (b) he is convicted of a felony or any offence, involving dishonesty or fraud; or
  - (c) he is declared bankrupt; or
  - (d) he is guilty of a serious misconduct in relation to his duties; or in the case of a person who possesses professional qualification, is disqualified or suspended from practicing his profession in any part of the world, by an order of a competent authority or court, made in respect of that member; or
  - (e) he resigns his appointment by a letter under his hand, addressed to the President.

- (2) If a member of the Board ceases to hold office for any reason whatsoever, before the expiration of the term for which he is appointed, another person representing the same interest as that member shall, be appointed to the Board for the unexpired term (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 5: Emolument.**

Members of the Board shall be paid such emoluments and allowances as may be determined by the Federal Government (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 6: Functions of the Board.**

The functions of the Board are to —

- (a) formulate the policies for the management of the affairs of the Agency;
- (b) consider and approve appointment, promotion and discipline of directors and other staff of the Agency; and
- (c) create relevant Board Committee for the efficient performances of the Agency; and
- (d) perform such other functions as are necessary and to the extent of its powers under this Bill (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 7: Establishment of Management Committee.**

- (1) There is established a committee, to be known as the National Agency for Technology Incubation Management Committee (in this Bill referred to as "Management Committee") which, subject to the provisions of this Bill, shall be charged with the responsibility of implementing the general Policies and guidelines of the Agency.
- (2) The Management Committee shall consist of:
  - (i) the Director General of the Agency, who shall preside over the meeting of the Management Committee;
  - (ii) all Heads of department of the Agency;
  - (iii) all Zonal Directors;
  - (iv) any other member(s) co-opted by the Director General; and
  - (v) a department in the Agency shall be headed by a Director with professional experience relevant to the activities of the Department (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah —*

*Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa).*

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 8: Establishment and Functions of Technology Incubation Centres.**

- (1) Establishment of Technology Centres:
  - (a) the Agency shall operate through Technology Incubation Centres (TICs), as the work stations where it executes the core technology incubation programme; as set out in Second Schedule to this Bill and as may be further established from time to time;
  - (b) entrepreneurs with proven products are admitted at the TICs where they are nurtured through provision of common facilities, technology support, commercial support alongside access to grants, funding sources and investors for a period of two (2) to three (3) years but a maximum period of five (5) years.
- (2) Functions of Technology Incubation Centres:
  - (a) Admission and Graduation of Entrepreneurs in accordance with policy guidelines;
  - (b) Provision and maintenance of infrastructure;
  - (c) Technical Support and Human Resources;
  - (d) Collaborative Linkages and provision of financial support [Directly and Indirectly];
  - (e) Exploitation of market, product registration and standardization;
  - (f) Monitoring and evaluation of entrepreneurs' performance within the Centres;
  - (g) Industrial Safety and Security;
  - (h) Service delivery to Entrepreneurs;
  - (i) Provision of Legal Services;
  - (j) Commercial Business Development and Mentorship Support to technology-based start-up business;
  - (k) Generation of internal revenue (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa).*

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

**PART II — OBJECTIVES, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE AGENCY**

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 9: Objectives of the Agency.**

The objectives are intended to use Technology Incubation Programme (TIP) as a tool to fast track the industrialization of Nigeria through the commercialization of

Research and Development results from all the sectors of the economy. They are:

- (a) to provide the necessary infrastructure for the commercialization of research and development results including innovative efforts with focus on National development;
- (b) to utilize the technology incubation Centres as focal points for nurturing of start-up and spin-off enterprises till they become profitable thriving free-standing businesses suitable for Technology Hubs and Parks;
- (c) to serve as a warehouse for all technologies and implement Emerging Technologies (Block-chain): Internet of things (IOT), Artificial Intelligence (AI) and NANO Technology for incubating and Commercialization of Research and Development product for the Nigerian Market;
- (d) to implement Technology Development and transfer of knowledge of both skilled and unskilled Artisans;
- (e) to enhance Indigenous Technologies and knowledge through Incubation, Innovation and Commercialisation of technology innovation/invention products of the Technology Incubation Centres;
- (f) to create knowledge-driven jobs within the society that will be instrumental to wealth creation, employment generation and poverty reduction within the country;
- (g) to link governments being the policymakers, academia being the knowledge providers and the industries being the assimilators of the value-added technology outputs in a triple helix manner for sustainable socio-economic development, thereby Promoting the technologies and ideas of the Technology Incubation Centres;
- (h) to become a national repository, warehousing all the database of technology Incubation Businesses in Nigeria for the ease of centralising information regarding early start-ups and business start-up in Nigeria;
- (i) to provide business development assistance, mentoring assistance and provision of Government assisted resources to technology incubation and commercialization businesses in Nigeria;
- (j) to be the central body and the clearing house for the technology innovation, incubation and start-ups and commercialization of technology businesses in the Country;
- (k) to be the primary and only centralised channel for the provision of Federal Government resources for technology innovation, incubation and commercialization business in Nigeria;
- (l) to implement technology development and transferring of R&D through incubation and commercialization for the Nigerian Market including Emerging technologies transfer (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

