



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 17 October, 2024

1. The House met at 11.02 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Wednesday, 16 October, 2024.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcement**

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

Mr Speaker announced the presence of the following visitors:

- (i) Staff and Students of Junior Secondary School, Mpape, Abuja;
- (ii) National Youth Service Corps members, Nnewi Local Government Area, Anambra State;
- (iii) Staff and Students of Command Day Secondary School, Maitama, Abuja.

(ii) ***Ad-hoc Committee to Monitor the Construction of Abuja - Kaduna - Kano Road:***

Mr Speaker announced the membership of the Committee as follows:

- | | | | |
|------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------|
| (1) | Hon. Aminu Jaji | — | <i>Chairman</i> |
| (2) | Hon. Ahmed Idris | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (3) | Hon. Sada Soli | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (4) | Hon. Cyril Hart Godwin | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (5) | Hon. Paul Nnamchi | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (6) | Hon. Hassan Abubakar Fulata | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (7) | Hon. Usman Banye | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (8) | Hon. Oseni Abasi Aderemi | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (9) | Hon. Ahmed Yinka Aluko | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (10) | Hon. Isa Bello Ambarura | — | <i>Member</i> |

(11)	Hon. Mohammed Hussaini Jallo	—	<i>Member</i>
(12)	Hon. Inuwa Garba	—	<i>Member</i>
(13)	Hon. Patrick Umoh	—	<i>Member</i>
(14)	Hon. Zubairu Bashiru Usman	—	<i>Member</i>

5. Petitions

- (i) A petition from Casmir Ekeh and 1 other, on behalf of Onyeaghalanwanneya Youth Movement, Ngor-Okpala Local Government Area, Imo State, on alleged marginalization and denial of Corporate Social Responsibility Rights by the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria and 3 others, was presented and laid by Hon. Matthew Nwogu (*Aboh Mbaise/Ngor Okpalla Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) A petition from Jerry Sonny Ugokwe, on alleged removal of his name from Ambassadorial nominees list by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was presented and laid by Hon. George Ozodinobi (*Njikoka/Dunukofia/Anaocha Federal Constituency*);
- (iii) A petition from Sekegh and Partners (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Tyodaa Juliana Doofan, on her dismissal from the service of the Lower Benue River Development Authority, was presented and laid by Hon. Austin Achado (*Gwer East/Gwer West Federal Constituency*);
- (iv) A petition from F.M.C. Okoh and Associates (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Ogbufor Udoji Godsdan, on alleged abuse of office by officials of the Federal Medical Centre, Asaba, Delta State, was presented and laid by Hon. Mohammed Hussaini Jallo (*Igabi Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

- (i) ***Need for Intervention in the communal crisis and Flooding Disaster in Konshisha Local Government Area, Benue State:***
Hon. David Agada Ogewu (*Oju/Obi Federal Constituency and 2 Others*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
 - (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

Need for Intervention in the communal crisis and Flooding Disaster in Konshisha Local Government Area, Benue State:

The House:

Notes that Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that the security, safety and welfare of the people of Nigeria shall be the primary purpose of government;

Recalls that sometimes in July 2024, a Motion was moved about Ubajor, Ubatwe and Umajabor communities of Konshisha Local Government Area which had been engaged in communal crises, wherein plethora of people were killed and rendered homeless in Okpenihi,

Ogilewu and Imankodi communities of Oju Local Government Area of Benue State, consequent upon land dispute. The crises have displaced most people and properties worth hundreds millions of Naira were destroyed;

Also recalls that on 5 July, 2024, Bonta community of Konshisha Local Government engaged Ukpute community of Oju Local Government Area of Benue State again on same land dispute particularly with disagreement to boundary demarcation that led to the loss of lives and properties, and on 10 July, 2024, another Ukpute man was killed by Bonta Militia while working in his farm, while Banta Militia have unabatedly attacked the people of Ukpute community on several occasions, the age-long crisis is as a result of the inaction of the relevant Federal and State agencies to adopt and enforce the existing boundary demarcation survey/documents with file **No. Otukpo Sheet 270 SE**, as conducted by the Surveyor General of the Federation and domiciled with the Kaduna office of the National Boundary Commission;

Worried that sometimes in August 2024, a truck of fertilizer from Federal Government meant for the people of Oju/Obi Federal Constituency was blocked and ceased by the Bonta Militia; rendering the Oju-Awarji road connecting Konshisha and Oju Local Government Areas of Benue State is at the moment impassable and impervious, due to the garrison of Banta Militia;

