



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 19 October, 2023

-
1. The House met at 11.13 a.m. Mr Deputy Speaker read the Prayers.
 2. The House recited the National Pledge.
 3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Wednesday, 18 October, 2023.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Petitions**
 - (i) A petition from Bisi Adedayo and Associates (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Yisa Sunday Gana, on the termination of his appointment by the Management of Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company (IBEDC), was presented and laid by Hon. Julius Ihonvbere (*Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*).
 - (ii) A petition from Fortune Okwakwom-Amadi, on his non-enrollment in the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) by the Management of Alex-Ekwueme Federal University, Udufu-Alik, Ikwo, Ebonyi State, was presented and laid by Hon. Kingsley Chinda (*Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*);
 - (iii) A petition from Bricks & Venibra Attorneys (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Mountains and Valleys Construction Limited, on the non-payment of contract sum awarded to the company by the Hydroelectric Power Producing Area Development Commission (HYPPADEC), was presented and laid by Hon. Uduak Alphonson Odudoh (*Ikot Abasi/Mkpat Enin/Eastern Obolo Federal Constituency*).
 - (iv) A petition from Ngene-Dim Chambers (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Samuel Anikpe on alleged threat to life by Mr Chibuzor Okeke, was presented and laid by Hon. Okonkwo Uchenna Harris (*Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*);

- (v) A petition from Global Integrity Crusader Network, on alleged gross abuse of office and failure to declare asset by Hauwa Asabe Mohammed, a Director at Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA), was presented and laid by Hon. Matthew Nwogu (*Aboh Mbaise/Ngor Okpala Federal Constituency*).
- (vi) A petition from Klyshier Global Services Limited, on behalf of Emenike Orji, on alleged violation of his fundamental human rights, and refusal to pay judgment sum of Seven Million naira (₦7,000,000.00) in Suit No. PHC/2878/2018 by Total Energies Exploration and Production Nigeria Limited, was presented and laid by Hon. Victor Obuzor Chukwumele (*Ahoada West/Ogba Egbeni Ndoni Federal Constituency*);
- (vii) A petition from Loggiano (Nigeria) Limited, on alleged violation of the Public Procurement Act by the Management of Port Harcourt Polytechnic, Rumuola, Rivers State, was presented and laid by Hon. Esset Mark Udo (*Uyo/Uruan/Nsit Atai/Asutan/Ibesikpo Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)

- (i) ***Transformer Explosion at Kabong Community in Jos North Local Government Area, Plateau State:***
Hon. Avia Musa Agah (*Bassa/Jos North 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 4 (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 4 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Transformer Explosion at Kabong Community in Jos North Local Government Area, Plateau State:

The House:

Notes with utmost sadness and concern, the unfortunate incident of transformer explosion which occurred on Saturday, 14 October, 2023, at Kabong community in the early hours of;

Also notes that as a result of the incident, no fewer than seven people dead with several others injured and presently receiving treatment at Our Lady of Apostles Hospital (OLA) and Jos University teaching Hospital (JUTH) respectively;

Concerned that the explosion caused properties worth Millions of Naira to be completely destroyed;

Worried that the community which is densely populated, is situated in the Jos North West axis with an estimated population of over twenty thousand residents (20,000) who are mostly traders and Civil Servants whose means of livelihood are dependent on their day to day runnings are being subjected to an unprecedented level of untold hardships and trauma;

Also concerned that an early preliminary investigation was carried out and revealed that the accident was as a result of a high tension line snap onto the low-tension lines which later

resulted in a high voltage supply exceeding the normal limits;

Also worried that the way and manner in which the Jos Electricity Distribution Company (JEDC) handles the distribution and maintenance of electricity in the communities ranging from low and epileptic power supply, occasional high voltage, and late hours power supply deprived users the right and opportunity to carry out commercial activities at the appropriate time calls for concern;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased persons;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation; and National Emergency Management Agency to provide relief materials to the affected Community;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Power to, as a matter of urgency, carry out investigation with a view to ascertaining the remote and immediate cause(s) of the incident and carry out an inventory of both the residential and commercial Houses affected with a view to adequately compensate the victims by Jos Electricity Distribution Company (JEDC) (*Hon. Avia Musa Agah — Bassa/Jos North Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with utmost sadness and concern, the unfortunate incident of transformer explosion which occurred on Saturday, 14 October, 2023, at Kabong community in the early hours of;

Also noted that as a result of the incident, no fewer than seven people dead with several others injured and presently receiving treatment at Our Lady of Apostles Hospital (OLA) and Jos University teaching Hospital (JUTH) respectively;

Concerned that the explosion caused properties worth Millions of Naira to be completely destroyed;

Worried that the community which is densely populated, is situated in the Jos North West axis with an estimated population of over twenty thousand residents (20,000) who are mostly traders and Civil Servants whose means of livelihood are dependent on their day to day runnings are being subjected to an unprecedented level of untold hardships and trauma;

Also concerned that an early preliminary investigation was carried out and revealed that the accident was as a result of a high tension line snap onto the low-tension lines which later resulted in a high voltage supply exceeding the normal limits;

Also worried that the way and manner in which the Jos Electricity Distribution Company (JEDC) handles the distribution and maintenance of electricity in the communities ranging from low and epileptic power supply, occasional high voltage, and late hours power supply deprived users the right and opportunity to carry out commercial activities at the appropriate time calls for concern;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased persons;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation; and National Emergency Management Agency to provide relief materials to the affected Community;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Power to, as a matter of urgency, carry out investigation with a view to ascertaining the remote and immediate cause(s) of the incident and carry out an inventory of both the residential and commercial Houses affected with a view to adequately compensate the victims by Jos Electricity Distribution Company (JEDC) (**HR. 264/10/2023**).

A minute silence observed in honour of the deceased.

(ii) *Perennial Flood Disaster in Oyigbo West in Oyigbo Local Government Area of Rivers State and to Forestall Future Occurrence:*

Hon. Felix Uche Nwaeke (Eleme/Tai/Oyigbo 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 4 (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 4 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Perennial Flood Disaster in Oyigbo West in Oyigbo Local Government Area of Rivers State and to Forestall Future Occurrence:

The House:

Observes that there has been perennial flooding in Oyigbo West in Oyigbo Local Government Area of Rivers State due to overflowing of the Imo River;

Notes that the flood occurred in 2021, 2022 and has been recurring since June 2023, submerged low houses in the entire area with mud houses in this rural area totally swept off;

Also notes that the flood has destroyed farmlands, property, businesses, livestock and the general livelihood of residents of the entire Oyigbo West, a community lying not too far from the banks of the Imo River in Oyigbo Local Government Area of Rivers State;

Worried that if nothing is done to aid the residents of Oyigbo West; the People will suffer severe hardship;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Environment to come up with measures to address the cause of the flooding which is the yearly overflowing of the Imo River;
- (ii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to conduct an assessment of the level of the flood disaster, the number of persons affected and the needs of the people affected by the flood in Oyigbo West in Oyigbo Local Government Area of Rivers State;

- (iii) further urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials for residents of Oyigbo West in Oyigbo Local Government Area of Rivers State (*Hon. Felix Uche Nwaeke — Eleme/Tai/Oyigbo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Observed that there has been perennial flooding in Oyigbo West in Oyigbo Local Government Area of Rivers State due to overflowing of the Imo River;

Noted that the flood occurred in 2021, 2022 and has been recurring since June 2023, submerged low houses in the entire area with mud houses in this rural area totally swept off;

Also noted that the flood has destroyed farmlands, property, businesses, livestock and the general livelihood of residents of the entire Oyigbo West, a community lying not too far from the banks of the Imo River in Oyigbo Local Government Area of Rivers State;

Worried that if nothing is done to aid the residents of Oyigbo West; the People will suffer severe hardship;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Environment to come up with measures to address the cause of the flooding which is the yearly overflowing of the Imo River;
- (ii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to conduct an assessment of the level of the flood disaster, the number of persons affected and the needs of the people affected by the flood in Oyigbo West in Oyigbo Local Government Area of Rivers State;
- (iii) further urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials for residents of Oyigbo West in Oyigbo Local Government Area of Rivers State (**HR. 265/10/2023**).

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (4) to enable it take more than 2 matters of urgent public importance” (*Hon. Patrick Umoh — Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

- (iii) ***Need for the Federal Government to Appoint New Justices to the Supreme Court to Ensure Expeditious and Effective Justice Delivery in the Country:***

Hon. Patrick Umoh (*Ikot Ekpene/Essein Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
- (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (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 4 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Need for the Federal Government to Appoint New Justices to the Supreme Court to Ensure Expeditious and Effective Justice Delivery in the Country:

The House:

Notes that the Supreme Court of Nigeria is the apex court in the country with the jurisdiction to hear and determine causes and matters across the length and breadth of Nigeria;

Also notes that the current number of justices of the apex court has dropped to all-time low of 11 Justices, making it 10 Justices short of its full complement of 21 Justices, as stipulated by the Constitution;

Further notes that this is post-election season where the court has to hear and determine electoral matters from different part of the country within a short period of time as mandated by the Constitution;

Cognizant that the Supreme Court's docket is full for the year 2023 as parties cannot have hearing date for matters filed within the year, except in election petitions, owing to a considerable volume of matters pending before the court;

Worried that the non-appointment of new Justices to the Supreme Court has stalled expeditious, effective and efficient justice delivery; impeded transactions and economic development; limited citizen's access to justice; put the current Justices of the court under immense mental and physical pressure; and has affected the policy-making function of the court;

Commends the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for his promise to promote the rule of law and support the Judiciary, and his signing into the law the constitutional alteration unifying the retirement age and pension benefits of the judicial officers;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to appoint 9 new Justices to the Supreme Court in order to expedite the hearing and determination of matters for effective and efficient justice delivery in Nigeria;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Federal Judiciary to ensure compliance (*Hon. Patrick Umoh —Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Supreme Court of Nigeria is the apex court in the country with the jurisdiction to hear and determine causes and matters across the length and breadth of Nigeria;

Also noted that the current number of justices of the apex court has dropped to all-time low of 11 Justices, making it 10 Justices short of its full complement of 21 Justices, as stipulated by the Constitution;

Further noted that this is post-election season where the court has to hear and determine

electoral matters from different part of the country within a short period of time as mandated by the Constitution;

Cognizant that the Supreme Court's docket is full for the year 2023 as parties cannot have hearing date for matters filed within the year, except in election petitions, owing to a considerable volume of matters pending before the court;

Worried that the non-appointment of new Justices to the Supreme Court has stalled expeditious, effective and efficient justice delivery; impeded transactions and economic development; limited citizen's access to justice; put the current Justices of the court under immense mental and physical pressure; and has affected the policy-making function of the court;

Commended the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for his promise to promote the rule of law and support the Judiciary, and his signing into the law the constitutional alteration unifying the retirement age and pension benefits of the judicial officers;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to appoint 9 new Justices to the Supreme Court in order to expedite the hearing and determination of matters for effective and efficient justice delivery in Nigeria;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Federal Judiciary to ensure compliance (**HR. 266/10/2023**).