***Committee's Recommendation:***

**Clause 10: Powers of the Agency.**

- (1) The Agency has the power to:
- (a) establish Technology Incubation Centres/ Extensions, Technology Parks, Hubs and Clusters singly or in conjunction with the Federal Government, State Governments and Local Governments; in any part of the country;
  - (b) register, standardize and regulate the activities of all Technology Incubation Centres, Technology Parks, Hubs and Clusters owned by government, companies and individuals across the Country;
  - (c) formulate and issue guidelines for the establishment and smooth running of government, corporate and individual Technology Incubation Centres, Technology Innovation Hubs and Parks in Nigeria;
  - (d) appoint, dismiss and exercise disciplinary control over its staff, and for this purpose, shall prescribe its own rules;
  - (e) do and perform such actions necessary to further the attainment of the functions of the Agency.
  - (f) shall establish repository of the Technology based Start-ups, Technology Incubation Centres, Technology Innovation Hubs and Parks to properly guide Government on relevant Policies and Funding to harmonise their businesses in Nigeria;
  - (g) shall become a Clearing House for the registration and regulation of Technology-based Start-ups Businesses, Technology Incubation Centres and Technology Innovation Hubs and Parks in Nigeria;
  - (h) shall become the primary and centralised channel for the provision of Federal Government derived resources for technology Start-up businesses, Technology Incubation Centres and Technology Innovation Hubs and Parks in Nigeria;
  - (i) do and perform such actions necessary to further the attainment of the functions of the Agency.
- (2) The Agency shall pursue the establishment and management of Technology Parks, Hubs and innovative Clusters across the country towards ensuring competitiveness (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 11: Functions of the Agency.**

The Agency shall:

- (a) identify viable R&D results, indigenous technologies and knowledge for commercialization and develop strategies and processes for its incubation;
- (b) coordinate the Technology Incubation Programme in Nigeria;

- (c) facilitate partnerships and linkages between the Agency and the Universities, Polytechnics, Research Institutes, Inventors and Innovators for effective commercialization;
- (d) facilitate functional linkage between R&D units in the private sector and public institutions;
- (e) support the progress of graduated Entrepreneurs in a post-incubation scheme;
- (f) run non-resident and virtual incubation scheme;
- (g) source funds from Micro Finance Agencies, Angel and Venture Capital Funds, Banks, Bilateral, Multilateral, Donor Agencies and other Development partners;
- (h) provide infrastructure, such as incubation units, offices, water, electricity, ICT, Internal road networks and industrial safety facilities; etc.;
- (i) identify and deploy service providers and mentors for the effective implementation of Technology Incubation Program, also facilitate knowledge transfer through Diaspora Expert mentorship programme;
- (j) establish and maintain updated database for the promotion of Technology Incubation Program;
- (k) promote and facilitate research and studies on inventions, innovations and RD&I result aimed at establishing Nigeria as a Regional Hub for sustainable Technology Exports;
- (l) develop and deploy framework for admission and exit agreements, drafting and implementation of memorandum of understanding and agreements with relevant bodies, arbitration, adjudication and advocacy;
- (m) facilitate the protection of intellectual properties that evolve from the incubation (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

### PART III — STAFF OF THE AGENCY

#### ***Committee's Recommendation:***

#### **Clause 12: Appointment of Director General.**

- (1) There shall be appointed by the President; Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces for the Agency, a Director General/CEO on the recommendation of the Minister in-charge of Innovation, Science and Technology.
- (2) The Director General shall:
  - (a) be the Chief Executive and accounting officer of the Agency;
  - (b) possess at least 15 years post-qualification experience in pure science or engineering or technology; with vast cognate experience in technology, industry, innovation;

- (c) doctorate in the relevant disciplines is an added advantage;
  - (d) be entitled to earn a remuneration and allowances as may be specified in his letter of appointment; and
  - (e) hold office for a term of four years in the first instance and may be re-appointed for another term of four years and no more.
- (3) The Director-General shall, be responsible for:
  - (a) day to day administration of the Agency;
  - (b) keeping the books and proper records of the proceedings of the Board;
  - (c) the administration of the secretariat of the Board; and
  - (d) the general direction and control of the employees of the Agency.
- (4) The Director-General shall execute the seal of the Agency and have powers to create additional departments, Units and modernisation of the Agency.
- (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of Clause 12 subsection 2 (e) of this Bill. The Director-General of the Agency may be removed by the President of Nigeria if found guilty of committing a serious offence (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