Aware that the crises and insecurity bothered on land dispute which has to do with the boundary demarcation and that if the relevant authority concerning boundary demarcation do not take frantic efforts and have these disputed areas; boundary demarcated in line with the existing order and laws, the reoccurring clashes between these communities would continue unabated and lead to further loss of lives and properties;

Further recalls that sometime ago these Bonta Militia killed about 12 soldiers and this needs not to be handled with kid-gloves for the sake of the two affected communities;

Also worried that as a result of the heavy downpour and deluge; Otakini- AINU community of Oju Local Government Area of Benue State is engulfed with a very devastating flood, which washed away farmlands, road and houses. As it stands the road connecting the densely populated people of Otakini, Ekpung, Okoyongo, Achangba of Oju and Obi Local Government Areas of Benue State is impassable and the communities are submerged in the flood; leading to untold loss of lives and properties rendering survivors homeless and in dire need of food and shelters;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of those who lost their lives;
- (ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to assist in providing the people with relief materials to cushion the effect of the crises and flood disaster as many are already dying of starvation;
- (iii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to beef up security in the Local Government Area especially the affected communities and a combine security (Army, Police, DSS, and Civil Defence operation base should be established between the two communities of Oju and Konshisha Local Government Areas of Benue State with constant security patrol around the affected area;
- (iv) further urge the National Boundary Commission in conjunction with the relevant agencies in Benue State to resolve these incessant crises with finality by demarcating the boundary between the two communities of Banta and Ukpute, in line with the

original boundary demarcation/ survey documents domiciled with Kaduna office of the National Boundary Commission as conducted by the Surveyor General of the Federation with file **No. Otukpo Sheet 270 SE**. Federal Government should monitor this process by deploying security personnel to ensure a smooth boundary demarcation exercise and safety of the people (*Hon. David Agada Ogewu — Oju/Obi Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that the security, safety and welfare of the people of Nigeria shall be the primary purpose of government;

Recalled that sometimes in July 2024, a Motion was moved about Ubajor, Ubatwe and Umajobor communities of Konshisha Local Government Area which had been engaged in communal crises, wherein plethora of people were killed and rendered homeless in Okpenehi, Ogilewu and Imankodi communities of Oju Local Government Area of Benue State, consequent upon land dispute. The crises have displaced most people and properties worth hundreds millions of Naira were destroyed;

Also recalled that on 5 July, 2024, Bonta community of Konshisha Local Government engaged Ukpute community of Oju Local Government Area of Benue State again on same land dispute particularly with disagreement to boundary demarcation that led to the loss of lives and properties, and on 10 July, 2024, another Ukpute man was killed by Bonta Militia while working in his farm, while Banta Militia have unabatedly attacked the people of Ukpute community on several occasions, the age-long crisis is as a result of the inaction of the relevant Federal and State agencies to adopt and enforce the existing boundary demarcation survey/documents with file **No. Otukpo Sheet 270 SE**, as conducted by the Surveyor General of the Federation and domiciled with the Kaduna office of the National Boundary Commission;

Worried that sometimes in August 2024, a truck of fertilizer from Federal Government meant for the people of Oju/Obi Federal Constituency was blocked and ceased by the Bonta Militia; rendering the Oju-Awarji road connecting Konshisha and Oju Local Government Areas of Benue State is at the moment impassable and impervious, due to the garrison of Banta Militia;

Aware that the crises and insecurity bothered on land dispute which has to do with the boundary demarcation and that if the relevant authority concerning boundary demarcation do not take frantic efforts and have these disputed areas; boundary demarcated in line with the existing order and laws, the reoccurring clashes between these communities would continue unabated and lead to further loss of lives and properties;

Further recalled that sometime ago these Bonta Militia killed about 12 soldiers and this needs not to be handled with kid-gloves for the sake of the two affected communities;