6. Personal Explanation (Order Eight, Rule 5)

Hon. Adedayo Adesola Samuel (*Apapa Federal Constituency*) expressed gratitude to the Rt. Hon. Speaker for his timely intervention in facilitating the issuance of passports and evacuation to safety of Nigerian students stranded in war-thorn Ukraine. He extolled the magnanimity of the Speaker and other Government Officials for their prompt response in resolving the matter.

Mr Deputy Speaker noted the matter and appreciated Hon. Adedayo Adesola Samuel for the gesture.

7. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.658).
- (2) Companies and Allied Matters Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.659).
- (3) Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.660).
- (4) Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.661).
- (5) Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention etc) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.662).
- (6) Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.663).
- (7) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 664).
- (8) Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skill Acquisition, Ogidi, Anambra State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.665).
- (9) Certified Pension Institute of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.666).

- (10) Nigerian Coal Corporation Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2023 (HB.667).
- (11) Erosion Control Prevention Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.668).
- (12) Federal University of Agriculture, Ugbawka (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.669).
- (13) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.670).
- (14) Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Obuoffia Enugu State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.671).
- (15) Akanu Ibiam Federal University of Science and Technology, Unwana, Ebonyi State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.672).
- (16) National Polytechnics Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.673).
- (17) National Oil Spill Detection Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.674).
- (18) Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2023 (HB.675).
- (19) Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skill Acquisition, Awka, Anambra State (HB.676).
- (20) National Institute of Technical and Vocational Education, Kano Municipal, Kano State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.677).
- (21) Federal School of Statistics, Manchok (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.678).
- (22) National Communications Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.679).
- (23) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.680).
- (24) Federal Teaching Hospital Birnin-Kebbi (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.681).
- (25) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 Act (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (HB.682).
- (26) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 Act (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (HB.683).
- (27) Public Health Practitioners Council (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.684).
- (28) Nigerian Citizens Moral Accountability Bill, 2023 (HB.685).
- (29) Nigeria Correctional Service Trust Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.686).
- (30) National Youth Service Corps Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.687).
- (31) University of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.688).
- (32) Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.689).
- (33) Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.690).
- (34) Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council Act (Amendment) Bill 2023 (HB.691).
- (35) National Institute of Nigerian Languages Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2023 (HB.692).

- (36) Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.693).
- (37) Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians (Registration, etc.) Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2023 (HB.694).
- (38) Landscape Architects (Registration, etc) Bill, 2023 (HB.695).
- (39) Institute of Landscape Architects of Nigeria (Establishment, etc) Bill, 2023 (HB.696).
- (40) National Research and Innovation Council (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.697).
- (41) Office of Budget Management of the Federation (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 698).
- (42) Armed Forces Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.699).
- (43) Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.700).
- (44) Occupational and Health Safety Bill, 2023 (HB. 701).
- (45) Federal Universities of Technology Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 HB.702).
- (46) Armed Forces Support Trust Fund Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 703).
- (47) Broadcasting Practitioners Act (Amendment) 2023 (HB.704).
- (48) Federal University of Solid Mineral Development, Michika (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.705).
- (49) Federal College of Medical Laboratory Technology, Michika (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.706).
- (50) Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment), Bill, 2023 (HB.707).
- (51) Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Madagali, (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.708).
- (52) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.709).

8. Presentation of Reports

- (i) ***Ad-hoc Committee on Internal Security of the National Assembly:***
Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on Internal Security of the National Assembly” (Hon. Mohammed Danjuma Hassan — Dawakin-Kudu/Warawa Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

- (ii) ***Ad-hoc Committee on Media and Public Affairs:***
Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on Media and Public Affairs of the Tenth House of Representatives” (Hon. Khadija Bukar Ibrahim — Damaturu/Gujba/Gulanu/Tarmuwa Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

- (iii) ***Ad-hoc Committee on the Need to investigate the alleged Manipulation of UTME Result: Motion made and Question proposed***, “That the House do receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Need to Investigate the alleged Manipulation of UTME Result by Miss Ejikeme Joy Mmesoma” (*Hon. Sada Soli — Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

- (iv) ***Ad-hoc Committee on the Need to Investigate Crude Oil Theft and Loss of Revenue Accrued from the Oil and Gas Sector: Motion made and Question proposed***, “That the House do receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Need to Investigate Crude Oil Theft and Loss of Revenue Accrued from the Oil and Gas Sector in Nigeria” (*Hon. Kabiru Alhassan Usman Rurum — Rano/Bunkure/Kibiya Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Chartered Institute of Agribusiness Management of Nigeria to promote the practice and professionalism of Agribusiness in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.138) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Chartered Institute of Agribusiness Management of Nigeria to promote the practice and professionalism of Agribusiness in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.138) 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 Chartered Institute of Digital Forensics of Nigeria to Regulate the Practice, including Qualification, Training, and Skill-Set of Digital Forensics among its Members, and to Determine the Standards of Knowledge and Skills to be Attained by Persons Seeking to become Registered Members of the Profession and for Related Matters (HB.140) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Chartered Institute of Digital Forensics of Nigeria to Regulate the Practice, including Qualification, Training, and Skill-Set of Digital Forensics among its Members, and to Determine the Standards of Knowledge and Skills to be Attained by Persons Seeking to become Registered Members of the Profession and for Related Matters (HB.140) 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 Establish Federal Capital Territory Education Resources Centre charged with the Responsibility to, among other things, Plan and Implement Curriculum measures and Evaluate Students and other Applicants for placement into Schools under the Administration of the Federal Capital Territory and for Related Matters (HB. 10) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal Capital Territory Education Resources Centre charged with the Responsibility to, among other things, Plan and Implement Curriculum measures and Evaluate Students and other Applicants for placement into Schools under the Administration of the Federal Capital Territory and for Related Matters (HB. 10) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Nkemkanma Kama — Ivo/Ohaozara/Onicha Federal Constituency and*

Six 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 Federal Capital Territory.

- 12. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Hydroelectric Power Producing Areas Development Commission Act, 2010 to include Gombe State as a State where Hydroelectric power is Generated and for Related Matters (HB. 100) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

- 13. A Bill for an Act to provide for Establishment of the Nigerian Authors Trust Fund to provide Financial Aid to Authors and Aspiring Authors in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 14) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to provide for Establishment of the Nigerian Authors Trust Fund to provide Financial Aid to Authors and Aspiring Authors in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 14) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Pascal Agbodike — Ihiala 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 Information, National Orientation, Ethics and Values.

- 14. Reconsideration of Outstanding Bills from Preceding Assembly**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

*Notes that pursuant to Order Twelve, Rule 16 of the Standing Orders of the House, Bills passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the Senate for concurrence for which no concurrence was made or negatived or passed by the Senate and forwarded to the House for which no concurrence was made or negatived or which were passed by the National 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 Assembly, the House may resolve that such Bill, upon being re-gazetted or clean copies circulated, be re-considered in the Committee of the Whole without being commenced *de-novo*;*

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

- (i) Food Vendors (Registration) Council of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 326),*
- (ii) Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians Councils of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 345),*
- (iii) Federal Colleges of Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 494),*

- (iv) Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 171),
- (v) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 478),
- (vi) Chartered Institute of Cooperatives Professionals of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 603),
- (vii) Nigerian Council of Psychologists (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 610), and
- (viii) Institute of Economists of Nigeria, Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 224);

Aware that the Bills were read for the first time as HB. 326, HB. 345, HB. 494, HB. 171, HB. 478, HB. 603, HB. 610 and HB. 224 respectively;

Resolves to:

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

Agreed to.

15. Non-Implementation of the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF)

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF) was established in the National Health Act to extend Primary Health Care (PHC) to all Nigerians by substantially increasing the level of financial resources to PHC services;

Also notes that the BHCPF is funded from the Federal Government's Consolidated Revenue Fund and supplemented by grants from local and international donors, partners, the private sector, philanthropic organisations, and funds generated from innovative sources such as taxes on cigarettes and alcohol;

Further notes that the Act provides that Half of the Fund will be used to provide a basic package of services in PHC facilities through the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) while 45% will be disbursed by the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) for essential drugs, maintaining PHC facilities, equipment and transportation, and strengthening human resource capacity; and the final 5% will be used by the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) to respond to health emergencies and epidemics.

Aware that since the establishment of the National Health Act in 2014, only about ₦128 billion has been released from the Federation Account;

Concerned that disbursement of the fund to States was withheld because most of them failed to contribute the 25% counterpart funding towards Primary Health Care (PHC) projects, which is the criteria that makes them eligible for fund donations, neither did they give a proper account of the funds released to them;

Also concerned that the disbursement of the fund to the three tiers of government has been fraught with irregularities, including delayed transfer of funds, poor data management, corruption and the lack of preparedness of Local Government Health Authorities to manage the Fund.