***Committee's Recommendation:***

**Clause 13: Appointment of a Zonal Director and its functions.**

- (1)
  - (a) The Zonal Offices shall be headed by a Director who shall be appointed by the Director-General/CEO.
  - (b) The six (6) zonal offices shall serve as the regional hub for the Agency, that will oversee the Operations of each Technology Incubation Centre (TIC) within it Zone.
  - (c) The Zonal Offices shall provide a strategic leadership, guidance, and direction to the TICs under it Zones, aligning with organisational goals and objectives of the Agency
- (2) Roles and responsibilities of the Zonal Offices:
  - (i) to monitor and support TICs operation by ensuring efficiency, effectiveness and compliance to the TIP;
  - (ii) performance management, to set targets, track progress and evaluates TICs, thereby evaluating the performance of the zone;
  - (iii) facilitate capacity building development of staff at their zones;
  - (iv) to foster communication and collaboration amongst the centres, promoting best practice and innovation;
  - (v) to identify and mitigate risks management by ensuring compliance

with operational policies and regulatory requirements of Government Agencies;

- (vi) to serve as the Agency's representatives in the region in order to build mutual relationships with stakeholders across the zones;
- (vii) support and create optimal performance of the staff of TICs with regards to TIP programme implementation (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

***Committee's Recommendation:***

**Clause 14: Appointment of Principal Officers and other staff.**

- (1) The Agency shall appoint such principal officers and other staff of the Agency as deemed necessary with the approval of the Board.
- (2) There shall be such number of Directors to head such number of Departments and Zones as may be deemed appropriate from time to time.
- (3) There shall be such number of officers on the level of Chiefs and above to head such number of Centres as may be deemed appropriate from time to time.
- (4) The Directors, Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors, and Chiefs appointed under subsection (2) and (3) of this section shall each be responsible to the Director General for the effective running of the Department or Centre and the general coordination of the activities of the Agency (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

***Committee's Recommendation:***

**Clause 15: Appointment of Principal officers at Technology Incubation Centres (TICs).**

- (1) A Technology Incubation Centre (TIC) shall be administered by a Centre Manager, appointed by the Director General/CEO.
- (2) A Centre Manager shall be a graduate staff with post-qualification experience in the relevant field and shall have attained the rank of Chief and above. Higher qualifications and publications are to his/her advantage.
- (3) The tenure of a Centre Manager is four years at a centre and can be redeployed to another centre subject to DG/CEO's approval.
- (4) Each Unit at the Centres shall be headed by a graduate staff in the relevant discipline with post qualification experience and shall have attained the rank of a senior officer and above.
- (5) Heads of Unit at a Centre shall be appointed by the Zonal Director on the Recommendation of the Centre Manager
- (6) There shall be constituted a seven (7) man Technical Advisory Committee for each Centre whose membership will reflect the Triple Helix Concept: Government, Industry and Academia with the Centre Manager to serve as member and Secretary (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 16: Admission and Management of Incubatees.**

- (1) Pre-incubatees, Resident incubatees, Non-resident incubatees and Community incubatees are all admitted into the programme through an appraisal of the Central Admission Committee (at the Headquarters), or the Zonal Admission Committee. Central Admission Committee is responsible for processing admissions into Pre-incubation, Resident and Non-Resident incubation programmes in all the Centres, while Zonal Admission Committees are responsible for processing participation in Community Incubation programmes in the zone:
  - (a) the tenure of Pre-incubation is six (months), after which a successful incubatee will start Resident incubation programme or Non-resident incubation programme;
  - (b) the tenure of a Resident incubatee in a Technology Incubation Centre (TIC) shall be two (2) to three (3) years;
  - (c) Resident and Non-resident incubation programme shall be for a duration of not more than 5 years and graduate into the Post Incubation programme at the end of its tenure.
- (2) All Incubatees under the programme shall pay royalties to the National Agency for Technology Incubation (NATI), for its intellectual and physical contribution to the success of the enterprise.
  - (a) any enterprise which has spent two years and six months shall be appraised by a standing Committee established by the Management, to determine if it has become a free-standing business;
  - (b) any enterprise found to be free-standing shall be certified as such and a certificate awarded to it.
  - (c) every certified enterprise commences the payment of a small royalty to the Agency;
  - (d) the value of the royalty shall be as determined by the Standing Committee of paragraph 2 (a) above.
  - (e) the royalty shall subsist for twenty years or more from the date of certification (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 17: Service in the Agency to be pensionable.**

- (1) Service in the Agency shall be approved service for the purpose of Pension Reforms Act.
- (2) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section or in this Bill shall prevent the appointment of a person to any office on terms which preclude the grant of pension and gratuity in respect of the office.