Also worried that as a result of the heavy downpour and deluge; Otakini- AINU community of Oju Local Government Area of Benue State is engulfed with a very devastating flood, which washed away farmlands, road and houses. As it stands the road connecting the densely populated people of Otakini, Ekpong, Okoyongo, Achangba of Oju and Obi Local Government Areas of Benue State is impassable and the communities are submerged in the

flood; leading to untold loss of lives and properties rendering survivors homeless and in dire need of food and shelters;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of those who lost their lives;
- (ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to assist in providing the people with relief materials to cushion the effect of the crises and flood disaster as many are already dying of starvation;
- (iii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to beef up security in the Local Government Area especially the affected communities and a combine security (Army, Police, DSS, and Civil Defence operation base should be established between the two communities of Oju and Konshisha Local Government Areas of Benue State with constant security patrol around the affected area;
- (iv) further urge the National Boundary Commission in conjunction with the relevant agencies in Benue State to resolve these incessant crises with finality by demarcating the boundary between the two communities of Banta and Ukpute, in line with the original boundary demarcation/ survey documents domiciled with Kaduna office of the National Boundary Commission as conducted by the Surveyor General of the Federation with file **No. Otukpo Sheet 270 SE**. Federal Government should monitor this process by deploying security personnel to ensure a smooth boundary demarcation exercise and safety of the people (**HR. 118/10/2024**).

A minute silenced observed in honour of the deceased.

(ii) Need to Address the Massive Flooding, Destruction of Farmlands, and Damage to Federal Roads, in Benue State:

Hon. Terseer Ugbor (*Kwande/Ushongo Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Need to Address the Massive Flooding, Destruction of Farmlands, and Damage to Federal Roads, in Benue State:

The House:

Notes that the annual incidence of flooding caused by over flowing of the River Benue has led to massive loss of farm lands, displacement of thousands of persons from their homes and submerged major roads within the Benue State has become a national emergency which cannot be ignored any longer;

Also notes that the road linking Gboko-Ugbema-Kwande-Kashimbila-Cameroon is a very important road for regional trade and transit routes that serves as a crucial link between eight Local Governments including Buruku, Kwande, Ushongo, Logo, Katsina-Ala, Ukum,

Vandeikya, Konshisha) of the Benue North Central region. It is not only significant for local trade and transportation, but it also connects the State to neighbouring States like Taraba and Cross River, further extending our reach to international borders with Cameroon;

Concerned that the current state of the Gboko-Ugbema-Kwande road is alarming, conditions on this road have become increasingly perilous, transforming it into a death trap for motorists and travellers and the dilapidated road has resulted in frequent armed robbery attacks on innocent travellers and extended travel times, with motorists spending up to a week navigating these treacherous conditions just to reach their destinations, making the situation unbearable and demanding immediate attention;

Worried that the implications extend beyond mere inconvenience, while the ongoing deterioration of the road has severely impacted the livelihood of farmers who rely on the route to transport their perishable goods to markets, many facing devastating losses, as their harvests perish while they attempt to navigate this unsafe passage, and the loss of lives and goods due to the flooding and infrastructural neglect is a tragic reality that can no longer be ignored;

Observes that the road in context was earmarked for rehabilitation in the Supplementary Budget of the Federal Government of Nigeria, allocated to the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), but has been unfortunately abandoned, with no potential or visible attempt that the road would be rehabilitated before the festive season;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to immediately commence repairs on the failed portion of the road to ease movement during the festive season;
- (ii) invite the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to explain the contract award for the road, including other ongoing rehabilitation projects nationwide to ease movement before the high traffic festive season;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Works, and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Terseer Ugbor — Kwande/Ushongo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 119/10/2024).

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

7. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skills Acquisition, Hawul Local Government Area, Borno State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1797).
- (2) Federal College of Fisheries and Agriculture (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1798).
- (3) Anti-Gas Flaring (Prohibition and Enforcement) Bill, 2024 (HB.1819).
- (4) Armed Forces Farms and Ranches Scheme (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1820).

- (5) Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skill Acquisition, Maiduguri, Borno State (Establishment) Bill, 2024(HB.1821).
- (6) National Institute for Hepatitis Research and Treatment, Kachia, Kaduna State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1822).
- (7) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1700).
- (8) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1701).
- (9) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1702).
- (10) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1703).
- (11) Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1640).
- (12) Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1647).
- (13) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1649).
- (14) Compulsory Treatment and Care for Victims of Gunshots Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1711).
- (15) Acts Authentication Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1712).
- (16) National Human Rights Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1715).
- (17) Nigeria Police Force College, Training School and Institution (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1794).
- (18) Armed Forces Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1719).
- (19) Federal College of Agriculture and Technology, Oke-Ogun, Oyo State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1831).
- (20) Federal Capital Territory Directorate of Road Traffic and Motor Vehicle Administration Service Bill, 2024 (HB.1832).