Cognizant that the fund is structured in such a way that, if properly implemented, it would take a lot of stress out of healthcare endeavours in the country;

Also cognizant of the need to commence full implementation of the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF) and devise strategies to ensure accountability between the stakeholders at different levels of government;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health to commence full implementation of the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF) and ensure that all the stakeholders play their respective roles to ensure a successful disbursement and utilisation of the funds;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to investigate the hindrances to full implementation of the Fund since inception to ensure that all bottlenecks to its successful implementation are effectively tackled, and report within six (6) weeks (*Hon. Okojie Henry Odianosen — Esan North East/Esan South East Federal Constituency and one Other*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:

“mandate the Committees on Appropriations, and Finance to ascertain the status of the released funds amounting to ₦128 billion” (*Hon. Isa Mohammed Anka — Anka/Talata Mafara Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF) was established in the National Health Act to extend Primary Health Care (PHC) to all Nigerians by substantially increasing the level of financial resources to PHC services;

Also noted that the BHCPF is funded from the Federal Government's Consolidated Revenue Fund and supplemented by grants from local and international donors, partners, the private sector, philanthropic organisations, and funds generated from innovative sources such as taxes on cigarettes and alcohol;

Further noted that the Act provides that Half of the Fund will be used to provide a basic package of services in PHC facilities through the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) while 45% will be disbursed by the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) for essential drugs, maintaining PHC facilities, equipment and transportation, and strengthening human resource capacity; and the final 5% will be used by the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) to respond to health emergencies and epidemics.

Aware that since the establishment of the National Health Act in 2014, only about ₦128 billion has been released from the Federation Account;

Concerned that disbursement of the fund to States was withheld because most of them failed to contribute the 25% counterpart funding towards Primary Health Care (PHC) projects, which is the criteria that makes them eligible for fund donations, neither did they give a proper account of the funds released to them;

Also concerned that the disbursement of the fund to the three tiers of government has been fraught with irregularities, including delayed transfer of funds, poor data management, corruption and the

lack of preparedness of Local Government Health Authorities to manage the Fund.

Cognizant that the fund is structured in such a way that, if properly implemented, it would take a lot of stress out of healthcare endeavours in the country;

Also cognizant of the need to commence full implementation of the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF) and devise strategies to ensure accountability between the stakeholders at different levels of government;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health to commence full implementation of the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF) and ensure that all the stakeholders play their respective roles to ensure a successful disbursement and utilisation of the funds;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to investigate the hindrances to full implementation of the Fund since inception to ensure that all bottlenecks to its successful implementation are effectively tackled, and report within six (6) weeks; and
- (iii) also mandate the Committees on Appropriations, and Finance to ascertain the status of the released funds amounting to ₦128 billion (**HR. 267/10/2023**).

16. Need to Establish Military Formation in Illela and Gbadabawa Local Government Areas, Sokoto State

Motion made and Question proposed:

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;

Also notes the incessant security breaches in Sokoto East and Sokoto State where lives and property of the citizens are lost due to the destructive activities of armed bandits in Illela and Gwadabawa Local Government Areas;

Further notes that the incessant attacks in the North East Zone of Sokoto State have brought untold hardships to the people, resulting in the death tolls of thousands, rendering children orphans, and destroying houses worth millions of Naira.

Aware that most of the security men deployed to maintain peace and order in Sokoto State live in Sokoto town, thereby making it difficult for the security personnel to respond to distress calls when bandits attack Illela/Gwadabawa Federal Constituency;

Also aware that Illela Local Government Area, Sokoto State, is a border town with an international market where people from Mali, Niger, and the Benin Republic, as well as many other West African Countries, transact their business;

Cognizant of the need to establish a military formation or unit in Illela and Gwadabawa Local Government Areas to provide a security check on the influx of illegal immigrants and insurgencies into Nigeria to forestall any occurrence;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Chief of Defence Staff and Chief of Army Staff to establish a military formation or unit and utilise local intelligence to track the movement of bandits in Illela and Gwadabawa

Local Government Areas, Sokoto State; and

- (ii) mandate the Committees on Defence, and Army to ensure compliance (*Hon. Bello Isa Ambarura — Illela/Gwadabawa Federal Constituency and one Other*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (i), immediately after the words “Illela and Gwadabawa”, insert the words “Gudu/Tongoza/Gada/Goronyo, and Worno/Rabbah” (*Hon. Ahmad Abdullahi Kalambiana — Kware/Wamakko Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — 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;

Also noted the incessant security breaches in Sokoto East and Sokoto State where lives and property of the citizens are lost due to the destructive activities of armed bandits in Illela and Gwadabawa Local Government Areas;

Further noted that the incessant attacks in the North East Zone of Sokoto State have brought untold hardships to the people, resulting in the death tolls of thousands, rendering children orphans, and destroying houses worth millions of Naira.

Aware that most of the security men deployed to maintain peace and order in Sokoto State live in Sokoto town, thereby making it difficult for the security personnel to respond to distress calls when bandits attack Illela/Gwadabawa Federal Constituency;

Also aware that Illela Local Government Area, Sokoto State, is a border town with an international market where people from Mali, Niger, and the Benin Republic, as well as many other West African Countries, transact their business;

Cognizant of the need to establish a military formation or unit in Illela and Gwadabawa Local Government Areas to provide a security check on the influx of illegal immigrants and insurgencies into Nigeria to forestall any occurrence;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Chief of Defence Staff and Chief of Army Staff to establish a military formation or unit and utilise local intelligence to track the movement of bandits in Illela and Gwadabawa, Gudu, Tongoza, Gada, Goronyo, and Worno, Rabbah Local Government Areas, Sokoto State; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Defence, and Army to ensure compliance (**HR. 268/10/2023**).

17. Adoption of Concrete Technology for Road Construction in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Government, through the Federal Ministry of Works, has several ongoing road contracts across the country, including those awarded under the Federal Government Road Infrastructure Development and Refurbishment Investment Tax Credit Scheme (RITCS) Executive Order 007 Phase II by NNPC valued at over ₦1.4 trillion;

Also notes that the Federal Executive Council approved the awards of the contracts to which the Federal Ministry of Works, Department of Highway (bridges and design), in preparation for the implementation of the project;

Further notes that a due process certificate of "No Objection" was granted by the Bureau of Public Procurement to the Federal Ministry of Works for the construction and rehabilitation of all the Federal road projects;

Aware that the Contractors submitted a Performance Guarantee of 10% of the contract sum to secure successful project completion;

Concerned that the contract Agreements have strict liquidated damages Clauses with the supervision and monitoring by the Federal Ministry of Works to ensure that standard specifications are not compromised;

Also concerned that several studies have revealed that the use of rigid/cement concrete pavements in road construction has significant technical limitations and constraints;

Worried that the Hon. Minister of Works' new policy on cement concrete pavement adoption without in-depth studies of the comparative advantages/disadvantages with asphalt may contradict technical specifications, potentially leading to contract breaches and potential arbitration and litigations during a challenging economic time;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works to suspend, in the interim, the wholesome adoption of cement concrete for road construction pending the outcome of the investigation; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Works, Environment, Finance, and Judiciary to investigate the merits and demerits of using cement concrete for road construction and asphalt and report within three (3) weeks (*Hon. Khadija Bukar Ibrahim —Damaturu/Gujba/Gulani/Tarmuwa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* Prayer (i) (*Hon. Ali Isa J.C. — Balanga/Billiri Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayer (ii), immediately after the words "Finance and", *leave out* the word "Judiciary", and *insert* the words "Justice, Science and Technology" (*Hon. Kama Nkemkamma — Ivo/Ohaozara/Onicha Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Federal Government, through the Federal Ministry of Works, has several ongoing road

contracts across the country, including those awarded under the Federal Government Road Infrastructure Development and Refurbishment Investment Tax Credit Scheme (RITCS) Executive Order 007 Phase II by NNPC valued at over ₦1.4 trillion;

Also noted that the Federal Executive Council approved the awards of the contracts to which the Federal Ministry of Works, Department of Highway (bridges and design), in preparation for the implementation of the project;

Further noted that a due process certificate of "No Objection" was granted by the Bureau of Public Procurement to the Federal Ministry of Works for the construction and rehabilitation of all the Federal road projects;

Aware that the Contractors submitted a Performance Guarantee of 10% of the contract sum to secure successful project completion;

Concerned that the contract Agreements have strict liquidated damages Clauses with the supervision and monitoring by the Federal Ministry of Works to ensure that standard specifications are not compromised;

Also concerned that several studies have revealed that the use of rigid/cement concrete pavements in road construction has significant technical limitations and constraints;

Worried that the Hon. Minister of Works' new policy on cement concrete pavement adoption without in-depth studies of the comparative advantages/disadvantages with asphalt may contradict technical specifications, potentially leading to contract breaches and potential arbitration and litigations during a challenging economic time;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Works, Environment, Finance, Justice, and Science and Technology to investigate the merits and demerits of using cement concrete for road construction and asphalt and report within three (3) weeks (**HR. 269/10/2023**).

18. State of Insecurity in Wamba, Akwanga and Nasarawa Eggon, Nasarawa State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the alarming rate of kidnapping for ransom in Nasarawa State and the Country as a whole;

Also notes that the security challenges pose a threat to the peace and stability of the people of Nasarawa State and have worsened after the 2023 general elections;

Alarmed at the mass invasion of criminals into Nasarawa State from neighbouring States, the State is gradually becoming a sanctuary for armed criminals and kidnappers whose activities are making the State unsafe for habitation, despite the efforts of the State Government and security agencies;

Also alarmed that the former Deputy Governor of Nasarawa State was recently kidnapped at Rinza village near Wamba, within the same week, three family members of the former Minister of Information and other innocent citizens were kidnapped and ransom was paid for their freedom;

Worried that the recent activities of kidnapping in Wamba, Akwanga Nasarawa Eggon and other parts of the State have triggered fear among the inhabitants of the State;

Convinced that if the rising trend of insecurity and kidnapping is not checked it will destroy lives and ruin the economic fortunes of the State;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to establish a permanent Military, Police and other Security formations to strengthen the security of the State;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Defence, Army, Airforce, Police Affairs and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance (*Hon. Jeremiah Umaru — Akwanga/Nasarawa/Eggon/Wamba Federal Constituency and one Other*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the alarming rate of kidnapping for ransom in Nasarawa State and the Country as a whole;

Also noted that the security challenges pose a threat to the peace and stability of the people of Nasarawa State and have worsened after the 2023 general elections;

Alarmed at the mass invasion of criminals into Nasarawa State from neighbouring States, the State is gradually becoming a sanctuary for armed criminals and kidnappers whose activities are making the State unsafe for habitation, despite the efforts of the State Government and security agencies;

Also alarmed that the former Deputy Governor of Nasarawa State was recently kidnapped at Rinza village near Wamba, within the same week, three family members of the former Minister of Information and other innocent citizens were kidnapped and ransom was paid for their freedom;

Worried that the recent activities of kidnapping in Wamba, Akwanga Nasarawa Eggon and other parts of the State have triggered fear among the inhabitants of the State;

Convinced that if the rising trend of insecurity and kidnapping is not checked it will destroy lives and ruin the economic fortunes of the State;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to establish a permanent Military, Police and other Security formations to strengthen the security of the State;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Defence, Army, Airforce, Police Affairs and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance (**HR. 270/10/2023**).