- (3) A person may be appointed by the Agency, by way of transfer or secondment, from any of the civil service of the Federation (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

#### PART IV — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

##### ***Committee's Recommendation:***

##### **Clause 18: Remuneration of Employees.**

- (1) The Agency shall develop and implement conditions of service for its staff with regards to Remuneration, and other fringed service benefits sufficient for the Agency to attract and retain a quality workforce. Whereas, other public service regulations such as Pension, Housing, Health Schemes etc shall apply.
- (2) The Board shall consider and approve the recommendation of the Agency on staff remuneration and allowances:

Such-fringed benefits and allowances shall include:

- (a) High-risk Hazard Exposure allowance, Responsibility allowance;
- (b) excess workload;
- (c) Monitoring and Evaluation allowance;
- (d) Hazard allowance; and
- (e) Robbing allowance, etc.

- (3) The conflict-of-interest provisions contained in the second schedule to this Bill shall apply to all employees of the Agency (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

##### ***Committee's Recommendation:***

##### **Clause 19: Sources of Fund of the Agency.**

- (1) The Agency shall establish and maintain a fund from which shall be defrayed all expenditure incurred by the Agency.
- (2) There shall be paid and credited to the fund established in pursuance of subsection (1) of this section:
- (a) such monies as may, from time to time, be lent or granted to the Agency by the Federal Government, State or Local Government;
- (b) government statutory allocation and grant;
- (c) all charges, dues, fees or amount recovered by the Agency and centres including but not limited to Rent, Royalty from entrepreneurs and Dividends from investment;
- (d) all monies raised for the general purpose of the Agency;

- (e) such other monies as may, from time to time, accrue to the centres or the Agency; and
- (f) all subventions and allocations from the annual budgeting provision of the federal government and other monies, as appropriated by the National Assembly (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 20: Revenue.**

- (1) In the course of discharging its responsibilities to Entrepreneurs and the general public, the Agency may generate revenue internally.
- (2) There is established a fund, which shall be known as the Technology Incubation Fund (in this Bill referred to as the Fund).
- (3) There shall be paid and credited into the Fund established under subsection 2 of this section;
  - (a) a levy of 1.5% of profit before tax of incubatees and entrepreneur's businesses that are still within the incubation period and 2% for graduated entrepreneurs, the profit shall include annual revenues, grants, endowments, royalties and donations from all Agencies including international bodies, and all monies accruing to the businesses.
  - (b) a levy of 2% of profit before tax of the established technology startups, Technology Entrepreneurs, technology innovation and infrastructure companies and emerging technology operators
  - (c) grants -in- aid, and assistance from bilateral and multilateral agencies
  - (d) all other sums accruing to the endowment fund by way of gift, monetary scholarship, awards, bequeaths or other voluntary provisions by persons and organization.
- (4) Provided that the terms and conditions attached to such grants, gifts, royalties, donations, endowment, bequeaths etc. or contributions will not jeopardize the functions of the Agency.
- (5) Whenever the Agency generates revenue internally, it shall retain fifty (50%) for equipment maintenance and purchase of consumables and remit fifty (50%) to the consolidated revenue account of the Federation.
- (6) All monies accruing to the Fund and Account of the Agency from the sources specified in Section 4 of this Bill respectively shall be exempted from income Tax and all contributions to the Funds and the Account of the Agency (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 21: Expenditure.**

The Agency may, from time to time, apply the proceeds of the Fund established in Clause 15 (1) of this Bill to offset:

- (a) the cost of administration of the Agency;
- (b) the payment of fees, allowances and expenses of members of the Board or any committee set up by the Board;
- (c) the payment of salaries, allowances and benefits of officers of the Agency;
- (d) the maintenance of any property acquired or vested in the Agency or under its administration; and
- (e) for and in connection with any of the functions of the Agency under this Bill (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 22: Expenditure of Technology Incubation Fund.**

- (1) The Agency shall establish and maintain a Technology Incubation Fund which shall be funded from the following sources:
  - (a) facilitate the commercialization of R&D results, inventions and innovations;
  - (b) upgrade and enhance indigenous technologies; and
  - (c) promote Nigeria's indigenous potentials for economic development through value-added and technology related activities.
- (2) The Agency may, from time to time, apply the proceeds of the Fund established in Clause 22 (1) of this Bill to offset:
  - (a) facilitate the commercialization of R&D results, inventions and innovations;
  - (b) upgrade and enhance indigenous technologies; and
  - (c) promote Nigeria's indigenous potentials for economic development through value-added and technology related activities.
- (3) The Technology Incubation Fund established in subsection (1) of this Section shall be managed by the Agency on the approval of the Board (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 23: Annual Estimate.**

The Agency shall cause to be prepared every year, an estimate of the expenditure necessary, to carry out the programmes, approved by the Board for the succeeding year and shall submit to the Board, the estimate of expenditure and that of its income during the next succeeding year (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:****Clause 24: Annual Report.**

The Agency shall, prepare and submit to the Board and the Minister once every year, a report on the activities of the Agency during the immediate preceding year and shall include in the report, a copy of the audited account of the Agency for that year

and of the auditor's report thereon (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 25: Power to accept gifts.**

- (1) The Agency may accept gifts of land, money or other testamentary disposition upon such terms and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the donor.
- (2) The Agency shall not accept any gift, if the conditions attached by the donor are inconsistent with the objectives and functions of the Agency (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 26: Power to borrow.**

The Agency may, subject to the approval of the Board, borrow by way of loan, the amount of money, it may require to discharge its functions under this Bill (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 27: Power to invest.**

The Agency may, subject to the provisions of this Bill and the conditions of any trust created in respect of any property, invest all or any of its funds in any security prescribed by the Trustee Investments Act or in such other securities as may, from time to time be approved by the Board (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 28: Accounts and Audit.**

- (1) The Agency shall keep proper accounts in respect of each year and proper records, in relation to those accounts and shall cause to be prepared in each year:
  - (a) a statement, showing the income and expenditure of the Agency for the immediate preceding year; and
  - (b) a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Agency, as at the last day of the immediate preceding year.
- (2) The Agency shall cause every statement prepared under this section, to be audited within six months, after the end of the year to which the statement relates (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

***Committee's Recommendation:*****Clause 29: Procedure in respect of a Suit,**

No suit shall be commenced against the Agency, before the expiration of a period of one month, after written notice of intention to commence the suit shall have been served upon the Agency by the intending plaintiff or his agent and the notice shall clearly and explicitly state:

- (a) the cause of action;
- (b) the particulars of the claim;
- (c) the name and place of abode of the intending plaintiff; and
- (d) the relief which he intends to claim (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

***Committee's Recommendation:*****Clause 30: Service of document.**

The notice referred to in section 24 of this Bill and any summons, notice, or other document required or authorised to be served upon the Agency under the provisions of this Bill or any other enactment or law may be served by, delivering the same to the Director General at the principal office of the Agency (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

***Committee's Recommendation:*****Clause 31: Limitation of Suit against the Agency, etc.**

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the provisions of the Public Officers Protection Act shall apply in relation to any suit instituted against any member or officer of the Agency.
- (2) No suit against a member of the Board or the Director General or any other officer of the Agency for any act done in pursuance or execution of this Bill or any other enactment or law or of any public duty or authority in respect of any alleged neglect or default in the execution of this Bill or any other enactment or law, duty or authority shall lie or be instituted in any court unless it is commenced:
  - (a) within three months next after the act, neglect or default complained of; or
  - (b) in the case of a continuation of damage or injury, within six months next after the ceasing thereof (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

***Committee's Recommendation:*****Clause 32: Restriction on Execution against Property of the Agency.**

- (1) In any action or suit against the Agency, no execution or attachment of process shall be issued against the Agency unless not less than three months' notice of the intention to execute or attach has been given to the Agency.

- (2) Any sum of money which by the judgment of any court has been awarded against the Agency shall, subject to any direction given by the court, where notice of appeal against the judgment has been given, be paid from the fund of the Agency (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 33: Indemnity.**

A member of the Board, the Director General and any officer of the Agency, shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Agency 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 Director General or officer of the Agency (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

PART VI — MISCELLANEOUS PROVISION

**Clause 34: Power of Minister to give directives.- Rejected.**

The Minister may give to the Board or Director General, directives of a general nature, with regard to the carrying out of the mandate of the Agency under this Bill and it shall be the duty of the Board or Director General to comply with such directives.

**Committee's Recommendation:**

Leave out the provision of Clause 34 (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

*Agreed to.*

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 35: Power of the Agency to make Regulation.**

The Minister, on the recommendation of the Board, may make regulations for the proper implementation of the provisions of this Bill subject to the ratification of relevant Committees of the National Assembly (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 36: Duty of secrecy.**

- (1) A member of the Board or the Director-General or any other officer of the Agency shall:
- (a) not, for his personal gain, make use of any information which has come to his knowledge in the exercise of this power or is obtained by him in the ordinary course of his duty as a member of the Board or as a Director-General or officer of the Agency;
  - (b) treat as confidential any information which has come to his knowledge in the exercise of his power or is obtained by him in the performance of his duties under this Bill; and

- (c) not disclose any information referred to under paragraph (b) of this subsection, except when required to do so by a court or in such other circumstances as may be prescribed by the Board from time to time.
- (2) Any person who contravenes the provisions of subsection (1) of this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of not less than ₦100,000.00 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both such fine and imprisonment (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 37: Repeal and savings provision.**

- (1) The National Technology Business Incubation Foundation (Take-Over) Act is hereby repealed.
- (2) Without prejudice to section 6 of the Interpretation Act, the repeal of the enactment specified in subsection (1) of this section, shall not affect anything done under or pursuant to the enactment.
- (3) Every order, requirement, certificate, notice, direction, decision, authorization, consent, application, request or thing made, issued, given or done under any enactment repealed by this Bill 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 the corresponding provisions of this Bill (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

**Committee's Recommendation:**

**Clause 38: Interpretation.**

In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Agency" means the National Agency for Technology Incubation (NATI) (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Board" means the Governing Board of the National Agency for Technology Incubation established in section 2 of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Centre(s)" means Technology Incubation Centre(s) and extension office(s) (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Question that the meaning of the word "Centre(s)" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Chairman" means the Chairman of the Governing Board (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Director-General" means the Director-General and Chief Executive of the National Agency for Technology Incubation (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"ICT" means Information and Communication Technology (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"MAN" means Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Management Committee" means the Management Committee of the National Agency for Technology Incubation and established in section 9 of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Question that the meaning of the words “Management Committee” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.*

"Minister" means the Minister charged with responsibility for matters relating to science and technology (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"NAFDAC" means National Agency for Food and Drug Administration Control (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"NBTE" means National Board for Technical Education (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"NASME" means National Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"NASSI" means National Association of Small Scale Industries (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"NATIE" means Nigerian Association of Technology Incubation Entrepreneurs (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"NCCE" means National Commission for Colleges of Education (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"NUC" means National Universities Commission (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"SON" means Standard Organization of Nigeria (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

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

***Committee’s Recommendation:***

**Clause 39: Citation.**

This Bill may be cited as National Agency for Technology Incubation Bill, 2025 (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

## **SCHEDULES**

### **FIRST SCHEDULE**

#### **Section 3 (3)**

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE GOVERNING BOARD**

1. Subject to this Bill and Section 27 of the Interpretation Act, the Governing Board may make Standing Orders regulating the proceedings of the Board.
2. The Board shall meet not more four times a year and shall meet whenever it is summoned by the Chairman, and if the Chairman is required to do so by notice given to him by at least one-third of the members, he shall summon a meeting of the Board to be held within 14 days from the date on which the notice is given.
3. At every meeting of the Board, the Chairman shall preside and in his absence the members present at the meeting shall appoint one of their members to preside at the meeting.
4. The quorum for the meetings of the Governing Board shall be one third (1/3) of its members

and quorum at a meeting of any committee of the Governing Board, shall be fixed by the Governing Board.

5. (1) The Governing Board may, from time to time, co-opt any person or persons, to assist it in carrying out the objects of the Agency under this Bill.  
(2) Any person co-opted under sub-paragraph (1) of this paragraph, may take part in the deliberations of the Governing Board, but shall not be deemed to be a member, for the purpose of voting at a meeting or forming a quorum.
6. (1) The Governing Board may, appoint one or more committees, to carry out on its behalf, such of its functions, as it may determine.  
(2) A committee appointed under this Schedule shall consist of such members, as may be determined by the Governing Board and a person, other than a member of the Board shall, hold office on the committee, in accordance with the terms of his appointment.  
(3) A decision of a Committee of the Governing Board shall be of no effect, until confirmed by the Board.
7. Fixing of Seal of the Agency, shall be authenticated by the signature of the Director-General or of some other person authorised for that purpose.
8. The validity of any proceedings of the Governing Board, shall not be affected by:
  - (a) any vacancy in the membership of the Board;
  - (b) reason that a person not entitled to do so, took part in the proceedings; or
  - (c) any defect in the appointment of a member (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

## SECOND SCHEDULE

### Section 8

#### SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE TECHNOLOGY INCUBATION CENTRES

Subject to section 8(1) of this Bill, there are the following Technology Incubation Centres and extensions and any other new one established by the approval of the federal Government of Nigeria:

1. Technology Incubation Centre, Agege, Lagos State.
2. Technology Incubation Centre, Kano, Kano State.
3. Technology Incubation Centre, Aba, Abia State.
4. Technology Incubation Centre, Nnewi, Anambra State.
5. Technology Incubation Centre, Calabar, Cross-Rivers State.
6. Technology Incubation Centre, Minna, Niger State.
7. Technology Incubation Centre, Benin, Edo State.
8. Technology Incubation Centre, Warri, Delta State.
9. Technology Incubation Centre, Bauchi, Bauchi State.
10. Technology Incubation Centre, Maiduguri, Borno State.
11. Technology Incubation Centre, Gusau, Zamfara State.
12. Technology Incubation Centre, Sokoto, Sokoto State.
13. Technology Incubation Centre, Birnin-Kebbi, Kebbi State.

14. Technology Incubation Centre, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.
15. Technology Incubation Centre, Akure, Ondo State.
16. Technology Incubation Centre, Ibadan, Oyo State.
17. Technology Incubation Centre, Owerri, Imo State.
18. Technology Incubation Centre, Abeokuta, Ogun State.
19. Technology Incubation Centre, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.
20. Technology Incubation Centre, Jos, Plateau State.
21. Technology Incubation Centre, Yola, Adamawa State.
22. Technology Incubation Centre, Ilorin, Kwara State.
23. Technology Incubation Centre, Kaduna, Kaduna State.
24. Technology Incubation Centre, Jalingo, Taraba State.
25. Technology Incubation Centre, Enugu, Enugu State.
26. Technology Incubation Centre, Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State.
27. Technology Incubation Centre, Ile Ife, Osun State.
28. Technology Incubation Centre, Gombe, Gombe State.
29. Technology Incubation Centre, Katsina, Katsina State
30. Technology Incubation Centre, Lokoja, Kogi State
31. Technology Incubation Centre, Lafia, Nasarawa State
32. Technology Incubation Centre, Makurdi, Benue State
33. Technology Incubation Centre, Port Harcourt, Rivers State
34. Technology Incubation Centre, Abakaliki, Ebonyi State
35. Technology Incubation Centre, Dutse, Jigawa State
36. Technology Incubation Centre, Damaturu, Yobe State
37. Technology Incubation Centre, Ikot Ekpene, Akwa Ibom State
38. Technology Incubation Centre, Zaria, Kaduna State
39. Technology Incubation Centre, Bende, Abia State
40. Technology Incubation Centre, Yusufari, Yobe State
41. Technology Incubation Centre, Oyo, Oyo State
42. Technology Incubation Centre, Ishiagu, Ebonyi State
43. Technology Incubation Centre, Ekinrin-Adde, Kogi State
44. Technology Incubation Centre, Ekpoma, Edo State
45. Technology Incubation Centre, Owhe, Delta State
46. Technology Incubation Centre, Ngo Town, Rivers State
47. Technology Incubation Centre, Abuja, Federal Capital Territory.
48. Technology Incubation Centre, Emure-Ile, Owo, Ondo State
49. Technology Incubation Centre, Uba, Hong, Adamawa State
50. Technology Incubation Centre, Lapai, Niger State
51. Technology Incubation Centre, Iyin Ekiti, Ekiti State
52. Technology Incubation Centre, Kosobo, OyoState

**Extension Offices:**

- (i) Technology Incubation Centre, Ibadan (Temidere Extensions).
- (ii) Technology Incubation Centre, Abeokuta (Owode-Yewa & Odogbolu Extensions).
- (iii) Technology Incubation Centre, Ilorin (Offa Extension).
- (iv) Technology Incubation Centre, Akure (Igbotako & Oka-Akoko Extensions).
- (v) Technology Incubation Centre, Jos (Mabudi Extension).
- (vi) Technology Incubation Centre, Kaduna (Kaduna South Extension).
- (vii) Technology Incubation Centre, Abakaliki (Izzi Extension)
- (viii) Technology Incubation Centre, Benue (Adikpo Extension)
- (ix) Technology Incubation Centre, Owerri (Oboro Ikwuano Extension) (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

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

**Explanatory Note:**

This Bill seeks to repeal the National Technology Business Incubation Foundation (Take-Over)

Decree No.5 of 1995; and to enact the National Agency for Technology Incubation (NATI) (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

*Agreed to.*

**Long Title:**

A Bill for an Act to Repeal Technology Business Incubation Foundation (Takeover) Act, and to Enact the National Agency for Technology Incubation; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 1055) (*Hon. Zakariya Tijjani Zannah — Machina/Nguru/Yusufari/Karusuwa*).

*Agreed to.*

*Chairman to report Bill.*

**(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Science and Technology on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Technology Business Incubation Foundation (Takeover) Act, to Provide for Establishment of the National Agency for Technology Incubation and for Related Matters (HB.1055) and approved Clauses 1 - 33, rejected Clause 34, approved Clauses 38 - 39, the Schedules, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

**(vi) A Bill for an Act to Amend the North West Development Commissions Act and for Related Matters (SB.561) (Committee of the Whole):**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the North West Development Commissions Act and for Related Matters (SB.561)” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

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

**(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)**

*(Mr Speaker in the Chair)*

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE NORTH WEST  
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION ACT, 2024 AND FOR  
OTHER RELATED MATTERS THERETO (SB.561)

**Clause 9: Amendment of Section 9.**

Section 9 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for the existing section of the following new words —

“9. There shall be established in the head office of the Commission, the following Departments to be headed by Executive Directors —

- (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;
- (f) Legal Services;
- (g) Solid Minerals and Agriculture;
- (h) Education, Health and Social Services;
- (i) Commercial and Industrial Development;
- (j) Projects Monitoring and Supervision; and
- (k) Women and Youth Development (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

**Clause 14: Amendment of Section 14.**

- (a) from the Federal Government the equivalent of 15% of the total monthly statutory allocation due to member states of the Commission from the Federation Account, being the contribution of the Federal Government.
- (b) inserting the following as new paragraph (d) —
  - “(d) a sum equivalent to 3% of the annual VAT collection as first line charge, to accrue to the Commission for a period of 10 years, notwithstanding the provisions of any other law; ”and
- (c) renumbering the existing paragraphs (d), (e) and (f) as paragraphs (e), (f) and (g) respectively (*Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

*Chairman to report Bill.*

**(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the North West Development Commissions Act and for Related Matters (SB.561) and approved Clauses 9 and 14 of the Bill.

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

**(vii) A Bill for an Act to Amend the South East Development Commissions Act and for Related Matters (SB.568) (Committee of the Whole):**

*Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the South East Development Commissions Act and for Related Matters (SB.568)” (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).*

*Agreed to.*

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

**(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)**

*(Mr Speaker in the Chair)*

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOUTH EAST  
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION ACT, 2024 AND FOR  
OTHER RELATED MATTERS THERETO (SB.568)

**Clause 15: Amendment of section 15.**

- (a) from the Federal Government the equivalent of 15 % of the total monthly statutory allocation due to member states of the Commission from the Federation Account, being the contribution of the Federal Government Agreed to.
- (b) substituting for the existing paragraph (b) new provision as follows —
  - “(b) 3% of the total annual budget of any oil producing company and gas processing company operating in the South-East States”:
- (c) substituting for the existing paragraph (c) new provision as follows —
  - “(c) 3% of the total annual budget of any solid mineral extracting mining company and agricultural processing company operating in the South-East States”:
- (d) inserting the following as new paragraph (d) —
  - “(d) a sum equivalent to 3% of the annual VAT collection as first line charge, to accrue to the Commission for a period of 10 years, notwithstanding the provisions of any other law”; and
- (e) renumbering the existing paragraphs (d), (e), (f) and (g) as paragraphs (e), (f), (g) and (h) respectively (*Hon. Julius Omozuanybo Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

*Chairman to report Bill.*

**(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the South East Development Commissions Act and for Related Matters (SB.568) and approved Clause 15 of the Bill.

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

- (viii) ***A Bill for an Act to Establish the National Youth Service Corps Fund to Provide a Sustainable Source of Fund for the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Skill Acquisition, Training and Empowerment of Corps Members, Training and Retraining of the Personnel of the NYSC, Development of Camps and NYSC Formations and Facilities and for Related Matters (HB.985) (Committee of the Whole):***

*Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Youth Service Corps Fund to Provide a Sustainable Source of Fund for the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Skill Acquisition, Training and Empowerment of Corps Members, Training and Retraining of the Personnel of the NYSC,*

Development of Camps and NYSC Formations and Facilities and for Related Matters (HB.985)” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

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

**(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)**

*(Mr Speaker in the Chair)*

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS FUND TO PROVIDE A SUSTAINABLE SOURCE OF FUND FOR THE NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE CORPS (NYSC) SKILL ACQUISITION, TRAINING AND EMPOWERMENT OF CORPS MEMBERS, TRAINING AND RETRAINING OF THE PERSONNEL OF THE NYSC, DEVELOPMENT OF CAMPS AND NYSC FORMATIONS AND FACILITIES; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB.985)

**Clause 4: Sources of the Trust Fund.**

(1) The Trust Fund shall consist of —

(a) 0.2% of total revenue accruing, to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

***Committee’s Recommendation:***

*Leave out the provision of Subclause (a) (Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader).*

*Agreed to.*

*Chairman to report Bill.*

**(HOUSE IN PLENARY)**

Mr Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Youth Service Corps Fund to Provide a Sustainable Source of Fund for the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Skill Acquisition, Training and Empowerment of Corps Members, Training and Retraining of the Personnel of the NYSC, Development of Camps and NYSC Formations and Facilities and for Related Matters (HB.985) and rejected Subclause (1) (a) of the Bill.

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

**24. A Bill for an Act to Amend the North West Development Commissions Act and for Related Matters (SB.561) — Third Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the North West Development Commissions Act and for Related Matters (SB.561) be now read the Third Time” (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).*

*Agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third Time and passed.*

**25. A Bill for an Act to Amend the South East Development Commissions Act and for Related Matters (SB.568) — Third Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the South East Development Commissions Act and for Related Matters (SB.568) be now read the Third Time” (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).*

*Agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third Time and passed.*

26. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the National Youth Service Corps Fund to Provide a Sustainable Source of Fund for the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Skill Acquisition, Training and Empowerment of Corps Members, Training and Retraining of the Personnel of the NYSC, Development of Camps and NYSC Formations and Facilities and for Related Matters (HB.985) — Third Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Youth Service Corps Fund to Provide a Sustainable Source of Fund for the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Skill Acquisition, Training and Empowerment of Corps Members, Training and Retraining of the Personnel of the NYSC, Development of Camps and NYSC Formations and Facilities and for Related Matters (HB.985) be now read the Third Time” (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).*

*Agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third Time and passed.*

27. **Adjournment of First Sitting**

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

*The House adjourned accordingly at 1.45 p.m.*

**Abbas Tajudeen**  
*Speaker*