8. A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) to Create a new State in the South-South Region of Nigeria known as Ogoja State and for Related Matters (HB.1555) — *Second Reading*

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) to Create a new State in the South-South Region of Nigeria known as Ogoja State and for Related Matters (HB.1555) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Godwin Offiong — Ogoja/Yala Federal Constituency and 3 others*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Constitution Review.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Establish National Institute for Organic Agriculture and Food Safety Research Ulonna North, Isuikwuato, Abia State and for Related Matters (HB. 1380) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish National Institute for Organic Agriculture and Food Safety Research Ulonna North, Isuikwuato, Abia State and for Related Matters (HB. 1380) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Amobi Godwin Ogah — Isuikwuato/Umuneochi Federal Constituency and 3 others*).

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.

10. **A Bill for an Act to make Mandatory Procurement (First Option) of Locally made Products, Goods and Services by Government, Ministries, Departments and Agencies, make it Mandatory for Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies to give priority to Local Manufacturers and Indigenous Companies in the Procurement of Goods, Works and Services , Prohibit the exclusion of Locally produced good in the Procurement process, Repeal the Local Content Act of 2010 and Enact a Bill to make it mandatory for Ministries, Departments and Agencies to give priority to Local Manufacturer and Indigenous Companies in the Procurement of Goods and Services and Prohibit the Exclusion of Locally Produced Goods in the Procurement Process and for Related Matters (HB. 85, HB. 1007 and HB. 1330) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to make Mandatory Procurement (First Option) of Locally made Products, Goods and Services by Government, Ministries, Departments and Agencies, make it Mandatory for Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies to give priority to Local Manufacturers and Indigenous Companies in the Procurement of Goods, Works and Services , Prohibit the exclusion of Locally produced good in the Procurement process, Repeal the Local Content Act of 2010 and Enact a Bill to make it mandatory for Ministries, Departments and Agencies to give priority to Local Manufacturer and Indigenous Companies in the Procurement of Goods and Services and Prohibit the Exclusion of Locally Produced Goods in the Procurement Process and for Related Matters (HB. 85, HB. 1007 and HB. 1330) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Obinna Aguocha — Ikwuano/Umuahia North/Umuahia South Federal Constituency and 2 Others*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Jury Trial and Services for special Crimes, Corruption and other Offences and the Administration of Jury Trials Criminal Justice in the Federal High Court and FCT High Court Division and for Related Matters (HB. 293) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

12. **Matter Requiring Attention of the House**

Hon. Isa Bello Ambarura (*Illela/Gwadabawa Federal Constituency*), drew the attention of the House to a motion presented by Hon. Chinedu Emeka Martins, on Wednesday, 16 October, 2024, “*Call on Airline Operators to Compensate Passengers for Flight Cancellations and Delays*”. He recalled

that Hon. Kelechi Nwogu had raised a point of Order, stating that he had presented a motion on the same subject matter, and that the House had referred the matter to a Standing Committee. He also recalled that Mr Speaker had ordered that Hon. Chinedu Emeka Martins' motion be stepped down to enable the Committee on Rules and Business ascertain the veracity or otherwise.

He informed the House that the Committee on Rules and Business confirmed that Hon. Kelechi Nwogu's motion was presented on 25 October, 2023, and that by virtue of effluxion of time, Hon. Chinedu Emeka Martins' motion can be resumed.

Ordered: *Hon. Kelechi Nwogu's motion is not caught up by effluxion of time and as such, Hon. Chinedu Emeka Martins' motion be withdrawn.*

13. Outstanding Bill from Preceding Assembly

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Constitution Alteration Bill, 2024 (HB. 1630), seeks to alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) to provide for independent candidacy;

Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) (Independent Candidates) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1630)

Also notes that the Bill was duly passed by the preceding Assembly but was not assented to;

Aware that Order Twelve, Rule 17 of the House of Representatives Standing Orders permits the reconsideration of outstanding Bills from the Preceding Assembly and provides that:

- (a) the Bill may upon being re-gazetted and circulated, reconsider in the Committee of the Whole, without commencing *de novo*, the Bills,
- (b) whose report was presented by the Committee before consideration,
- (c) passed by the House and forwarded to the Senate for concurrence, for which no concurrence was made or negative,
- (d) passed by the Senate and forwarded to the House for which no concurrence was made or negative, or
- (e) passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent, but for which assent or withholding thereof was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the preceding Assembly;

Also aware that Order One, Rule 1 (2) empowers the House to regulate its procedure by resolution in circumstances not expressly covered;