19. Inappropriate Educational Materials in Nursery and Pre-Primary Schools in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) has the statutory responsibility to undertake and promote book development and local authorship for quality assurance at the National level, while the Curriculum Service Departments undertake the same at the State Level, whereas the Education Research Council (ERC) does same in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja;

Concerned about the influx of foreign educational materials introduced in Nursery and Primary schools in Nigeria which tend to teach and promote certain morals that are alien and inimical to our cherished norms and values;

Also concerned that the widely used book, 'Queen Primer' subtly introduces terms 'gay', 'eros', etc, that communize sexual perversion and immoral behaviours, thus exposing innocent children to terms inappropriate for their age, which is unlawful, unethical, highly immoral and antithetical to child upbringing;

Cognizant of the need to instil and protect moral values in children and society at large by resisting the use of educational materials that teach or promote any form of alien behaviour which violates the laws and moral values in all educational institutions, especially in the Nursery and Primary schools;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to place a total ban on the local production, importation and use of any educational material that contains such words that teach or promote Lesbianism, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) in our schools throughout the country;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Education, the Nigeria Educational Research and Development Council and the Education Research Council (ERC) to carefully vet and censor the contents of educational materials used in Nursery and Primary schools in the country and ensure that they are appropriate and devoid of any connotation of immoral behaviour;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Basic Education and Services to ensure compliance (*Hon. Sulaiman Abubakar Gumi — Gummi/Bukkuyum Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (i), immediately after the word “Federal”, *insert* the words “State Governments” (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Kiri-Kasamma/Guri Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayer (ii), immediately after the words “connotation of”, *leave out* the words “immoral behaviour”, and *insert* the words “pervasive culture” (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Kiri-Kasamma/Guri Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) *Insert* a new Prayer (iv) as follows:
“urge the Executive Arm of Government to criminalise the use of inappropriate educational materials in all schools of the Federation” (*Hon. Moses Oluwatoyin Fayinka — Mushin II Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) has the statutory responsibility to undertake and promote book development and local authorship for quality assurance at the National level, while the Curriculum Service Departments undertake the same at the State Level, whereas the Education Research Council (ERC) does same in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja;

Concerned about the influx of foreign educational materials introduced in Nursery and Primary schools in Nigeria which tend to teach and promote certain morals that are alien and inimical to our

cherished norms and values;

Also concerned that the widely used book, 'Queen Primer' subtly introduces terms 'gay', 'eros', etc, that communize sexual perversion and immoral behaviours, thus exposing innocent children to terms inappropriate for their age, which is unlawful, unethical, highly immoral and antithetical to child upbringing;

Cognizant of the need to instil and protect moral values in children and society at large by resisting the use of educational materials that teach or promote any form of alien behaviour which violates the laws and moral values in all educational institutions, especially in the Nursery and Primary schools;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal, State Governments to place a total ban on the local production, importation and use of any educational material that contains such words that teach or promote Lesbianism, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) in our schools throughout the country;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Education, the Nigeria Educational Research and Development Council and the Education Research Council (ERC) to carefully vet and censor the contents of educational materials used in Nursery and Primary schools in the country and ensure that they are appropriate and devoid of any connotation of pervasive culture;
- (iii) further urge the Executive Arm of Government to criminalise the use of inappropriate educational materials in all schools of the Federation;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Basic Education and Services to ensure compliance (**HR. 271/10/2023**).

20. Rehabilitation of Lafia-Quaan Pan-shendam -Ibi Federal Road in Plateau and Taraba States
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Lafia-Quaan Pan-Shendam Federal Roads in Plateau State play a vital role in the economic development of these cities as it is the major link between parts of Taraba, Plateau, Nassarawa States to other parts of the country, the roads have remained dilapidated for years;

Also notes that the deplorable condition of the roads has irreparable harm to economic activities and caused a lot of hardship to the inhabitants of the villages and communities adjoining to the road. The road also poses a danger to motorists and farmers in their bid to transfer their farm produce to markets in the towns;

Worried that as a result of the bad roads, farmers lose farm produce worth millions of naira daily due to their inability to take their harvested goods to the market on time;

Also worried that the condition of the roads has aggravated the sufferings of the people and has placed limitations on economic activities as the movement of people, goods and services becomes challenging with a resultant loss of earnings and resources;

Concerned that the rise in the price of foodstuff can be attributed to the extra costs of transporting goods to the markets, these communities play a great part in feeding the nation as Plateau State is amongst the foremost agricultural-producing States in the country;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA)

to rehabilitate the Lafia-Quaan Pan-Shendam Federal roads to curb accidents and robbery incidences, and to allow for the free and safe movement of agricultural produces, goods and services;

- (ii) mandate the Committees on Works, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Isaac Kyale Kwallu — Mikang/Qua-Anpan/Shedam Federal Constituency and one Other*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (ii), immediately after the words “Works”, *insert* the words “Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA)” (*Hon. Olumide Osoba — Abeokuta North/Obafemi Owode/Odeda Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Lafia-Quaan Pan-Shendam Federal Roads in Plateau State play a vital role in the economic development of these cities as it is the major link between parts of Taraba, Plateau, Nassarawa States to other parts of the country, the roads have remained dilapidated for years;

Also noted that the deplorable condition of the roads has irreparable harm to economic activities and caused a lot of hardship to the inhabitants of the villages and communities adjoining to the road. The road also poses a danger to motorists and farmers in their bid to transfer their farm produce to markets in the towns;

Worried that as a result of the bad roads, farmers lose farm produce worth millions of naira daily due to their inability to take their harvested goods to the market on time;

Also worried that the condition of the roads has aggravated the sufferings of the people and has placed limitations on economic activities as the movement of people, goods and services becomes challenging with a resultant loss of earnings and resources;

Concerned that the rise in the price of foodstuff can be attributed to the extra costs of transporting goods to the markets, these communities play a great part in feeding the nation as Plateau State is amongst the foremost agricultural-producing States in the country;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to rehabilitate the Lafia-Quaan Pan-Shendam Federal roads to curb accidents and robbery incidences, and to allow for the free and safe movement of agricultural produces, goods and services;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Works, Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 272/10/2023**).

21. Need for the Central Bank of Nigeria to Release the Approved ₦27.6 Billion as part of Funds Generated from Gas Flaring Penalties to Host Communities in Compliance with the Petroleum Industry Act

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Aware that the administration of former President Muhammadu Buhari approved the sum of ₦27.6 billion, which is part of funds domiciled with the Central Bank of Nigeria as gas flaring penalties, to host and impacted communities of oil-producing areas;

Also aware that over ₦100 billion has so far been received as gas flaring penalty or fines by the Department of Petroleum Resources and paid into the Central Bank of Nigeria;

Further aware that Section 104 (4) of the Petroleum Industry Act, 2021 including other statutory international laws demands that, monies collated as gas flaring penalties be paid to host communities for environmental remediation and relief of these communities;

Concerned that despite the approval of ₦27.6 billion to be paid to host communities, the Central Bank of Nigeria, Ministry of Finance and relevant government agents are yet to comply with the directive in total disregard to statutory provisions;

Also concerned that the adverse effect of gas flaring on oil-producing areas has continued to hamper the agricultural livelihood of host communities which fuels vandalism and agitations;

Worried that the non-release of the money to host communities not only negates statutory provisions as well as government directives but is also a major factor leading to continuous adverse effects of environmental degradation and the consequent sufferings and agitations;

Notes that while the money collated as gas flaring penalties may amount to over ₦100 billion, it is equally legitimate and imperative to release part of the total funds already approved by the government to the right people to fulfil the provisions of the law to reverse the adverse impact of gas flaring as well as guarantee development in the area;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria and the Federal Ministry of Finance to immediately release the approved ₦27.6bn to host communities as prescribed by the Petroleum Industry Act, 2021;
- (ii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to hasten the approval for the release of the balance of the funds to host communities; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Host Communities to monitor the release of the initial approved ₦27.6 billion to legitimate representatives of host communities in compliance with the Petroleum Industry Act, 2021 and statutory provisions and report to within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Awaji-Inombek Dagomie Abiante — Andoni/Opobo Nkoro Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that the administration of former President Muhammadu Buhari approved the sum of ₦27.6 billion, which is part of funds domiciled with the Central Bank of Nigeria as gas flaring penalties, to host and impacted communities of oil-producing areas;

Also aware that over ₦100 billion has so far been received as gas flaring penalty or fines by the Department of Petroleum Resources and paid into the Central Bank of Nigeria;

Further aware that Section 104 (4) of the Petroleum Industry Act, 2021 including other statutory international laws demands that, monies collated as gas flaring penalties be paid to host communities

for environmental remediation and relief of these communities;

Concerned that despite the approval of ₦27.6 billion to be paid to host communities, the Central Bank of Nigeria, Ministry of Finance and relevant government agents are yet to comply with the directive in total disregard to statutory provisions;

Also concerned that the adverse effect of gas flaring on oil-producing areas has continued to hamper the agricultural livelihood of host communities which fuels vandalism and agitations;

Worried that the non-release of the money to host communities not only negates statutory provisions as well as government directives but is also a major factor leading to continuous adverse effects of environmental degradation and the consequent sufferings and agitations;

Noted that while the money collated as gas flaring penalties may amount to over ₦100 billion, it is equally legitimate and imperative to release part of the total funds already approved by the government to the right people to fulfil the provisions of the law to reverse the adverse impact of gas flaring as well as guarantee development in the area;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria and the Federal Ministry of Finance to immediately release the approved ₦27.6bn to host communities as prescribed by the Petroleum Industry Act, 2021;
- (ii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to hasten the approval for the release of the balance of the funds to host communities; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Host Communities to ensure and monitor the release of the initial approved ₦27.6 billion to legitimate representatives of host communities in compliance with the Petroleum Industry Act, 2021 and statutory provisions and report to within Four (4) weeks (**HR. 273/10/2023**).

22. Decongestion of Correctional Service Centres in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Nigerian Correctional Service is an arm of the Criminal Justice System with a specific mandate to reform, rehabilitate and ensure effective re-integration of offenders back into society in line with universally accepted standards;

Aware that the Nigeria Correctional Service is currently housing over 70,000 inmates, thus overcrowding the centres, which can accommodate only 50,000 inmates, thereby overstressing the dilapidated facilities;

Concerned that only 27% of the inmates have been convicted while a whopping 73% are awaiting trial, most of the inmates in correctional centres across the country are serving time without having been convicted;

Worried that the deplorable state of the centres puts the inmates at great risk to their health and safety, violates their fundamental right to humane treatment, dignity, and fair and speedy trial, and, most importantly, undermines the effectiveness of rehabilitation programmes;

Cognizant that improved implementation of the criminal justice system and adoption of non-custodial measures would help decongest national prisons;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Interior to rehabilitate and decongest Nigeria's correctional centres, addressing both short-term and long-term challenges and make provisions for the project in the 2024 budget estimates;
- (ii) also urge the National Human Rights Commission and the Legal Aid Council to conduct independent assessments of correctional centres across the country to ensure compliance with global standards and human rights principles;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Reformatory Institutions, Human Rights, and Justice to ensure compliance (*Hon. Chinedu N. Ogah — Ezza South/Ikwo Federal Constituency and one Other*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Nigerian Correctional Service is an arm of the Criminal Justice System with a specific mandate to reform, rehabilitate and ensure effective re-integration of offenders back into society in line with universally accepted standards;

Aware that the Nigeria Correctional Service is currently housing over 70,000 inmates, thus overcrowding the centres, which can accommodate only 50,000 inmates, thereby overstressing the dilapidated facilities;

Concerned that only 27% of the inmates have been convicted while a whopping 73% are awaiting trial, most of the inmates in correctional centres across the country are serving time without having been convicted;

Worried that the deplorable state of the centres puts the inmates at great risk to their health and safety, violates their fundamental right to humane treatment, dignity, and fair and speedy trial, and, most importantly, undermines the effectiveness of rehabilitation programmes;

Cognizant that improved implementation of the criminal justice system and adoption of non-custodial measures would help decongest national prisons;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Interior to rehabilitate and decongest Nigeria's correctional centres, addressing both short-term and long-term challenges and make provisions for the project in the 2024 budget estimates;
- (ii) also urge the National Human Rights Commission and the Legal Aid Council to conduct independent assessments of correctional centres across the country to ensure compliance with global standards and human rights principles;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Reformatory Institutions, Human Rights and Justice to ensure compliance (**HR. 274/10/2023**).

23. Implementation of Integrated and Sustainable Urban Development and Physical Planning Across the States of the Federation

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Urban Development and Physical Planning are modern strategies aimed at creating sustainable, resilient settlements that correspond with the local situation;

Also notes that half of Nigeria's population lives in overpopulated urban centres due to heavy rural-urban migration, leading to slums that don't meet modern urban settlement standards;

Further notes that most Nigerian cities Lack Standard Master Plans for development, and when they do, they are done in isolation without considering their effects on the neighbouring states;

Observes that the planned cities have deviated from the original Master Plans where residential areas are being converted to industrial and commercial areas without proper environmental impact assessment to ascertain the hazards and ways to mitigate them;

Worried that most Nigerian cities have transformed into slums, thus serving as breeding grounds and safe havens for criminals;

Cognizant that climate change, particularly global warming and its attendant effects, has devastated states across the nation and will be more severe if an integrated approach to urban and physical planning is not implemented;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to collaborate with states' Urban Development Departments to develop a comprehensive integrated urban development plan; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Urban Development and Regional Planning to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Solomon Wombo — Katsina Ala/Ukum/Logo Federal Constituency and one Other*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Urban Development and Physical Planning are modern strategies aimed at creating sustainable, resilient settlements that correspond with the local situation;

Also noted that half of Nigeria's population lives in overpopulated urban centres due to heavy rural-urban migration, leading to slums that don't meet modern urban settlement standards;

Further noted that most Nigerian cities Lack Standard Master Plans for development, and when they do, they are done in isolation without considering their effects on the neighbouring states;

Observed that the planned cities have deviated from the original Master Plans where residential areas are being converted to industrial and commercial areas without proper environmental impact assessment to ascertain the hazards and ways to mitigate them;

Worried that most Nigerian cities have transformed into slums, thus serving as breeding grounds and safe havens for criminals;

Cognizant that climate change, particularly global warming and its attendant effects, has devastated states across the nation and will be more severe if an integrated approach to urban and physical

planning is not implemented;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to collaborate with states' Urban Development Departments to develop a comprehensive integrated urban development plan; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Urban Development and Regional Planning to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 275/10/2023**).

24. Non-inclusion of Maritime Transport Facilities as part of Palliatives for Fuel Subsidy Removal

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

25. Need to Rehabilitate Bauchi-Ningi-Kano Road in Bauchi State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the deplorable condition of Bauchi-Ningi-Kano Road which was constructed in the late 80s and rehabilitated around 2007;

Also notes that the road, connecting Bauchi to Kano, is a major business route with over five famous markets in Gadar Maiwa, Ningi, Nasaru, B/Kudu, Kachako, Darki, and Ladin Makole;

Worried that the dilapidated state of the road is causing loss of lives and destruction of properties worth millions of naira due to the increased movement of vehicles from Gombe, Adamawa, and Jos plying the same road to Kano;

Cognizant of the need to rehabilitate Bauchi-Ningi Kano Road in Ningi/Warji Federal Constituency of Bauchi State;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to deploy resources to address the situation and include it in the 2024 budget estimates; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Works, and Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Adamu Hashimu Ranga — Ningi/Warji Federal Constituency and Five Other*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 276/10/2023).

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, and Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

26. Allegations of Abuse, Breach, and Violation of the Public Procurement Act 2007 in the Engagement of Consultants for Pre-shipment Inspection and Monitoring of Crude Oil and Gas Exports from Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Recalls that in line with the Pre-Shipment Inspection of Exports Act, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is mandated to appoint inspecting agents to carry out pre-shipment inspection;

Also recalls that the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria had delegated these powers to the Federal Ministry of Finance, based on this delegation, the Federal Ministry of Finance initiated a process of engaging pre-shipment inspectors and monitoring agents;

Further recalls that, as required by the Public Procurement Act, 2007 (as amended), the Federal Ministry of Finance commenced the process in a chaotic manner, which had clear infractions and breaches of the Public Procurement Act, 2007;

Notes that the Federal Ministry of Finance resumed the tendering process after complaints, but faced abuse and breach of the Public Procurement Act, with unresponsive companies pre-qualified and lacking basic documents;

Also notes that the abuses were designed, pushed, and implemented by officers of the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Nigeria, the Public Procurement Act and other procurement guidelines were completely ignored, and key provisions on conflict of interest were violated;

Observes that, as a result of the above abuses, which culminated in the engagement of unqualified and unresponsive consultants, mistakes have been made by these consultants after their engagement, which has now resulted in a loss of revenue worth about 160 million USD;

Concerned that if urgent steps are not taken to investigate the allegations and remedy the damage created, more mistakes and errors by the consultants will result in great revenue losses at a time when Nigeria is already dealing with a significant revenue shortfall;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Public Procurement to investigate Allegations of Abuse, Breach, and Violation of the Public Procurement Act, 2007 in the Engagement of Consultants for Pre-shipment Inspection and Monitoring of Crude Oil and Gas Exports from Nigeria and report within six (6) weeks (*Hon. Kabiru Amadu — Gusau/Tsafe Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Recalled that in line with the Pre-Shipment Inspection of Exports Act, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is mandated to appoint inspecting agents to carry out pre-shipment inspection;

Also recalled that the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria had delegated these powers to the Federal Ministry of Finance, based on this delegation, the Federal Ministry of Finance initiated a process of engaging pre-shipment inspectors and monitoring agents;

Further recalled that, as required by the Public Procurement Act, 2007 (as amended), the Federal Ministry of Finance commenced the process in a chaotic manner, which had clear infractions and breaches of the Public Procurement Act, 2007;

Noted that the Federal Ministry of Finance resumed the tendering process after complaints, but faced abuse and breach of the Public Procurement Act, with unresponsive companies pre-qualified and lacking basic documents;

Also noted that the abuses were designed, pushed, and implemented by officers of the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Nigeria, the Public Procurement Act and other procurement guidelines were completely ignored, and key provisions on conflict of interest were violated;

Observed that, as a result of the above abuses, which culminated in the engagement of unqualified and unresponsive consultants, mistakes have been made by these consultants after their engagement, which has now resulted in a loss of revenue worth about 160 million USD;

Concerned that if urgent steps are not taken to investigate the allegations and remedy the damage created, more mistakes and errors by the consultants will result in great revenue losses at a time when Nigeria is already dealing with a significant revenue shortfall;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Public Procurement to investigate Allegations of Abuse, Breach, and Violation of the Public Procurement Act, 2007 in the Engagement of Consultants for Pre-shipment Inspection and Monitoring of Crude Oil and Gas Exports from Nigeria and report within six (6) weeks (**HR. 277/10/2023**).

27. Need to Rehabilitate the Bekwarra-Ogoja-Ikom-Calabar Federal Highway in Cross River State
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Bekwarra-Ogoja-Ikom-Calabar Federal Road Network in Cross River State is one of the major roads connecting South-South to the Northern parts of Nigeria;

Aware of the deplorable condition of the road which calls for the Federal Government's intervention, as road users spend 6-8 hours in gridlock transporting goods through Cross River State;

Also aware that since the construction of the road in the 1970s, the road has not undergone significant rehabilitation, making it challenging for commuters and articulated vehicles to transport both perishable and non-perishable goods;

Concerned that the dilapidated condition of the road poses a significant security and death threat to citizens transporting goods and services from the north to Cross River State and southern areas;

Also concerned that frequent road accidents and traffic congestion have reduced commercial activities and increased crime rates, consequently increasing the cost of transportation merely due to neglect and deterioration of the road, hence the need to address the adverse condition of the road;

Worried that most portions of the road have been rendered impassable by deep potholes posing a danger to road users, as trucks often fall and spend days transporting goods, thus, causing significant inconveniences;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Ministry of Works and the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to provide palliative measures on the Bekwarra-Ogoja-Ikom-Calabar road to ease the movement of goods and services.
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Works to make adequate budgetary provisions in the 2024 budget estimates to address the deplorable conditions of the Bekwarra-Ogoja-Ikom-Calabar Federal Highway in Cross River State;

- (iii) mandate the Committee on Works to ensure compliance (*Hon. Godwin Offiong Odey — Ogoja/Yala Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 278/10/2023).

Motion referred to the Committee on Works, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

28. Under-Reporting of Wins (Extract e-Products) by Mines and Quarry Licence Operators
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Nigerian Minerals and Mining Act, 2007 operates a self-assessment regime like the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), where the operator records his wins and gives the report to the Mines Officer of the Federal Ministry on inspection of the mines site;

Aware that due to inadequate manpower and other limitations the operators underreport their wins (quantity of products extracted) to the Federal Mine officer;

Worried that this has led to a huge loss of revenue to the Federal Government running into over 3 billion dollars over the years. A case in sight is that of a company Saint. David's PGter Limited operating under the name Hongfa Global Mining Limited in the Libata community in Kebbi State, it is alleged that they have an unpaid Royalties bill of (₦2.394B) yet to be paid to the Federal Government;

Disturbed that if this trend continues unabated, the country will never enjoy its full potential in the solid minerals sector;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Solid Minerals Development to investigate mining reports from Federal Mine Officers of the States alongside holders of mining and quarry licences in the last fifteen years and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Nkemkanma Kama — Ivo/Ohaozara/Onicha Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Nigerian Minerals and Mining Act, 2007 operates a self-assessment regime like the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), where the operator records his wins and gives the report to the Mines Officer of the Federal Ministry on inspection of the mines site;

Aware that due to inadequate manpower and other limitations the operators underreport their wins (quantity of products extracted) to the Federal Mine officer;

Worried that this has led to a huge loss of revenue to the Federal Government running into over 3 billion dollars over the years. A case in sight is that of a company Saint. David's PGter Limited operating under the name Hongfa Global Mining Limited in the Libata community in Kebbi State, it is alleged that they have an unpaid Royalties bill of (₦2.394B) yet to be paid to the Federal Government;

Disturbed that if this trend continues unabated, the country will never enjoy its full potential in the solid minerals sector;

Resolved to:

mandate the Committee on Solid Minerals Development to investigate mining reports from Federal Mine Officers of the states alongside holders of mining and quarry licences in the last fifteen years and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 279/10/2023**).

29. Consideration of Reports

(i) ***A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap. 17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Establish Federal Polytechnic, Rano, Kano State and for Related Matters (HB. 92) (Committee of the Whole):***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap. 17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Establish Federal Polytechnic, Rano, Kano State and for Related Matters (HB. 92)" (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 Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL TO AMEND THE FEDERAL POLYTECHNICS ACT,
CAP.17, LAWS OF FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004 TO
ESTABLISH FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, RANO, KANO
STATE; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 92)

Clause 1: Amendment of the Federal Polytechnics Act, 2023.

The Federal Polytechnic Act, Cap. 17, LFN, 2004 (hereinafter called "the Principal Act" is amended as set out in this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 2: Amendment of the First Schedule.

The First Schedule to the Principal Act is amended by inserting a new item "(q)":

"Federal Polytechnic, Rano, Kano State" (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 3: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Federal Polytechnic Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to amend the Federal Polytechnic Act, 2023 to Establish Federal Polytechnic, Rano, Kano State (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap.17, Laws of Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Establish Federal Polytechnic, Rano, Kano State; and for Related Matters (HB.92) (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap. 17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Establish Federal Polytechnic, Rano, Kano State and for Related Matters (HB. 92) and approved Clauses 1 - 3, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

(ii) ***A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigeria Medical Research Council and for Related Matters 2023 (HB.470) (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 Nigeria Medical Research Council and for Related Matters 2023 (HB.470)" (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 Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE
NIGERIA MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL; AND
OTHER RELATED MATTERS (HB. 470)

Clause 1: Establishment of the Nigeria Medical Research Council.

There is hereby established a body to be known as the Nigeria Medical Research Council (hereinafter in this Bill referred to as "the Council") which shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in its corporate name (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 2: Membership of the Board.

- (1) There shall be established for the management of the affairs of the Council a body to be known as the Nigeria Medical Research Council Governing Board (hereinafter in this Bill referred to as "the Board").

- (2) The Board shall consist of the following members —
- (a) a Chairman who shall be a reputable International scholar in the Medical and Biomedical Sciences to be appointed by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the recommendation of the Minister;
 - (b) the President of the Council;
 - (c) a representative of the Federal Ministry of Health;
 - (d) four technical experts with wide knowledge and experience in Medical and Biomedical Science;
 - (e) two persons to represent interests not otherwise represented in this section to be appointed by the president;
 - (f) the Director of Administration and Human Resources of the Council who shall be the Secretary of the Council (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Amendment Proposed:

In Subclause (2) (a), immediately after the word “medical”, *leave out* the word “and” and *insert* the word “or” and wherever it appears (*Hon. Abiante Awaji-Inombek Dagomie — Andoni/Opobo Nkoro Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

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

Clause 3: Tenure of Office of Board Members.

- (1) A member of the Board other than an *ex-officio* member, shall hold office for a single term of five years with no option of renewal of term.
- (2) The office of a member of the Board shall become vacant if —
 - (a) he resigns his office by a letter addressed by him to the Minister; or
 - (b) the Minister is satisfied that it is not in the interest of the Council for the person to continue in office as a member, in which case, the Minister shall, with the approval of the President, notify the member to that effect.
- (3) Where a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Board, it shall be filled by the appointment of a successor to hold office for the remainder of the term of office of his predecessor, however, the successor who represent the same interest shall be appointed by the President.
- (4) The members of the Board shall be paid such sitting allowances as the Federal Government may, from time to time, determine for the chairmen and members of statutory boards generally (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 4: Functions of the Board.

- (1) The Board shall be responsible for the determination of the overall policy of the Council and in particular for the financial and operational programs.
- (2) It shall be the duty of the Board to —
 - (a) approve the research and training programs of the Council;
 - (b) approve schemes and conditions of service of the employees of the Council;
 - (c) carry out other activities as are necessary and expedient for the full discharge of any of the functions conferred on it under or pursuant to this Bill.
 - (d) recommend to the President through the Minister, candidates for appointment as President of the Council;
 - (e) engage such other persons as employees of the Council, by direct appointment or by way of transfer or secondment from any of the public services including universities in the federation or otherwise howsoever as it considers necessary;
 - (f) determine the remuneration and tenure of the employee of the Council (other than the President).
 - (g) discipline and exercise disciplinary control of staff and officers of the Council, provided that it may delegate to the President of the Council the power for the discipline of junior officers, that is, officers currently on CONHESS 06 and below or their equivalent in any other salary structure for the time being obtainable in the tertiary educational and health institutions.
 - (h) determine the fees to be paid for consulting, training and any other services that may be offered by the Council and;
 - (i) prepare the annual budget for medical research and training of the institutes under its aegis and receive grants for allocation to the institutes and colleges for the implementation of the annual programs and to universities and other bodies for special research or training projects;
 - (j) promote or undertake any other activity that in the opinion of the board is calculated to help achieve the purposes of the Council (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Amendment Proposed:

In Subclause (2) (f), immediately after the word “council”, *insert* the words “in consultation with the National Salaries, Income and Wages Commission” (*Hon. Abiante Awaji-Inombek Dagomie — Andoni/Opobo Nkoro Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

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

Clause 5: Functions of the Council.

The functions of the Council shall be to —

- (a) advise the Federal Government on national policies and priorities in medical research, training and other related activities;
- (b) provide intramural and extramural grants support for relevant research projects directed at the generating evidence and new knowledge for decision making and optimum health services in the country.
- (c) manage, plan, conduct and promote research, human resource development and technology generation, assessment and adoption for the advancement medicine and related fields in Nigeria;
- (d) prepare periodic master plans for medical research and training and advise the Federal Government on the financial requirement for the implementation of such plan;
- (e) ensure the implementation of the approved master plans by the appropriate research institutes, colleges, universities and other bodies;
- (f) maintain an up to date record of all existing facilities for research and training in the medical sciences in Nigeria and advise the Federal Government on their adequacy and efficient utilization;
- (g) promote collaboration between scientists engaged in research in the medical sciences in Nigeria and their counterparts in other countries or international bodies;
- (h) establish and maintain a National Medical Science Library and Documentation Centre and publish or sponsor the publication of research results in the Medical and Biomedical sciences;
- (i) undertake basic and applied research in biomedical and clinical sciences with the aim of advancing the frontiers of knowledge in medicine;
- (j) conduct research into the communicable and non-communicable diseases prevalent in the country;
- (k) provide facilities for the training of research scientists in clinical and biomedical sciences in collaboration with schools and colleges of medicine and universities in Nigeria, the federal and states' ministries of health and other medical research units within and outside the country;
- (l) disseminate the result of medical researches undertakes within and outside Nigeria on diseases of interest to the country.
- (m) run hospitals and clinical trial observation centers that will provide relevant human subject for clinical and biomedical research studies;
- (n) promote and support complimentary and alternative medicine and homegrown research, innovation and discovery in drug and vaccine development;
- (o) ensure bio-risk management at all times;
- (p) carry out such other activities as may, in the opinion of the Council, further

the advancement of research and training in the medical sciences (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 6: Structure of the Council.

- (1) The Council shall have a headquarters and a satellite office in each of six geopolitical zones in Nigeria.
- (2) The President's and Vice President's office shall be located in the headquarters.
- (3) The satellite offices in the geopolitical zones shall be headed by a Director each as may be assigned by the President of the Council (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 7: President and Other Staff of the Council.

- (1) There shall be appointed by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on the recommendation of the Minister, a President of the Council.
- (2) The President shall —
 - (a) be a clinical or biomedical scientist of high national and international repute and who shall be appointed on the recommendation of the minister;
 - (b) subject to the general control of the board, the President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Council and be responsible for the day-to-day running of the affairs of the Council.
 - (c) hold office —
 - (i) for a non-renewable single term of five years, and
 - (ii) on such terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of appointment.
- (3) The Council shall —
 - (a) appoint and approve promotion of members of staff, both research and non-research, up to directorate level, but may delegate the promotion of staff on CONHESS 03-06 to the President of Council; and
 - (b) pay to persons so appointed such remuneration (including allowances) as the Council may, after consultation with the Income, Salaries and Wages Commission.
- (4) Notwithstanding subsection (3) of this section, the staff of the National Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) shall be deemed to have transferred to the employment of the Council on the commencement of this Bill.
- (5) Any staff mentioned in subsection (4) of this section who does not wish to

transfer to the employment of the Council shall remain with the Ministry.

- (6) The Council shall have the power to make, with the approval of the Board, staff regulations governing conditions of service of its employees (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 8: Other Principal Officers of the Council.

There shall be for the Council the following principal officers in addition to the President.

Vice President.

- (1) The Vice President shall be selected among directors of research/research professors following nomination of eligible candidates by the President and confirmed by the board.
- (2) He shall —
- (a) assist the President in the performance of his functions;
 - (b) act in the place of the President when the post of the President is vacant or if the President is, for any reason, absent or unable to perform his functions as President of Council pending the appointment of a substantive President; and
 - (c) perform such other functions as the President or the board may, from time to time, assign to him.

Director of Administration and Human Resources.

- (3) (a) The Director of Administration and Human Resources shall be the Chief Administrative Officer of the Council and shall be responsible to the President for the day-to-day administrative work of the Council except as regards matters for which the director of finance is responsible.
- (b) He shall be in charge of the human resource department of the council.
- (c) The person holding the office of the director of administration and Human Resources shall by virtue of that office be secretary to the board of the Council.
- (d) He shall hold office for such period and on such terms as to the emoluments of his office as may be specified.

Director of Finance.

- (4) The Director of Finance shall —
- (a) be the chief financial officer of Council and be responsible to the President for the day-to-day administration and control of the financial affairs of the Council.
 - (b) hold office for such period and on such terms as to the emoluments of his office as may be specified.

Librarian.

(5) The Librarian shall —

- (a) be an academic with at hold at least a PhD degree;
- (b) be responsible to the President for the administration of the Council's library and the co-ordination of the library services in the Council and its departments and other teaching or research units;
- (c) hold office for such period and on such terms as to the emoluments of his office and otherwise as may be specified (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 9: Appointment of Other Staff.

- (1) The board may appoint any fit and proper persons as employees of the Council as it may consider necessary.
- (2) Without prejudice to subsection (1) of this section, the board may appoint persons as employees of the Council, either by way of transfer or secondment from any of the public service in the federation, including universities and other research Councils, or otherwise however, as it considers necessary (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 10: Conditions of Service and Renumeration of Other Staff of the Council.

The renumeration, tenure and conditions of service of other employees of the Council (other than the President) shall be as those applicable to staff in Nigeria universities or other similar institutions within the federal public service or otherwise as may be determined from time to time by the federal government (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 11: Appointment of Research Professors.

The Board shall accept promotion of research Professors from among Academic Staff of the Council who have adjunct positions with recognized Universities nationally and internationally. The Board shall review the promotion process by requesting a letter from the University confirming the promotion and at least three external accessors report (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 12: Laboratories, Offices and Premises.

- (1) For the purpose of providing laboratories, offices and premises necessary for the performance of its functions, the board may-
 - (a) purchase or take on lease any land; and
 - (b) build, equip and maintain laboratories, offices and premises.
- (2) The board may with the approval of the Minister, sell or lease any land, laboratories, offices or premises held by it and no longer requires for the

performance of its functions (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Amendment Proposed:

In Subclause (2), immediately after the word “Minister”, *insert* the words “in line with extant laws” (*Hon. Abiante Awaji-Inombek Dagomie — Andoni/Opobo Nkoro Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

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

Clause 13: Application of Pension Reform act, etc.

- (1) The Office of the Head Service of the Federation may by order published in the Federal Gazette declare the office of the President or of any person employed by the Council to be a pensionable office for the purposes of the Pension Reforms Act, 2004 or any statutory modification or amendment thereof.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3) of this section, the pension reform act shall be its application to any office by virtue of the foregoing subsection, have effect as if the office were in the public service of the federation within the meaning of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- (3) Nothing in the foregoing provision shall prevent the appointment of a person to any office on terms which preclude the grant of a pension or gratuity in respect of service in that office (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 14: Funds and Expenditure of the Council.

- (1) The board shall cause to be prepared and submitted to the presidency not later than 30th June in each financial year an estimate of its income and expenditure during the next succeeding financial year, for incorporation into the annual budget of the federal government.
- (2) The research activities of the Council shall be funded with 1% of the basic healthcare fund which has already been earmarked for research. The fund shall be domiciled with the Council for its research activities.
- (3) The Board shall establish and maintain a fund from which shall be defrayed all expenditure incurred by the Council.
- (4) There shall be credited to the fund established in pursuance of subsection (1) of this section such payments as may be made to it by the Federal Government for the running expenses of the Council and all other assets accruing from time to time to the Council.
- (5) The Council may establish and maintain one or more funds into which shall be credited such payments as may be made to it by donors and other agencies from time to time for the purpose of supporting Medical Research activities and programs in the country.
- (6) The Council shall disburse funds to Agencies, Institutions and other organizations that qualify and have been granted funding by the Council for executing medical research activities and programs.

- (7) The Council shall also, from time to time, apply the funds at its disposal to:
- (a) the cost of administration of the Council;
 - (b) paying members of the Board and any Committee set up by the Board for such expenses as may be expressly authorized by the Board or the President in accordance with this Bill and at the approved rates; and
 - (c) undertake all activities connected with its functions under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 15: Acceptance of Gifts.

The Council may accept gifts, including land, money or other property, on such terms and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the person or organization making the gift provided that the conditions attached by the person or organization making the gift are not inconsistent with the functions of the Council under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 16: Borrowing Powers and Investments.

- (1) The Board may, with the consent or in accordance with any specific authority given by the resident of the Federal Republic, borrow by way of loan or overdraft from any source, such specified amount of money as may be required by the Council for meeting its obligations and discharging its functions under this Bill.
- (2) The Board 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 with the consent or general authority of the President.
- (3) The Board may invest any surplus funds of the Council in securities as prescribed by the Trustee Investment Act or such other securities as may, from time to time, be approved by the President.
- (4) Subject to the provisions of the Land Use Act, and any special or general direction which the President may give in that behalf, the Council may acquire or lease any land required for its purpose under this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 17: Accounts and Audit.

The President shall cause to be prepared and submitted to the Board, not later than 30th September of each year, an estimate of the expenditure and income of the Council for the following year (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 18: The Board shall cause to be kept proper accounts of the Council in respect of each year and proper records in relation thereto and shall cause the accounts to be audited not later than 6 months after the end of the year by auditors appointed by the Board

and in accordance with the guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General of the Federation (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 19: The President shall, not later than 30th March in each year, prepare and submit to the Board a report on the activities and administration of the Council during the immediately preceding year and shall include in the report a copy of the audited accounts of the Council for the year and the auditor's report thereon (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 20: Tax.

- (1) The Council shall be exempted from the payment of income tax on any income derived by it under this Bill or accruing to it from any investments.
- (2) The provisions of any enactment relating to the taxation of companies or trust funds shall not apply to the Council (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 21: Regulations.

The board may make regulations generally for its purpose under this Bill and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the regulations may provide for:

- (a) the functions and responsibilities of the secretary and divisions of the Council;
- (b) the disciplinary control of all officers and servants of the Council (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 22: Power of the Minister to Give Directions to the Board.

The Minister may give to the board directions of a general character or relating generally to particular matters (but not to any individual or case) with regard to any of the functions of the board or the Council under this Bill, and it shall be the duty of the board to comply with such directions or cause them to be complied with (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 23: Repeal and Transitional Provision.

- (1) Section 33 (2) (a) of the National Science and Engineering Infrastructure Act of 1992 which established the National Institute of Medical Research is hereby repealed. The repeal affects only the National Institute of Medical Research and not other Institutes established under the Act.
- (2) The transitional provisions in the second schedule to this Bill shall have effect notwithstanding any other provisions of this Bill or any regulation or subsidiary legislation made thereunder (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 24: Interpretation.

In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Board" means the Governing established by section 2 (1) of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Council" mean the Nigerian Medical Research Council established by section 1 (1) of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Medical Science" means Medical and Biomedical science (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"Minister" means the Minister of Health (*Hon. Julius 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 Ministry of Health (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"President" means the President appointed pursuant to section 6 of this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

"President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria" means the President and Commander in Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the words "President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

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

Clause 25: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Nigerian Medical Research Council Bill, 2023 (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

SCHEDULES

FIRST SCHEDULE

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION RELATING TO THE NIGERIA MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL GOVERNING BOARD

Terms of Service of Chairman and Members

1. (1) Subject to the provisions of this section a person appointed as chairman of the board or as a member thereof shall hold the appointment for a period of a single non-renewable five year term from the date of his appointment.
- (2) The President may at any time remove the chairman or a member from his office and if so removed, the chairman or the member shall cease to be member of the board.
- (3) The chairman or a member of the board may resign his appointment by a letter addressed to the minister and the resignation shall have effect from the date of the receipt of the letter by the minister.
2. There shall be paid to every member of the board, such travelling and other allowances in respect of any period spent on the business of the board at the rate specified in the extant federal government circular on the subject, but no other remuneration shall be paid to any member of the board.

Proceeding of the Board

3. The Board shall meet once every quarter and on such other occasions as may be necessary.
4. The Secretary (Director of Administration) shall attend meetings of the board but shall not be entitled to vote.
5. The quorum of the board shall be four and the quorum of any committee of the board shall be determined by the board.
6. The validity of any proceedings of the board or any of its committees shall be determined by the board, and —
 - (a) any vacancy in the membership of the board or of any such committee;
 - (b) any defect in the appointment of any member; or
 - (c) reason of the fact that any person, who is not entitled to do so, took part in the proceedings.
7. Subject to the provisions of this Bill and of the interpretation act (which provides for decisions of statutory body to be taken by a majority of its members and for the chairman to have a second or casting vote), the Board may make standing orders with respect to the holding of meetings, the nature to be given, the proceedings thereat, the keeping of minutes of such proceedings, and the custody and production for inspection of such minutes.

Committees of the Board

8. The board may from time to time appoint such standing, steering and *Ad-hoc* committees as the board thinks fit to carry out, consider and report on any matter with which the board is

concerned.

9. The board shall appoint one of its members to be chairman of any committee appointed under this paragraph.
10. A committee appointed under this paragraph may include persons who are not members of the board, and if such members are appointed or co-opted to the committee, they may take part in the deliberations thereof but shall not be entitled to vote thereon.

Appointment of other officers of the Council

11. The board may make rules and regulations governing appointments and promotions to posts established in the Council other than that of the President and may delegate its powers of appointment of certain grades of officers to the President or to committee under the chairmanship of the President, and in the case of academic post such rules and regulations shall provide that the standards of learning and scholarship in respect of candidates to be appointed are comparative to the standards required for similar appointments in Nigerian universities and similar research Councils.

Appointments In acting capacity

12. The President of the Federal Republic may on the recommendation of the minister, appoint a person to act in the place of the Chairman during a long absence or during any temporary incapacity from illness of the chairman; and that person while so acting may exercise all the functions of the chairman under this Bill.
13. The minister may appoint any person to be a temporary member during a long absence or during any temporary incapacity from illness of any member, and that perform, while the appointment subsists, may exercise all the functions of a member under this Bill.

Miscellaneous

14.
 - (1) Any contract or instrument which if entered into or executed by a person not being a body corporate would not be required to be under seal may be entered into or executed on behalf of the board by any person generally or specifically authorized in that behalf by the board.
 - (2) Any member of the board or any committee thereof who has a personal interest in any contract or arrangement entered into or proposed to be considered by the board or any committee thereof shall forthwith declare interest to the board or committee and shall not vote on any question relating the contract or arrangement.
 - (3) The fixing of the seal of the Council shall be authenticated by the signature of the chairman and of the President or any other person authorized in that behalf by the board.
 - (4) Any document purporting to be a contract, instrument or other document duly signed or sealed on behalf of the board shall be received in evidence and, unless the contrary is, proved, be presumed without further proof to have been so signed and sealed (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

SECOND SCHEDULE

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE

EMPLOYEES, ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF
NIGERIA MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

1. By virtue of this Bill there shall be vested in the board immediately at the commencement of this Bill without further assurance all assets, funds, resources and other movable or immovable property which immediately before the commencement of this Bill were vested in the National Institute of Medical Research (referred to in this schedule as "the old institute"), under the national science and technology act.
2. As from the date of commencement of this Bill:
 - (a) all right, interest, obligations and liabilities of the old institute existing immediately before the commencement of this Bill under any contract or instrument, or at law or in equity apart from any contract or instrument shall by virtue of this Bill be assigned to and vested in the Council;
 - (b) any such contract or instrument as mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) above shall be of the same force and effect against or in favour of the Council and shall be enforceable as fully and effectively as if instead of the old institute the Council had been named therein or had been a party thereon;
 - (c) the Council shall be subject to all obligations and liabilities to which the old institute was subject immediately before the date of commencement of the Act.
3. Any proceeding or cause of action pending or existing immediately before the commencement of this Bill by or against the old institute in respect of any right, interest, obligation or liability of the old institute may be commenced, continued or enforced by or against the board as if this Bill had not been made.
4. Notwithstanding the provisions of the national science and technology act or of any regulation or statutory instrument made thereunder or any provision of the act but subject to such directions as may be issued by the board, any person who immediately before the date of commencement of this Bill held office under the old institute shall be deemed to have been transferred to the Council established under this Bill on terms and conditions not less favourable than those obtaining immediately before the commencement of this Bill and service under the old institute shall be deemed to be service under the Council established under this Bill for pension purposes.

ASSETS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

1. Main laboratory three floor building with a parking basement on $15.8\text{m} \times 54.9 = 867.42$ land area.
2. Main 250-seater auditorium: on $33\text{m} \times 14.5\text{m} = 478\text{m}^2$ land area.
3. Main five floor admin building on $32\text{m} \times 12.8\text{m} = 409.60\text{m}^2$ land area.
4. Security post and business venture buildings both of which are on $10.70\text{m} \times 10.3\text{m} = 110.21\text{m}^2$ land area.
5. Triangular piece of land measuring: on 225m^2 land area.
6. Emerging Viral Disease Laboratory on $11.6\text{m} \times 15\text{m} = 174\text{m}^2$ land area.
7. Biorepository Facilities Building: on $15.2 \times 17.3\text{m} = 262\text{m}^2$ land area.

8. Maintenance workshop building: on 7.5m x 23m = on 172m² land area.
9. Main three floor laboratory building located in Maiduguri: on 15.8m x 549m = on 867m² land area.
10. Animal House on 9.6m x 5m = on 48m² land area.
11. TB laboratory building on 22m x 16m-353m² land area.
12. Staff clinic building.
13. Molecular biology laboratory- a storey building: on 8mm 13.14m = on 112m² land area.
14. 30 Bed clinical research centre building: on 0.3m x 29m = on 298m² land area.
15. 20 beds NIMR guest house building: on 40m x 39.4m = on 157m² land area.
16. Monkey colony facility: on 14m x 20m = on 280m² land area.
17. Toilet facilities: on 10m x 9m = on 90m² land area.
18. Cold Room facility: on 5.7m x 5.9m = on 32m² land area.
22. Old power house: on 10m x 6.5m = on 65m² land area.
19. Clinical Research Centre for outpatients: on 19m x 14m = on 266m² land area.
20. New NIMR Stores: on 37m x 36m = on 133m² land area.
21. Centre for Human Virology and Genomics: on 54m x 21m = 113m² land area.
22. Power House containing one unit each of 350 KVA. Perkins Gen Set and 300KVA Perkins Gen Set: on 14.5m x 12m = on 174m² land area.
23. Staff Canteen: on 12m x 13m = on 156m² land area.
24. Incinerator building housing a Biomedical Incinerator: on 16.20m x 27.6m = 447m² land area.
25. Autoclave building: on 53.4m x 7m = on 374m² land area.
26. Transport section building: on 10.10m x 6.3m = on 64m² land area.
27. Researchers Suite: on 30m x 26cm = on 780m² land area.
28. Essential block of six 2-bedroom residential flats - Block1: on 12m x 30m = on 360m² land area.
29. Essential blocks of six 2-bedroom residential flats- Block 11: On 12m x 30m = 360m² land area.
30. Block A, 6 Room Boys quarters: on 26m x 5.3m = on 128m² land area.
31. Block B, Room Boys quarters: on 26m x 5.3m + 138m² land area.
32. Block C, 6 Room Boys quarters: on 26m x 5.3m = on 138m² land area.

33. House 6- the President's staff boys quarter building: on 18.5m x 4m = on 78m² land area.
34. House boys quarter building: on 17m x 6.8m = on 108m² land area.
35. Lawn Tennis Court: facility on 27m x 47m = on 1269m² land area.
36. A block of 6 units two-bedroom flats- medical compound: on occupying 161.2m² land area.
37. 6 Room Boys quarter building occupying 118.32m² land area.
38. House 5 containing two twin duplexes: on 22m x 17.5m = on 91m² land area.
39. Block A- Six units 3-bedroom flats: on 19.4m x 41m = on 705m² land area.
40. Block B - Six units 3-bedroom flats: on 19.4m x 41m = on 795m² land area.
41. Block C- Six units 3-bedroom flats: on 19.4m x 41m = on 794m²land area.
42. House 4 Medical compound lock-up garage occupying 142.2m land area.
43. 2 units 3-bedroom bungalows used as residential quarters in Maiduguri.
44. 1 unit 2-bedroom bungalow residential quarters in Maiduguri.
45. 2 units 2-bedroom bungalow used as residential quarters in Kainji new bussa, Niger State.
46. 2 units one-bedroom apartment for residential quarters located in Kainji.
47. Office and Laboratory apartment within National Fresh Water Fisheries Council in Kainji, New Bussa, Niger State.
48. E-library and Administrative Complex.
49. Bio Bank Facility Building.
50. Cancer and Biomedical Training Centre (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to establish the Nigeria Medical Research Council (formerly National Institute of Medical Research) as an autonomous Council and to make provisions for the transfer of the functions, assets and liabilities of the National Institute of Medical Research established under the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure Act, 1992 and administered under the Ministry of Science and technology to the new Council (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigeria Medical Research Council and Other Related Matters (HB. 470) (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigeria Medical Research Council and for Related Matters 2023 (HB.470) and approved Clause 1, approved Clause 2 as amended, approved Clause 3, approved Clause 4 as amended, approved Clauses 5 - 11, approved Clause 12 as amended, approved Clauses 13 - 25, 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.

30. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 24 October, 2023 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.48 p.m.

Benjamin Okezie Kalu
Deputy Speaker

CORRIGENDUM

In the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 17 October, 2023:

- (i) pages 954, and 955, item 21, paragraph 4, *leave out* the figure “~~₦~~2,500” and *insert* the figure “\$2,500”;
- (ii) page 955, item 21, *leave out* all the words in amendment (iv), and *insert* as follows:
 - “(iv) In Prayer (ii), as amended, immediately after the word “Midstream”, *insert* the words “Petroleum Resources (Upstream)” (Hon. Aliyu Ibrahim Almustapha — Wurno/Shagari Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.”

Benjamin Okezie Kalu
Deputy Speaker