Cognizant of the importance and constitutional implications of the Bill, and based on the combined effect of Order Twelve, Rule 17 and Order One, Rule 1 (2), recommit Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) (Independent Candidates) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1630) to the Committee on Constitution Review;

Resolves to:

Recommit the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1630) to the Committee on Constitution Review for comprehensive consideration (*Hon. Isa Bello Ambarura — Illela/Gwadabawa Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

14. Need to Construct Embankment Around Askunne Bridge, Talata Mafara, Zamfara State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Askunne Bridge is an important transportation link in Talata Mafara Local Government Area of Zamfara State connecting communities and facilitating economic activities in neighboring states of Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Sokoto, Kebbi, etc.;

Also notes that the bridge consistently experiences flooding during rainy seasons, disrupting traffic and posing safety risks to commuters with the most recent flooding occurring during this year's rainy season;

Aware of the need to rehabilitate the road top surface of the bridge and its environs in order to make it smooth, safe and conducive for the road users;

Also aware that the construction of an embankment and ecological safeguards will help control water flow, prevent bridge submersion during heavy rains, and improve infrastructure and connectivity in Talata Mafara, supporting economic and social development in the region;

Cognizant of the need to construct an embankment on the Askunne bridge to prevent further flooding and collapse, ensure the safety of the bridge and the lives of commuters, while also implementing ecological safeguards.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Ecological Fund Office to conduct a "Needs Assessment" of the affected bridge to ensure its safety from further flooding and potential collapse;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to conduct a "Needs Assessment" of the top surface of the bridge and its environs to ascertain its repair status and take necessary steps to rehabilitate the bridge; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Ecological Fund and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to ensure proper oversight and follow-up with the Ecological Office of the Federation and FERMA and report within four (4) for further legislative action;
- (iv) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Isa Mohammed Anka — Anka/Talata Marafa Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 120/10/2024).

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

15. Need to Review Budgetary Allocation of the Bureau of Public Procurement

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the need for the attainment of transparency, competitiveness, cost effectiveness, value-for-money and professionalism in the public sector procurement system;

Also notes that the Public Procurement Act, 2007, established the Bureau of Public Procurement as the regulatory authority responsible for the monitoring and oversight of public procurement, harmonizing the existing government policies and practices by regulating, setting standards and developing the legal framework and professional capacity for public procurement in Nigeria;

Further notes that the Bureau is empowered to, among other things, oversight over 800 Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), to ensure the implementation of established procurement policies, and due process compliance;

Recognizes the needs to ensure monitoring and surveillance of Federal Government Procurement Procedures and ongoing projects across the six geopolitical zones;

Aware that the budgetary allocation for the Bureau in the Appropriation Act, 2024 is ₦2,200,000,000.00 (two billion, two hundred million naira) only;

Concerned that the existing funds provided for the Bureau is grossly inadequate to meet the extensive responsibilities of the procurement audits, monitoring and surveillance in the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in the six geopolitical zones of the nation;

Also concerned that given the prevailing trend of procurement irregularities in Nigeria, constituting over 70% of corruption in the public sector, there is an increasing need to ensure the implementation of procurement policies, and due process compliance, in line with global best practices;

Cognizant that the increasing rate of procurement irregularities in the public sector necessitate urgent measures for effective oversight to ensure value-for-money, transparency, competitiveness and professionalism;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government through the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning to review the budgetary allocation of the Bureau of Public Procurement in line with current realities in subsequent budget estimates to enable successful discharge of the Bureau's core mandate;
- (ii) also urge the Bureau of Public Procurement to collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Civil Society Organizations and the National Assembly to enhance the provision of a legal and institutional framework and professional capacity for public procurement in Nigeria for the holistic development of our beloved country;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Public Procurement and Appropriations, to follow-up and ensure upward review of the Bureau's budgetary allocation in subsequent budget estimates; and
- (iv) also mandate the Committee on Public Procurement to conduct a thorough oversight and recommend appropriate measures that will enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Bureau and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Unyime Idem Josiah — Ukanafun/Oruk Anam Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

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

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayer (iii), immediately after the word “Appropriations”, *insert* the words “National

Planning and Economic Development“ (Hon. Clement Jimbo — Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the need for the attainment of transparency, competitiveness, cost effectiveness, value-for-money and professionalism in the public sector procurement system;

Also noted that the Public Procurement Act, 2007, established the Bureau of Public Procurement as the regulatory authority responsible for the monitoring and oversight of public procurement, harmonizing the existing government policies and practices by regulating, setting standards and developing the legal framework and professional capacity for public procurement in Nigeria;

Further noted that the Bureau is empowered to, among other things, oversight over 800 Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), to ensure the implementation of established procurement policies, and due process compliance;

Recognized the needs to ensure monitoring and surveillance of Federal Government Procurement Procedures and ongoing projects across the six geopolitical zones;

Aware that the budgetary allocation for the Bureau in the Appropriation Act, 2024 is ₦2,200,000,000.00 (two billion, two hundred million naira) only;

Concerned that the existing funds provided for the Bureau is grossly inadequate to meet the extensive responsibilities of the procurement audits, monitoring and surveillance in the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in the six geopolitical zones of the nation;

Also concerned that given the prevailing trend of procurement irregularities in Nigeria, constituting over 70% of corruption in the public sector, there is an increasing need to ensure the implementation of procurement policies, and due process compliance, in line with global best practices;

Cognizant that the increasing rate of procurement irregularities in the public sector necessitate urgent measures for effective oversight to ensure value-for-money, transparency, competitiveness and professionalism;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government through the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning to review the budgetary allocation of the Bureau of Public Procurement in line with current realities in subsequent budget estimates to enable successful discharge of the Bureau's core mandate;
- (ii) also urge the Bureau of Public Procurement to collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Civil Society Organizations and the National Assembly to enhance the provision of a legal and institutional framework and professional capacity for public procurement in Nigeria for the holistic development of our beloved country;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Public Procurement, Appropriations, National Planning and Economic Development to follow-up and ensure upward review of the Bureau's budgetary allocation in subsequent budget estimates (**HR. 121/10/2024**).

16. Devastating Flood Menace and Resultant Gully Erosion in Isu, Njaba, Nkwerre, Nwangele Local Government Areas, Imo State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the negative impacts of flooding and gully erosion in Ubah-Isunjaba, Uburu Ekwe, Umunam, Amaju-Amaigbo, Amucha, Okwudor, Umuoze, Umuokwara-Ihebinowerre, Umuezikeukwu and other locations in Isu, Njaba, Nkwerre, Nwangele Local Government Areas, Imo State;

Aware that erosion has led to the loss of fertile top soil, affecting farmers' livelihoods and resulting in decreased agricultural productivity;

Worried that the devastating effect of the gully erosion has caused property destruction and compounded the integrity of substructure building, causing residents to evacuate without shelter due to fear of collapse, hence the need for temporary shelters and relief materials;

Also worried that the deteriorating condition of the roads poses severe safety and security risks to commuters often resulting in fatal accidents and increased cases of kidnapping;

Concerned that if remedial action is not taken during this rainy it will may lead to heavy landslide with severe health issues, loss of human lives and negative impact on agricultural productivity;

Convinced that if the menace of this gully erosion is controlled, it shall bring succour and relief to the people of Isu, Njaba, Nkwerre, Nwangele Local Government Areas, especially families and Communities directly affected by this gully erosion;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Ecological Funds office and Federal Ministry of Environment to immediately commence remedial work of erosion control and land reclamation in Ubah-Isunjaba, Uburu Ekwe, Okwudor, Umuokwara-Ihebinowerre, Umunam, Amaju-Amaigbo, Amucha, Umuezikeukwu, Umuoze and other locations in Isu, Njaba, Nkwerre, Nwangele Local Government Areas, Imo State;
- (ii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide immediate relief materials to ameliorate the sufferings of the affected people;
- (iii) further urge the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to capture the repair and reconstruction of failed roads in the 2025 budget estimates; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Environment, Ecological Funds and Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Harrison Anozie Nwadike — Isu/Njaba/Nkwerre/Nwangele Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 122/10/2024).

Motion referred to the Committees on Environment, Ecological Funds and Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 10 (5).

17. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 22 October, 2024 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.35 p.m.

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker

CORRIGENDUM

In the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 28 November, 2023, page 1477, **after item 17**, insert a **new item 18** as follows:

“18. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Births, Deaths, etc. (Compulsory Registration) Act and for Related Matters (HB. 372) — *Second Reading*

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Births, Deaths, etc. (Compulsory Registration) Act and for Related Matters (HB. 372) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Austin Asema Achado — Gwer East/Gwer West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Populations.

An renumber accordingly.”

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker