



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 20 July, 2023

1. The House met at 11.06 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, 19 July, 2023.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcement**

(i) ***Bereavement:***

Mr Deputy Speaker read a communication from Hon. Agbedi Frederick (*Ekeremor/Sagbama Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of Eddie Esinkumo Ogoun (*South Ijaw Federal Constituency, 1992 - 1993*), 1 February, 2023 at the age of 85.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(ii) ***Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Arbitrary Increase of Petrol Pump Price from ₦537 to ₦617 by Petrol Marketers and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Limited (NNPCL) (HR. 98/07/2023):***

Mr Deputy Speaker announced the membership of the *Ad-hoc Committee* as follows:

- | | | | |
|------|------------------------|---|-----------------|
| (1) | Hon. Babajimi Benson | — | <i>Chairman</i> |
| (2) | Hon. Odi Okojie | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (3) | Hon. Adepoju Adebayo | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (4) | Hon. Muktar Shagaya | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (5) | Hon. Ojema Ojotu | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (6) | Hon. Bala Jamare | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (7) | Hon. Ibrahim Bukar | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (8) | Hon. Hart Cyril | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (9) | Hon. Marie Ebikake | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (10) | Hon. Amobi Godwin Ogah | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (11) | Hon. Auwalu Gwalabe | — | <i>Member</i> |

(12)	Hon. Aminu Balele Kurfi	—	<i>Member</i>
(13)	Hon. Abubakar Makki	—	<i>Member</i>
(14)	Hon. Ghali Mustapha	—	<i>Member</i>
(15)	Hon. Bamidele Salam	—	<i>Member</i>
(16)	Hon. Tochukwu Okere	—	<i>Member</i>
(17)	Hon. Emeka Idu	—	<i>Member</i>
(18)	Hon. Wale Ahmed	—	<i>Member</i>
(19)	Hon. Blessing Onuh Onyeche	—	<i>Member</i>
(20)	Hon. Jonathan Ukodhiko	—	<i>Member</i>
(21)	Hon. Jamilu Muhammad	—	<i>Member</i>
(22)	Hon. Yusuf Tanko Sununu	—	<i>Member</i>

5. Petitions

- (i) A petition from Mr Ukeme Udom Etuk, on termination of appointment and non-payment of his salaries by the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), was presented and laid by Hon. Patrick Umoh (*Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency*).
- (ii) A petition from Adeyemo T. A., on behalf of Consortium of Community Development Associations, on alleged illegal demolition of houses by authorities of 32 Artillery Brigade, Alamala Barracks, Ogun State, was presented and laid by Hon. Olumide Osoba Babatunde (*Abeokuta North/Obafemi Owode/Odeda Federal Constituency*);

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions (when Constituted).

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

- (i) ***Call for Intervention and Early Response in Mitigating the Annual Flood Disaster and Erosion Within Ndokwa/Ukwuani Federal Constituency of Delta State:***
Hon. Nnamdi Ezechi (*Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani 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.

Call for Intervention and Early Response in Mitigating the Annual Flood Disaster and Erosion within Ndokwa/Ukwuani Federal Constituency of Delta State:

The House:

Notes that owing to the continuous annual flooding within the costal areas in the country particularly in Ndokwa/Ukwuani Federal Constituency of Delta State, The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in collaboration with other relevant agencies of government has flagged down flood prone communities across the country which has become an annual occurrence;

Recalls that the Seasonal Climate Prediction (SCP) and Annual Flood Outlook (AFO) released earlier in the year by the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) and the Nigerian Hydrological Services Agency (NHSA) had forecasted early rainfall and possible flood reoccurrence in 2023;

Aware of the damaging impact of the 2022 flooding experienced in the country and especially those within the costal regions of the country, which resulted in death of our people and even loss of properties and homes; till date has thrown our people into homeless citizens, poverty and food insecurity;

Concerned that the people of Ndokwa/Ukwuani Federal Constituency who are majorly farmers, has for the reasons of annual flood, started losing faith in cultivation of their farm lands for fear of the said flooding which has become a reoccurring annual event since 2012 till date;

Also concerned that credible and timely predictions of flood disaster has proven over the years that flooding has become an annual reoccurring event as it has in most cases through erosion has completely destroyed most of the villages along the costal areas;

Submits that the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) be mobilised and adequately funded to prepare adequate logistics needed to mitigate the impact of this flooding on our people within the costal regions of Ndokwa/Ukwuani Federal Constituency, most especially the people within the costal linings;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development as well as National Emergency Management Agency and National Commission for Refugee, Migration and internally displaced persons to adequately prepare for an efficient response;
- (ii) also call on the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development as well as National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to come to the aid of the millions of the communities that the effect of the flood has rendered homeless as a result of erosion that have caved in their house and submerged same as some of the affected villages such as: Okpai, Beneku, Utchi, Ossissa, Oworobia, Obikwele, Abala, Adia Obiaka, Azagba, Abgaragada, Ashaka, Ushie, Ator, Ekpe, Osafu, Iselegu, Obetim Uno, Ogbodigbo, Okpokrika, Ibrede, Anwah, Anyama, Lagos Iyede, Iyede Ame, Onuogbokor, Akarai, Afiankwo, Umuti, Igbuku, Umuolu, Egwedhe, Utuechi, Ase, Asaba Ase, Oloa Ossissa, Utagba-Ogbe, Emu, Abbi, Onicha-Ukwuani, Ibabu, Ogume amongst other towns and villages within the constituency has been yearly submerged and even cut off by erosion
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, and Environment to equally with all urgency embark on inspection of the communities that has been affected over the years and to discover the remote cause of the flood to fix it for a permanent solution (*Hon. Nnamdi Ezechi — Ndokwa/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that owing to the continuous annual flooding within the costal areas in the country particularly in Ndokwa/Ukwuani Federal Constituency of Delta State, The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in collaboration with other relevant agencies of government has flagged down flood prone communities across the country which has become an annual occurrence;

Recalled that the Seasonal Climate Prediction (SCP) and Annual Flood Outlook (AFO) released earlier in the year by the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) and the Nigerian Hydrological Services Agency (NHSa) had forecasted early rainfall and possible flood reoccurrence in 2023;

Aware of the damaging impact of the 2022 flooding experienced in the country and especially those within the coastal regions of the country, which resulted in death of our people and even loss of properties and homes; till date has thrown our people into homeless citizens, poverty and food insecurity;

Concerned that the people of Ndokwa/Ukwuani Federal Constituency who are majorly farmers, has for the reasons of annual flood, started losing faith in cultivation of their farm lands for fear of the said flooding which has become a reoccurring annual event since 2012 till date;

Also concerned that credible and timely predictions of flood disaster has proven over the years that flooding has become an annual reoccurring event as it has in most cases through erosion has completely destroyed most of the villages along the coastal areas;

Submitted that the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) be mobilised and adequately funded to prepare adequate logistics needed to mitigate the impact of this flooding on our people within the coastal regions of Ndokwa/Ukwuani Federal Constituency, most especially the people within the coastal linings;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development as well as National Emergency Management Agency and National Commission for Refugee, Migration and internally displaced persons to adequately prepare for an efficient response;
 - (ii) also call on the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development as well as National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to come to the aid of the millions of the communities that the effect of the flood has rendered homeless as a result of erosion that have caved in their house and submerged same as some of the affected villages such as: Okpai, Beneku, Utchi, Ossissa, Oworobia, Obikwele, Abala, Adia Obiaka, Azagba, Abgaragada, Ashaka, Ushie, Ator, Ekpe, Osafu, Iselegu, Obetim Uno, Ogbodigbo, Okpokrika, Ibrede, Anwah, Anyama, Lagos Iyede, Iyede Ame, Onuogbokor, Akarai, Afiankwo, Umuti, Igbuku, Umuolu, Egwedhe, Utuechi, Ase, Asaba Ase, Oloa Ossissa, Utagba-Ogbe, Emu, Abbi, Onicha-Ukwuani, Ibabu, Ogume amongst other towns and villages within the constituency has been yearly submerged and even cut off by erosion
 - (iii) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, and Environment to equally with all urgency embark on inspection of the communities that has been affected over the years and to discover the remote cause of the flood to fix it for a permanent solution (**HR. 118/07/2023**).
- (ii) ***Need to Investigate Incidences of Aviation Fuel Contamination, Associated Safety Risks and Non-Adherence to International Standards and Industry Best Practices in Fuel Supply and Distribution in the Nigerian Aviation Oil Industry:***
Hon. Raheem Tunji Olawuyi (*Ekiti/Irepodun/Isin/Oke-Ero 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 to Investigate Incidences of Aviation Fuel Contamination, Associated Safety Risks and Non-Adherence to International Standards and Industry Best Practices in Fuel Supply and Distribution in the Nigerian Aviation Oil Industry:

The House:

Notes the increasing incidences of aviation fuel contamination, associated air travel risks and possible non-adherence to standard operating procedures and industry best practices in the aviation oil industry;

Aware of the serious fuel contamination of the main fuel tanks of Boeing 737-300 aircraft belonging to Max Air B737-300 leading to the Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) shutdown on Thursday 7h July, 2023 at the Yola Airport;

Also aware that Max Air has reportedly confirmed that it got the contaminated fuel from certain undisclosed aviation refueling outlet which eventually led to the unfortunate incidence and grounding of its 5N-MHM aircraft by the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA);

Also notes that the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) following the incident via a letter NCAA/DG/AIR/11/16/363 dated 9 July, 2023, suspended Parts A3 (Aircraft Authorization) and D43 (Aircraft Listing) of the Operations Specifications issued to Max Air Ltd with regards to the operations of the Boeing B737 aircraft type in their fleet;

Concerned that the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) noted several occurrences involving Max Air Boeing B737 aircraft including:

- (i) the Loss of Number 1 Main Landing Gear (MLG) wheel during the serious incident involving a Boeing 737-400 aircraft, registration marks 5N-MBD which occurred between take-off at Yola Airport, Adamawa State and on landing at Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, Nigeria on May 7, 2023,
- (ii) fuel Contamination of the main fuel tanks of aircraft B737-300, Registration Marks; SN-MHM, leading to the Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) shutdown on ground at Yola Airport on 7 July, 2023,
- (iii) aborted take-off of a Boeing 737-400 aeroplane, registration mark SNMBD, at the Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport (MAKIA) on July 11, 2023, due to a high Exhaust Gas Temperature (EGT) indication, and
- (iv) an air return by aircraft B737-300, Registration Marks; 5N-MHM to Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport (NAIA) due to duct overheat indication in the cockpit on 11 July, 2023;

Also concerned that there have been many flight accidents in history due to fuel contamination resulting in abnormal operation of aircraft engines and water as a major contaminant;

Disturbed that in recent times, the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) has been receiving series of mandatory occurrence reports from airlines and other aircraft operators with issues related to water being found in the aircraft fuel tank of the aircraft;

Also disturbed by the inability of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) and other associated aviation and oil regulatory agencies to address the increasing sharp practices in the aviation fuelling industry where some unregistered portfolio jet fuel marketers using the throughput arrangement to supply aviation fuel with little or zero traceability in its supply chain instead of the regulated Joint Venture (JV) model with negative impact on lives, properties, economy and the aviation industry;

Worried that the Nigerian regulatory agencies in the aviation oil industry have demonstrated lack of capacity and failed to ensure certification of appropriate specification and proper handling of fuels to remain essentially free of harmful contaminants during production, transportation and distribution while putting into cognizance that the specifications and parameters against which fuel quality measured are within allowable limits and ensure that deviations from the specifications are permitted;

Also worried that when jet fuel from variegated sources are mixed and comingled in the same tank, the co-mingling changes the jet fuel chemistry, as the specific gravity of the co-mingled jet fuel changes, leading to the unbalanced proportion of the static dissipater additives may cause electrical inequality which may charge the fuel electrically in tank and cross-contamination with fatty acid methyl esters (FAMES) causing batch traceability damage as relevant Quality Control Documents demonstrating fuel quality that must accompany the product to its destination like Refinery Certificate of Quality (RCQ), Certificate of Analysis (COA) and Recertification Test Certificate (RTC) are no longer correct;

Cognizant of the urgent need to maintain strict adherence to international standards and industry best practices in fuel supply and distribution, stop the rising cases of the contamination of the Aviation Kerosine popularly known as Jet A1 in Nigeria;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the increasing incidences of aviation fuel contamination, associated air travel risks and possible non-adherence to standard operating procedures and industry best practices in the aviation oil industry and report in eight (8) weeks (*Hon. Olawuyi Raheem Tunji — Ekiti/Irepodun/Isin/Oke-Ero Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In the Prayer, immediately after the word “*Ad-hoc* Committee”, *insert* the words “of the Leadership of the House” (*Hon. Makki Abubakar Yalleman — Mallam Madori/Kaugama Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In the Prayer, immediately after the words “House in”, *leave out* the figure and word “8 weeks” and *insert* the words and figure “four (4) weeks” (*Hon. Muhammad Muktar — Kazaure/Roni/Gwiwa/Yanjwashi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the increasing incidences of aviation fuel contamination, associated air travel risks and possible non-adherence to standard operating procedures and industry best practices in the aviation oil industry;

Aware of the serious fuel contamination of the main fuel tanks of Boeing 737-300 aircraft belonging to Max Air B737-300 leading to the Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) shutdown on Thursday 7h July, 2023 at the Yola Airport;

Also aware that Max Air has reportedly confirmed that it got the contaminated fuel from certain undisclosed aviation refueling outlet which eventually led to the unfortunate incidence and grounding of its 5N-MHM aircraft by the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA);

Also noted that the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) following the incident via a letter NCAA/DG/AIR/11/16/363 dated 9 July, 2023, suspended Parts A3 (Aircraft Authorization) and D43 (Aircraft Listing) of the Operations Specifications issued to Max Air Ltd with regards to the operations of the Boeing B737 aircraft type in their fleet;

Concerned that the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) noted several occurrences involving Max Air Boeing B737 aircraft including:

- (i) the Loss of Number 1 Main Landing Gear (MLG) wheel during the serious incident involving a Boeing 737-400 aircraft, registration marks 5N-MBD which occurred between take-off at Yola Airport, Adamawa State and on landing at Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, Nigeria on May 7, 2023,
- (ii) fuel Contamination of the main fuel tanks of aircraft B737-300, Registration Marks; SN-MHM, leading to the Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) shutdown on ground at Yola Airport on 7 July, 2023,
- (iii) aborted take-off of a Boeing 737-400 aeroplane, registration mark SNMBD, at the Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport (MAKIA) on July 11, 2023, due to a high Exhaust Gas Temperature (EGT) indication, and
- (iv) an air return by aircraft B737-300, Registration Marks; 5N-MHM to Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport (NAIA) due to duct overheat indication in the cockpit on 11 July, 2023;

Also concerned that there have been many flight accidents in history due to fuel contamination resulting in abnormal operation of aircraft engines and water as a major contaminant;

Disturbed that in recent times, the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) has been receiving series of mandatory occurrence reports from airlines and other aircraft operators with issues related to water being found in the aircraft fuel tank of the aircraft;

Also disturbed by the inability of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) and other associated aviation and oil regulatory agencies to address the increasing sharp practices in the aviation fuelling industry where some unregistered portfolio jet fuel marketers using the throughput arrangement to supply aviation fuel with little or zero traceability in its supply chain instead of the regulated Joint Venture (JV) model with negative impact on lives, properties, economy and the aviation industry;

Worried that the Nigerian regulatory agencies in the aviation oil industry have demonstrated lack of capacity and failed to ensure certification of appropriate specification and proper

handling of fuels to remain essentially free of harmful contaminants during production, transportation and distribution while putting into cognizance that the specifications and parameters against which fuel quality measured are within allowable limits and ensure that deviations from the specifications are permitted;

Also worried that when jet fuel from variegated sources are mixed and comingled in the same tank, the co-mingling changes the jet fuel chemistry, as the specific gravity of the co-mingled jet fuel changes, leading to the unbalanced proportion of the static dissipater additives may cause electrical inequality which may charge the fuel electrically in tank and cross-contamination with fatty acid methyl esters (FAMES) causing batch traceability damage as relevant Quality Control Documents demonstrating fuel quality that must accompany the product to its destination like Refinery Certificate of Quality (RCQ), Certificate of Analysis (COA) and Recertification Test Certificate (RTC) are no longer correct;

Cognizant of the urgent need to maintain strict adherence to international standards and industry best practices in fuel supply and distribution, stop the rising cases of the contamination of the Aviation Kerosine popularly known as Jet A1 in Nigeria;

Resolved to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee of the Leadership of the House to investigate the increasing incidences of aviation fuel contamination, associated air travel risks and possible non-adherence to standard operating procedures and industry best practices in the aviation oil industry and report in four (4) weeks (**HR. 119/07/2023**).

Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate Incidences of Aviation Fuel Contamination, Associated Safety Risks and Non-Adherence to International Standards and Industry Best Practices in Fuel Supply and Distribution in the Nigerian Aviation Oil Industry (HR. 119/07/2023):

Mr Deputy Speaker announced the membership of the *Ad-hoc* Committee as follows:

(1)	Hon. Aliyu Madaki	—	<i>Chairman</i>
(2)	Hon. Raheem Tunji Olawuyi	—	<i>Member</i>
(3)	Hon. Makki Abubakar Yalleman	—	<i>Member</i>
(4)	Hon. Onwusibe Ginger Obinna	—	<i>Member</i>
(5)	Hon. Awaji-Inombek Dagomie Abiante	—	<i>Member</i>
(6)	Hon. Osawaru Billy Famous Adesuwa	—	<i>Member</i>
(7)	Hon. Rurum Alhassan	—	<i>Member</i>
(8)	Hon. Jafaru Yakubu	—	<i>Member</i>
(9)	Hon. Umar Yusuf Yabo	—	<i>Member</i>
(10)	Hon. Chinedu Emeka M.	—	<i>Member</i>
(11)	Hon. Aminu Balele Kurfi	—	<i>Member</i>

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (4) to enable it take more than two (2) matters of urgent public importance” (*Hon. Iliyasu Aliyu Abubakar — Batsari/Safana/Danmusa Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(iii) ***Persistent Banditry Attacks, Shootings, Killings and Kidnapping in Batsari, Safana and Danmusa Local Government Areas of Katsina State:***

Hon. Iliyasu Aliyu Abubakar (*Batsari/Safana/Danmusa 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.

Persistent Banditry Attacks, Shootings, Killings and Kidnapping in Batsari, Safana and Danmusa Local Government Areas of Katsina State:

The House:

Notes with concern the multiple banditry attacks, shootings, killings and kidnapping in Babbandutu and Kirtawa villages in Safana Local Government and Nahurta, Yangayya and Dankar villages in Batsari and Danmusa Local Government Areas of Katsina State;

Aware of the frequency of the banditry attacks, resulting in the abandonment of homes and farms, which is hampering the socio-economic life of the communities;

Worried that out of the six (6) district heads, only 2 still live in their communities, while out of the 60 village/ward heads only about 10 are still in their homes as the rest have deserted their country homes due to fear of being attacks;

Also worried by the recent killing of the Yantumaki district head and the death of another village head due to head injuries from a gun shot, while his wife and child were kidnapped by the bandits who demanded a ransom of two million Naira (₦2m);

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) urge the Security Agencies to adopt modern security tactics and strategy to bring to a halt the daily attacks, shooting and kidnapping in Batsari/Safana/Danmusa Federal Constituency of Katsina State (*Hon. Iliyasu Aliyu Abubakar — Batsari/Safana/Danmusa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with concern the multiple banditry attacks, shootings, killings and kidnapping in Babbandutu and Kirtawa villages in Safana Local Government and Nahurta, Yangayya and Dankar villages in Batsari and Danmusa Local Government Areas of Katsina State;

Aware of the frequency of the banditry attacks, resulting in the abandonment of homes and farms, which is hampering the socio-economic life of the communities;

Worried that out of the six (6) district heads, only 2 still live in their communities, while out of the 60 village/ward heads only about 10 are still in their homes as the rest have deserted their country homes due to fear of being attacks;

Also worried by the recent killing of the Yantumaki district head and the death of another village head due to head injuries from a gun shot, while his wife and child were kidnapped by the bandits who demanded a ransom of two million Naira (₦2m);

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) urge the Security Agencies to adopt modern security tactics and strategy to bring to a halt the daily attacks, shooting and kidnapping in Batsari/Safana/Danmusa Federal Constituency of Katsina State (**HR. 120/07/2023**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

7. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Federal College of Education, Omu Aran, Kwara State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 185).
- (2) Food Processing and Preservation Centre, Osi Ekiti, Kwara State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 186).
- (3) Central Bank of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 187).
- (4) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (HB. 188).
- (5) Central Bank of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 189).
- (6) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (HB. 190).
- (7) Federal University Minna, Bill, 2023 (HB. 191).
- (8) Tertiary Education Trust Fund (Establishment) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 192).
- (9) Standards Organisation of Nigeria, Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 193).
- (10) Religious Discrimination (Prohibition, Prevention) Bill, 2023 (HB. 194).
- (11) National Shea Development Council (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 195).
- (12) Central Bank of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 196).
- (13) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (HB. 197).
- (14) Joint Admissions and Matriculations Board Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 198).
- (15) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (HB. 199).
- (16) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (HB. 200).
- (17) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (HB. 201).
- (18) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (HB. 202).
- (19) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (HB. 203).
- (20) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (HB. 204).

8. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Electricity Act 2023 to Address Concerns of Host Communities and for Related Matters (HB.38) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Electricity Act, 2023 to Address Concerns of Host Communities and for Related Matters (HB.38) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Hon. Babajimi Benson — Ikorodu 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 of the Whole.

9. Reconsideration of Outstanding Bills from the Preceding Assembly

Order deferred by leave of the House.

10. Need to Construct 330/132/33KVA X150MVA, 2X60MVA Transmission Substation at Anyigba to improve Electricity Supply to the Kogi East

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Kogi East zone comprises of nine LGAs namely: Ankpa, Olamaboro, Omala, Dekina, Bassa, Ofu, Idah, Ibaji and Igalamela and it is one of the strategic zone in the state that shares border with Enugu, Anambra, Edo and Benue State;

Also notes that Kogi East is the zone that Houses Quarry Industries and other government institution like Kogi State University, General and zonal sawmilling factories, cassava processing mills Hospitals, Army Barrack, Commercial Banks, recreational facilities, Filling stations;

Aware that Geregu Power Station and some 33kv/11kv project lines and other distribution project lines are sited in the zone, some of which are completed and others are at advance stage of completion;

Worried that as strategic as this zone is to the State and the country, the zone cannot boast of steady and regular power supply; and

Concerned that as important as these facilities are, if a transmission substation is not constructed to boost the distribution of electricity in the zone, the facilities will be underutilized and becomes dilapidated;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Power through its Agency the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), to ensure the provision of Fund for the Construction of 330/132/33KVA 2x150MVA, 2x60MVA Transmission Substation at Anyigba in 2024 Budget Estimates; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Power, and Appropriation (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Halims — Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
“Urge the Federal Ministry of Power through the Transmissions Company of Nigeria (TCN) to ensure the provisions of fund for the construction of 330/132/33 KVA 2x 15MVA 2x 60 MVA Transmission substation or the appropriate substation in all parts of the country that do not have access to the national grid or are suffering from irregular power supply” (*Hon. Dominic Okafor Ifeanyi — Aguata Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

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

“Urge the Federal Ministry of Power to as a matter of urgency, build electric tower linking Geregu power plant in Ajaokuta to Itobe to link the entire Kogi East to the national grid thereby solving the problem of blackout in the Kogi State” (*Hon. Chinedu Ogah — Ikwo/Ezze South Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Kogi East zone comprises of nine LGAs namely: Ankpa, Olamaboro, Omala, Dekina, Bassa, Ofu, Idah, Ibaji and Igalamela and it is one of the strategic zone in the state that shares border with Enugu, Anambra, Edo and Benue State;

Also noted that Kogi East is the zone that Houses Quarry Industries and other government institution like Kogi State University, General and zonal sawmilling factories, cassava processing mills Hospitals, Army Barrack, Commercial Banks, recreational facilities, Filling stations;

Aware that Geregu Power Station and some 33kv/11kv project lines and other distribution project lines are sited in the zone, some of which are completed and others are at advance stage of completion;

Worried that as strategic as this zone is to the State and the country, the zone cannot boast of steady and regular power supply; and

Concerned that as important as these facilities are, if a transmission substation is not constructed to boost the distribution of electricity in the zone, the facilities will be underutilized and becomes dilapidated;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Power through its Agency the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), to:
 - (a) ensure the provision of Fund for the Construction of 330/132/33KVA 2x150MVA, 2x60MVA Transmission Substation at Anyigba in 2024 Budget Estimates;
 - (b) ensure the provisions of fund for the construction of 330/132/33 KVA 2x 15MVA 2x 60 MVA Transmission substation or the appropriate substation in all parts of the country that do not have access to the national grid or are suffering from irregular power supply;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Power to as a matter of urgency, build electric tower linking Geregu power plant in Ajaokuta to Itobe to link the entire Kogi East to the national grid thereby solving the problem of blackout in the Kogi State; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Power, and Appropriation (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (**HR. 121/07/2023**).

11. **Need to Investigate the delay in Capturing and Payment for Nnamdi Azikiwe University Workers and other Nigerians in the Integrated Payroll and Personal Information System (IPPIS)**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka is a Federal Accredited University by the National Universities Commission of Nigeria, an institution where the revered foremost nationalist, the Late Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe was immortalized and honoured with a Federal University in his father land, Anambra State;

Also notes that in 2019, the University Governing Council upon approval for recruitment embarked on recruitment for teaching and non-teaching staff and the recruited staff were directed to register and enrol with the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) platform for the payment of staff salaries and monthly emoluments, between this period 2019 till date, only a few Workers have been captured and paid leaving majority of the workers working for the university for a period of three years and above without salary;

Aware that the Federal Government of Nigeria in October 2006 conceptualized the idea for Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS), which commenced in April 2007, to improve the effectiveness and efficiency in storing Nigerian workers' personnel records and administrations monthly payroll to enhance workers confidence for prompt salary payment directly to Government employees bank account with appropriate deductions and remittances of third party payment;

Also aware that there is a massive Nationwide complaint on the unjustified delay for capture and non-payment of workers' allowances, non-remittance of loans to bank, unexplained deductions, non-issuance of pay slips and unbelievable delay to capturing newly employed workers in the platform;

Cognizant that if urgent measures are not taken to rescue, capture and pay the helpless workers of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka and the other Nigerian workers in the Universities and MDAs who are having the same challenge with the current economic realities, their lives and that of their families will be in danger;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Governmental Affairs and Tertiary Education and Service (*when constituted*) to liaise with the Head of Civil Service of the Federation, Accountant-General of the Federation, the Managers of (IPPIS) and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that the Workers of Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, Anambra State and other Nigerian workers facing the same challenge are captured and paid immediately and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Lillian Obiageli Orugbo — Awka North/Awka South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In the Prayer, immediately after the word “(IPPIS)”, *insert* the words “Minister of Labour and Employment, Vice Chancellor of Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, Anambra State” (*Hon. Ozodimobi George Ibezimako — Njikoka/Dunukofia/Anaocha Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka is a Federal Accredited University by the National Universities Commission of Nigeria, an institution where the revered foremost nationalist, the Late

Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe was immortalized and honoured with a Federal University in his father land, Anambra State;

Also noted that in 2019, the University Governing Council upon approval for recruitment embarked on recruitment for teaching and non-teaching staff and the recruited staff were directed to register and enrol with the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) platform for the payment of staff salaries and monthly emoluments, between this period 2019 till date, only a few Workers have been captured and paid leaving majority of the workers working for the university for a period of three years and above without salary;

Aware that the Federal Government of Nigeria in October 2006 conceptualized the idea for Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS), which commenced in April 2007, to improve the effectiveness and efficiency in storing Nigerian workers' personnel records and administrations monthly payroll to enhance workers confidence for prompt salary payment directly to Government employees bank account with appropriate deductions and remittances of third party payment;

Also aware that there is a massive Nationwide complaint on the unjustified delay for capture and non-payment of workers' allowances, non-remittance of loans to bank, unexplained deductions, non-issuance of pay slips and unbelievable delay to capturing newly employed workers in the platform;

Cognizant that if urgent measures are not taken to rescue, capture and pay the helpless workers of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka and the other Nigerian workers in the Universities and MDAs who are having the same challenge with the current economic realities, their lives and that of their families will be in danger;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Governmental Affairs and Tertiary Education and Service (*when constituted*) to liaise with the Head of Civil Service of the Federation, Accountant-General of the Federation, the Managers of (IPPIS), Minister of Labour and Employment, Vice Chancellor of Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, Anambra State and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that the Workers of Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, Anambra State and other Nigerian workers facing the same challenge are captured and paid immediately and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 122/07/2023**).

12. Planned Hike in Electricity Tariff

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that recently, Distribution Companies (DISCOs) alerted customers of a planned electricity tariff hike hinged on the Multi-Year Tariff Oder (MYTO);

Also notes that the circular issued by DISCOS stated that effective July 1, 2023, there would be an upward review of the electricity tariff influenced by fluctuating rates;

Aware that under the MYTO, 2022 guidelines, the previous exchange rate of ₦441/\$1 may be revised to approximately ₦750/\$1 which would have an impact on the tariffs associated with electricity consumption;

Also aware that under the planned hike, consumers within 'B' and 'C' with supply hours ranging from 12-16 hours per day will pay ₦100 per KWh, while Bands 'A' with 20 hours and above and 'B' with 16-20 hours, would experience comparatively higher tariffs, that is, for customers with a prepaid metre, whereas, for those on post-rand (estimated) billing, a significant increment is expected to be higher;

Concerned about the widespread apprehension in the country over the planned introduction of a new electricity tariff regime by the Distribution companies (DISCOs);

Also concerned that the recent statement by the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC) directing its consumers to disregard the earlier notice of the increase in the electricity tariffs hike is confusing as members of the public are confused as to what to believe;

Further concerned that the proposed increase is coming despite the inability of the operators to meet the threshold of supplying at least 5,000 megawatts per year after signing the contract with the National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC);

Believes that it is most inappropriate and insensitive to come up with a price increase of such magnitude at this time when many Nigerians are yet to come to terms with the increase in petrol prices;

Cognizant that the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), in Section 16 (2) (b), has provided "that the material resources of the nation be harnessed and distributed as best as possible to serve the common good";

Worried that at this point in time, the proposed increment of electricity tariff by the DISCOs is not in the best interest of the average Nigerian Citizen, neither is it for the common good of the citizenry; and

Also worried that the proposed increment is an exploitation of the common citizen, which is not in line with Section 17 (2) (d) of the Constitution which states that the "exploitation of human resources in any form whatsoever for reasons other than the good of community should be prevented";

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) to suspend any increase in electricity tariff in Nigeria; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Power (when constituted) to interface with NERC with a view to addressing the proposed hike in the interest of Nigerians (*Hon. Aliyu Sani Madaki — Dala Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that recently, Distribution Companies (DISCOs) alerted customers of a planned electricity tariff hike hinged on the Multi-Year Tariff Oder (MYTO);

Also noted that the circular issued by DISCOS stated that effective July 1, 2023, there would be an upward review of the electricity tariff influenced by fluctuating rates;

Aware that under the MYTO, 2022 guidelines, the previous exchange rate of ₦441/\$1 may be revised to approximately ₦750/\$1 which would have an impact on the tariffs associated with electricity consumption;

Also aware that under the planned hike, consumers within 'B' and 'C' with supply hours ranging from 12-16 hours per day will pay ₦100 per KWh, while Bands 'A' with 20 hours and above and 'B' with 16-20 hours, would experience comparatively higher tariffs, that is, for customers with a prepaid metre, whereas, for those on post-rand (estimated) billing, a significant increment is expected to be higher;

Concerned about the widespread apprehension in the country over the planned introduction of a new electricity tariff regime by the Distribution companies (DISCOs);

Also concerned that the recent statement by the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC) directing its consumers to disregard the earlier notice of the increase in the electricity tariffs hike is confusing as members of the public are confused as to what to believe;

Further concerned that the proposed increase is coming despite the inability of the operators to meet the threshold of supplying at least 5,000 megawatts per year after signing the contract with the National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC);

Believed that it is most inappropriate and insensitive to come up with a price increase of such magnitude at this time when many Nigerians are yet to come to terms with the increase in petrol prices;

Cognizant that the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), in Section 16 (2) (b), has provided "that the material resources of the nation be harnessed and distributed as best as possible to serve the common good";

Worried that at this point in time, the proposed increment of electricity tariff by the DISCOs is not in the best interest of the average Nigerian Citizen, neither is it for the common good of the citizenry; and

Also worried that the proposed increment is an exploitation of the common citizen, which is not in line with Section 17 (2) (d) of the Constitution which states that the "exploitation of human resources in any form whatsoever for reasons other than the good of community should be prevented";

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) to suspend any increase in electricity tariff in Nigeria; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Power (*when constituted*) to interface with NERC with a view to addressing the proposed hike in the interest of Nigerians (**HR. 123/07/2023**).

13. Need to Rehabilitate the Otukpo - Obollo - Afor - 9th Mile Road

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Otukpo - Obollo - Afor - Opi - Ukehe - Okpatu - 9th mile Road, a Trunk A road, is the main gateway between Northern Nigeria, through the middle belt, and South-East Nigeria. This strategic road, with several arterial spurs, is the main route for mass transit, haulage of goods and evacuation of agricultural produce between the South and Northern Nigeria, including the FCT;

Concerned that sections of this strategic road between Otukpa in Benue State, Inyi - Amalla and Obollo-Afor, and between Opi - Ukehe and Okpatu in Udi, Enugu state have for over two years become dilapidated, abandoned and impassable, resulting in travellers having to detour into remote and unsafe "Appian" routes, thereby becoming vulnerable and regular victims of armed robbery, extortion, kidnapping and death;

Aware that this abandoned section is part of a road construction contract awarded to RCC in 2015 that had progressed from the Otukpo end up to Otukpa, Benue State, (57km) and backward from 9th mile to Okpatu (16km), while the in-between section, a total of 74km (or approximately 50% of the Project), is completely abandoned;

Concerned that the unreasonably long duration of this particular project has imposed expensive cost on government and the people due to numerous upward contract reviews, mobilisation and remobilisation to site; as well as immeasurable human cost to commuters, delayed travel time and damage to vehicles, and ceasure of economic activities, insecurity and misery to citizens;

Also aware that the Federal Government has recently concessioned the construction and dualization of the road stretch from Abuja to Keffi, to Akwanga, to Makurdi, and through Otukpo to Enugu, to a Chinese company, Messrs China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) on a Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) agreement, of which this strategic road forms a part. Work on the road concession has started and is progressing only from the Abuja - Keffi end;

Convinced that the contemplation of government for concessioning, or any other measure for sustainable management of our highways, is not to shut down the wellbeing and economic and social life of the citizens;

Worried that as a result of the concessioning, the RCC contract has been cancelled and withdrawn such that any hope of immediate attention to this failed road through the contract dims; and

Believes that notwithstanding the desirability of the consessioning arrangement, the plight of commuters and residents who have endured the harrowing experience along this road for years, must now be addressed without further delay;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to urgently carry out remedial rehabilitation work on the failed portion of the road so as to restore movement, security and economic life between the affected areas, save the huge losses and reverse the heavy toll on human capital;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Works (*when constituted*) to investigate the status of the RCC Contract, and ensure progress and speedy completion of the road concession to the Chinese Company; and
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Dennis Nnamdi Agbo — Igbo-Eze South/Udem Federal Constituency and 3 Others*)

Agreed to.

(HR. 124/07/2023).

Pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5), motion referred to the Committees on Power, and Appropriation (when Constituted).

14. Need for The Multichoice Digital Satellite Television (DSTV) and other Service Providers to Introduce the Pay As You Go Tariff (PAYG) Plan in Nigeria

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

15. Need to Amend Order Twelve, Rule 16 of the Standing Orders, 10th Edition, 2020 to Allow a Bill Process Continue Before or After Presentation of Report by the Committee

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

16. Flood Disaster in Parts of Ebonyi State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the recent devastating flood across the country, especially in the flood prone Communities of Amagu Ikwo, Ndeagu Echara Enyimagu Ikwo, Igbudu, Alike, Idembia and Ekpa Omaka in all Ikwo/Ezza South Federal Constituency of Ebonyi State;

Also notes that the flood and persistent heavy downpour witnessed over this rainy season have resulted in the tragic loss of lives, collapsed houses, displaced residents and washed away farmland;

Aware that the Nigerian Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA) in its Annual Flood outlook, categorized the likely impact of this year's flood as ranging from moderate to severe, the current general impact in most communities in Ebonyi State has been very severe as most affected areas remain submerged;

Concerned that according to the Nigerian Hydrological Services Agency Advisory, there are still many more days of rainfall in the year and more flood may still be expected in the months ahead;

Worried that the affected communities now have to live poorly organized centres, like school buildings under almost non-existent sanitary condition; and

Also worried that if steps are not urgently taken there may be an outbreak of avoidable epidemic in these communities that do not even have standard medical facilities;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to:
 - (a) consider the immediate evacuation and resettlement of affected Communities from the flood prone and ravaged areas to temporary displaced persons camp,
 - (b) immediately provide economic intervention programme to cushion the effect of this disaster;
- (ii) also urge the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the flood affected areas (*Hon. Chinedu Ogah — Ezze South/Ikwo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the recent devastating flood across the country, especially in the flood prone Communities of Amagu Ikwo, Ndeagu Echara Enyimagu Ikwo, Igbudu, Alike, Idembia and Ekpa Omaka in all Ikwo/Ezza South Federal Constituency of Ebonyi State;

Also noted that the flood and persistent heavy downpour witnessed over this rainy season have resulted in the tragic loss of lives, collapsed houses, displaced residents and washed away farmland;

Aware that the Nigerian Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA) in its Annual Flood outlook, categorized the likely impact of this year's flood as ranging from moderate to severe, the current general impact in most communities in Ebonyi State has been very severe as most affected areas remain submerged;

Concerned that according to the Nigerian Hydrological Services Agency Advisory, there are still many more days of rainfall in the year and more flood may still be expected in the months ahead;

Worried that the affected communities now have to live poorly organized centres, like school buildings under almost non-existent sanitary condition; and

Also worried that if steps are not urgently taken there may be an outbreak of avoidable epidemic in these communities that do not even have standard medical facilities;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to:
 - (a) consider the immediate evacuation and resettlement of affected Communities from the flood prone and ravaged areas to temporary displaced persons camp,
 - (b) immediately provide economic intervention programme to cushion the effect of this disaster;
- (ii) also urge the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the flood affected areas (**HR. 125/07/2023**).

17. Need to Improve Welfare Package for Members of the Armed Forces by Full Implementation of the Manual of Financial Administration for the Armed Forces of Nigeria (MAFA) 2017

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

18. Need to Ensure Beijing Declaration on 35% Affirmative Action on Women's Appointment into Positions

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Aware that Nigeria as a member of the United Nations signed and ratified the several applicable international instruments, agreements and conventions without reservation, including the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 1995. These instruments have always highlighted that member nations put in place all the necessary apparatuses needed to eliminate gender discriminations, ensure equality and human dignity to all, men and women;

Also aware that the National Gender Policy (NGP) has formulated a 35% Affirmative Action (AA) in Nigeria since 2006. This policy demands that 35% of women be involved in all governance processes;

Concerned that the NGP is recognized but is not practiced as expected thereby leaving our country behind many other African Countries like Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Namibia that have grown their women participation to over 40%, and many global reports do not speak good of our country in this regard;

Notes that the 2022 World Gender Gap report revealed that Nigeria ranks 123rd out of a total of 146 countries while another 2022 report by the Gender Strategy Advancement International (GSAI), a Non-Governmental Organization, showed that Nigeria ranked 181 of 193 countries on the Gender Equality Index, for countries with low women representation in governance;

Also notes that in no time, our dear President, His Excellency Ahmed Bola Tinubu, who has being proactive since assuming office, will be appointing and inaugurating his cabinet to help pilot the affairs of the country;

Observes that Nigerian women have continued to excel in Nigeria and other countries, serving in high-level positions in these countries and doing very well in the private sector but yet to be accorded this 35% status in Nigeria;

Worried that in the President Muhammadu Buhari's administration of 2015- 2019 and 2019-2023, the then President reneged on his promises to Nigerian women as he appointed only six women out of the 36 Cabinet Ministers, representing about 16 per cent; and

Further worried that despite the clamours for improvement in women participation in politics and other sectors across the globe, Nigeria seems to be going in a wrong direction since 1999 till date. Out of over 2,657 legislators (both Senate and House of Representatives) only about 157 women have been inaugurated into the National Assembly;

Resolves to:

Urge Mr President to consider the declaration on 35% affirmative action on women participation in governance in the composition of his cabinet list (*Hon. Osawaru Billy Famous Adesuwa — Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that Nigeria as a member of the United Nations signed and ratified the several applicable international instruments, agreements and conventions without reservation, including the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 1995. These instruments have always highlighted that member nations put in place all the necessary apparatuses needed to eliminate gender discriminations, ensure equality and human dignity to all, men and women;

Also aware that the National Gender Policy (NGP) has formulated a 35% Affirmative Action (AA) in Nigeria since 2006. This policy demands that 35% of women be involved in all governance processes;

Concerned that the NGP is recognized but is not practiced as expected thereby leaving our country behind many other African Countries like Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Namibia that have grown their women participation to over 40%, and many global reports do not speak good of our country in this regard;

Noted that the 2022 World Gender Gap report revealed that Nigeria ranks 123rd out of a total of 146 countries while another 2022 report by the Gender Strategy Advancement International (GSAI), a Non-Governmental Organization, showed that Nigeria ranked 181 of 193 countries on the Gender Equality Index, for countries with low women representation in governance;

Also noted that in no time, our dear President, His Excellency Ahmed Bola Tinubu, who has being proactive since assuming office, will be appointing and inaugurating his cabinet to help pilot the affairs of the country;

Observed that Nigerian women have continued to excel in Nigeria and other countries, serving in high-level positions in these countries and doing very well in the private sector but yet to be accorded this 35% status in Nigeria;

Worried that in the President Muhammadu Buhari's administration of 2015- 2019 and 2019-2023, the then President reneged on his promises to Nigerian women as he appointed only six women out of the 36 Cabinet Ministers, representing about 16 per cent; and

Further worried that despite the clamours for improvement in women participation in politics and other sectors across the globe, Nigeria seems to be going in a wrong direction since 1999 till date. Out of over 2,657 legislators (both Senate and House of Representatives) only about 157 women have been inaugurated into the National Assembly;

Resolved to:

Urge Mr President to consider the declaration on 35% affirmative action on women participation in governance in the composition of his cabinet list (**HR. 126/07/2023**).

19. Need for United Nations Security Council Reform

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the United Nations Security Council is responsible for maintaining international peace and security, with the authority to make decisions obligated to member states under the United Nations Charter;

Also notes that of the fifteen members, five permanent members known as the P5, with veto power including China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The other 10 non-permanent members are elected for a two-year term by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA);

Aware that only four independent African countries represented the continent when 50 representatives of different countries met in San Francisco, California, in 1945 to complete the Charter of the United Nations, with the current 54 African member countries of the United Nations it is unattainable that only four African states, namely Egypt, Liberia, Ethiopia, and South Africa were part of the founding members of the UN and therefore the majority of African countries were not in San Francisco in 1945 to represent their own interests in the creation of the United Nations Security Council due to colonialism;

Also aware that after the demise of colonialism across Africa in the 1960s, the newly independent countries not only became active members of the United Nations, but also contributed significantly to the UN, particularly in peacekeeping missions around the world;

Concerned that Africa remains unrepresented in the permanent category of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), hence the urgent need to reform the body to maintain its relevance in the twenty-first century to address the current global challenges;

Cognizant that Africa constitutes more than a quarter of the Organization's Member States, the largest group, with 28 percent of the UN membership. The Asia group comes next with 27 percent, while the Americas constitute 17 percent. The region of Western Europe which constitutes 15 percent;

Also cognizant that over the years Africa has been the subject of at least 70 per cent of the Councils work and hence the more reason that Africa ought to be appropriately represented in the permanent membership of the Council to more effectively make its own case as there is a rapidly growing recognition that peace and security, economic and social development, as well as human rights, are part and parcel of one global agenda; and

Further notes that of the growing trend in the Security Council to defer to Africa's regional peace and security bodies, such as the African Union, the Southern African Development Community and the Economic Community of West African States when a threat to international peace and security emerges; and

Convinced that with Africa's significant contributions to UN peacekeeping operations and its status as the largest regional group of UN members, it becomes imperative that the continent be fully represented as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to lead the effort, establishing a systematic framework as a matter of justice and human rights, and galvanize the African Union to reach a collective decision and come up with reform proposals that include at least two seats for Africa on The United Nations Security Council;
- (ii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to form an international coalition to be charged with high-level engagements required to embark on a global diplomatic tour to solicit the political support needed for the agreed reform proposals;
- (iii) further urge the Executive Arm of Government to form an international coalition to initiate the steps at the UNGA to introduce a resolution to amend the UN Charter to reflect the proposed changes of the reform of the United Nations Security Council; and
- (iv) mandate the committees on Foreign Affairs, Co-operation and Integration in Africa, Treaties, Protocols and Agreements, and Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Ahmed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In the Title, immediately after the word “for”, *insert* the words “Nigeria to lead” (*Hon. Ahmed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Leave out* all Prayers, and *insert* as follows:
“mandate the committees on Foreign Affairs, Co-operation and Integration in Africa, Treaties, Protocols and Agreements, and Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to study the current United Nation’s Security Council Framework to determine how best to protect and foster the interest of Nigeria in the Council and report within two (2) weeks” (*Hon. Chinda Kingsley — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

Need for Nigeria to Lead United Nations Security Council Reform:

The House:

Noted that the United Nations Security Council is responsible for maintaining international peace and security, with the authority to make decisions obligated to member states under the United Nations Charter;

Also noted that of the fifteen members, five permanent members known as the P5, with veto power including China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The other 10 non-permanent members are elected for a two-year term by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA);

Aware that only four independent African countries represented the continent when 50 representatives

of different countries met in San Francisco, California, in 1945 to complete the Charter of the United Nations, with the current 54 African member countries of the United Nations it is unattainable that only four African states, namely Egypt, Liberia, Ethiopia, and South Africa were part of the founding members of the UN and therefore the majority of African countries were not in San Francisco in 1945 to represent their own interests in the creation of the United Nations Security Council due to colonialism;

Also aware that after the demise of colonialism across Africa in the 1960s, the newly independent countries not only became active members of the United Nations, but also contributed significantly to the UN, particularly in peacekeeping missions around the world;

Concerned that Africa remains unrepresented in the permanent category of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), hence the urgent need to reform the body to maintain its relevance in the twenty-first century to address the current global challenges;

Cognizant that Africa constitutes more than a quarter of the Organization's Member States, the largest group, with 28 percent of the UN membership. The Asia group comes next with 27 percent, while the Americas constitute 17 percent. The region of Western Europe which constitutes 15 percent;

Also cognizant that over the years Africa has been the subject of at least 70 per cent of the Councils work and hence the more reason that Africa ought to be appropriately represented in the permanent membership of the Council to more effectively make its own case as there is a rapidly growing recognition that peace and security, economic and social development, as well as human rights, are part and parcel of one global agenda; and

Further noted that of the growing trend in the Security Council to defer to Africa's regional peace and security bodies, such as the African Union, the Southern African Development Community and the Economic Community of West African States when a threat to international peace and security emerges; and

Convinced that with Africa's significant contributions to UN peacekeeping operations and its status as the largest regional group of UN members, it becomes imperative that the continent be fully represented as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council;

Resolved to:

mandate the committees on Foreign Affairs, Co-operation and Integration in Africa, Treaties, Protocols and Agreements, and Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to study the current United Nations Security Council Framework to determine how best to protect and foster the interest of Nigeria in the Council and report within two (2) weeks (**HR. 127/07/2023**).

20. Declaration of a State of Emergency on Electricity in Ibeju Lekki Federal Constituency of Lagos State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Ibeju Lekki is one of the twenty Local Governments that make up Lagos State;

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

Informed that the whole Local Government had been in total darkness for the past ten (10) years causing so much hardship to the people and their sources of livelihood;

Concerned that businesses have been grounded by the power which has led to loss of revenue and

impoverished the good and law abiding people of the Local Government;

Also concerned that all industries (micro and macro) still in business are operating far below installed capacity and in most cases incurring losses because they cannot compete in local markets due to high cost of production as a result of running their business using Diesel or Premium Motor Spirit (PMS);

Worried about the state of insecurity caused by this power outage and its resultant effect on safety of lives and properties of the people;

Also worried that the prolonged power outage has drastically affected the tourism and hospitality business of the local government which would have earned us abundant revenue and sell us to the world;

Resolves to:

Urge the Federal Ministry of Power to urgently make a holistic provision in the 2024 Budget Estimate to tackle the electricity situation in Ibeju Lekki once and for all (*Hon. Adebayo Olusegun Balogun — Ibeju Lekki Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (ii) as follows:

“mandate the Committee on Power (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance” (*Hon. Chinda Kingsley — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Ibeju Lekki is one of the twenty Local Governments that make up Lagos State;

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

Informed that the whole Local Government had been in total darkness for the past ten (10) years causing so much hardship to the people and their sources of livelihood;

Concerned that businesses have been grounded by the power which has led to loss of revenue and impoverished the good and law abiding people of the Local Government;

Also concerned that all industries (micro and macro) still in business are operating far below installed capacity and in most cases incurring losses because they cannot compete in local markets due to high cost of production as a result of running their business using Diesel or Premium Motor Spirit (PMS);

Worried about the state of insecurity caused by this power outage and its resultant effect on safety of lives and properties of the people;

Also worried that the prolonged power outage has drastically affected the tourism and hospitality business of the local government which would have earned us abundant revenue and sell us to the world;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Power to urgently make a holistic provision in the 2024 Budget Estimate to tackle the electricity situation in Ibeju Lekki once and for all;

- (ii) mandate the Committee on Power (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (HR. 128/07/2023).

21. Call to Investigate the ban on Nigerian passports by the Government of the republic of Seychelles

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

22. Menace of Incessant Boat/Water Craft Mishaps in Nigerian Coastal Lines/Waterways
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Nigeria's coastline spans about 853km (530miles) and over 3000km of navigable inland water channel with great potential for inland cargo and passenger transportation;

Also notes that over the years, there has been repeated incidence of insecurity, threat and act of illegalities which includes crude oil theft, pipe line vandalism, illegal oil bunkering, piracy and sea robbery and illegal fishing activities amongst others;

Concerned recently that the mass and social media are awash almost on daily basis with sad news of numerous numbers of Nigeria's citizens perishing as a result of various boat mishaps across the country on our coastlines and waterways;

Aware that, the Inland Waterways cuts across 23 States out of 36 States while boat mishaps continue to rise astronomically. Recently in Bayelsa State on 6 April, 2023, there was a tragic boat mishap at Okoroma Community along Brass waterways in Brass Local Government Area. Sadly, not less than five dead bodies were recovered while several persons and still missing. Also another Boat mishap was recorded along Otum and Anyama River in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area where a female youth corps member and five others lost their lives;

Also aware that on Saturday, 24 June, 2023, in Egbu Village in Patigi Local Government area of Kwara State, a boat with 250 people traveling for wedding event capsized and about 144 victims were rescued. In Kaduna, 10 students of Victory International secondary school got drowned in a river with just two of them rescued. In Kano State, in 2021, a boat with 47 people capsized with 20 people dead. In Niger State, a boat from Lokon carrying more than 160 people capsized at Warrah Ngaski. In Birnin Kebbi, 97 bodies were recovered as a result of a boat mishap. In Calabar on 24 June, 2023, three out of fourteen medical students who have converged at Medical School, Calabar for 2023 Nigerian Medical Association Health Week got drowned when their boat capsized on water ways. The boat was reportedly derailed due to high waves as soon as it left for Marina Resort jetty. The casualties would have been more if not for the prompt intervention of the Divers from the Nigerian Navy;

Cognizant of the absence of regulatory guidelines for boat building maintenance and operations in Nigeria coastlines and waterways and issues that come into play regarding vessels operations that could result in accidents, death and injuries include: alcohol use; excessive speed; failure to vent; improper lookouts; inadequate on board navigation lights; navigation rules violation; operators' inexperience and inattention, illiteracy and non-chalant attitude of boat operators are common courses of most of the boat mishaps in Nigeria;

Appreciate that as Patriotic Nigerians there is need to enhance and courageously give whatever it takes to sustain the Economic development that water transportation portends;

Further cognizant that economic benefit of waterways transportation and its activities are responsible for a wide range of indirect value-added and employment effects through linkages of transport with other economic sectors;

Worried that, if the above identified challenges are not addressed forthwith as patriotic and worthy Nigerians, the plethora of deaths and insecurity being recorded daily in Nigeria's coastlines and waterways could skyrocket thereby having serious negative impact on our socio-economic development which will definitely be against the vision of the new administration;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe 'a minute silence in honour of those who lost their lives;
- (ii) urge the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) and National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) to device new strategic regulatory guidelines and enhance search and rescue measures in Coastline and Inland Water Ways;
- (iii) also urge the National Orientation Agency and National Meteorological Agency to commence intense awareness campaign on safety measures necessary to prevent boat and water craft hazards;
- (iv) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to undertake a visit to the Netherlands to understudy the country's coastlines and waterways transportation system which records minimal casualties (*Hon. Rodney Ebikebina Ambaiowei — Southern Ijaw Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* Prayer (iv) (*Hon. Chris Ukwonta — Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

- (ii) In Prayer (iv), *leave out* the words “set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee” and *insert* the words “mandate the Committees on Maritime Safety Education and Administration, and Inland Water Ways (*when constituted*)” (*Hon. Mark Chidi Obetta — Nsukka/Igbo-Eze South Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Nigeria's coastline spans about 853km (530miles) and over 3000km of navigable inland water channel with great potential for inland cargo and passenger transportation;

Also noted that over the years, there has been repeated incidence of insecurity, threat and act of illegalities which includes crude oil theft, pipe line vandalism, illegal oil bunkering, piracy and sea robbery and illegal fishing activities amongst others;

Concerned recently that the mass and social media are awash almost on daily basis with sad news of numerous numbers of Nigeria's citizens perishing as a result of various boat mishaps across the country on our coastlines and waterways;

Aware that, the Inland Waterways cuts across 23 States out of 36 States while boat mishaps continue to rise astronomically. Recently in Bayelsa State on 6 April, 2023, there was a tragic boat mishap at Okoroma Community along Brass waterways in Brass Local Government Area. Sadly, not less than five dead bodies were recovered while several persons and still missing. Also another Boat mishap was recorded along Otum and Anyama River in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area where a female youth corps member and five others lost their lives;

Also aware that on Saturday, 24 June, 2023, in Egbu Village in Patigi Local Government area of Kwara State, a boat with 250 people traveling for wedding event capsized and about 144 victims were rescued. In Kaduna, 10 students of Victory International secondary school got drowned in a river with just two of them rescued. In Kano State, in 2021, a boat with 47 people capsized with 20 people dead. In Niger State, a boat from Lokon carrying more than 160 people capsized at Warrah Ngaski. In Birnin Kebbi, 97 bodies were recovered as a result of a boat mishap. In Calabar on 24 June, 2023, three out of fourteen medical students who have converged at Medical School, Calabar for 2023 Nigerian Medical Association Health week got drowned when their boat capsized on water ways. The boat was reportedly derailed due to high waves as soon as it left for Marina Resort jetty. The casualties would have been more if not for the prompt intervention of the Divers from the Nigerian Navy;

Cognizant of the absence of regulatory guidelines for boat building maintenance and operations in Nigeria coastlines and waterways and issues that come into play regarding vessels operations that could result in accidents, death and injuries include: alcohol use; excessive speed; failure to vent; improper lookouts; inadequate on board navigation lights; navigation rules violation; operators' inexperience and inattention, illiteracy and non-chalant attitude of boat operators are common courses of most of the boat mishaps in Nigeria;

Appreciated that as Patriotic Nigerians there is need to enhance and courageously give whatever it takes to sustain the Economic development that water transportation portends;

Further cognizant that economic benefit of waterways transportation and its activities are responsible for a wide range of indirect value - added and employment effects through linkages of transport with other economic sectors;

Worried that, if the above identified challenges are not addressed forthwith as patriotic and worthy Nigerians, the plethora of deaths and insecurity being recorded daily in Nigeria's coastlines and waterways could skyrocket thereby having serious negative impact on our socio-economic development which will definitely be against the vision of the new administration;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe 'a minute silence in honour of those who lost their lives;
- (ii) urge the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) and National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) to device new strategic regulatory guidelines and enhance search and rescue measures in Coastline and Inland Water Ways;
- (iii) also urge the National Orientation Agency and National Meteorological Agency to commence intense awareness campaign on safety measures necessary to prevent boat and water craft hazards;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Maritime Safety Education and Administration, and Inland Water Ways (*when constituted*) to undertake a visit to the Netherlands to understudy the country's coastlines and waterways transportation system which records minimal casualties (**HR. 129/07/2023**).

23. Need to Establish Vocational Training and Sports Centres in Askira-Uba and Hawul Local Government Areas of Borno State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the over-a-decade-long insurgency in the Northeast especially the Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States with Borno State as the epicentre has grossly affected the socio-economic well-being of the people of Askira-Uba and Hawua Local Government Areas;

Also notes that despite the horrific situation, it is pertinent to acknowledge the recent level of improvement in the security and stability of the Northeast sub region. Thus, the need to consolidate and continue to building on the achieved progress requires strategic initiatives that will counter some of the causative factors of the crisis- pervasive poverty, gross social discontent, unemployment, employability and underemployment, among others;

Aware that establishing the centers will have a multi-faceted impact which is but not limited to skill development, employability, entrepreneurship and self-employment, reduction of unemployment, social well-being, transferable life skills, and social integration, among others;

Worried that the scale of devastation on the people and the gross vulnerability of the population to not only the existing threats posed by the insurgents but the emerging and underlying challenges owing to the lack or unavailability of positive alternatives that will counter the menace fuelled by the conflict;

Cognizant of the pivotal roles the vocational training and sports centres play in the facilitation and promotion of sustainable socio-economic well-being including the promotion of peace, security and development of the affected communities, Borno State and the Northeast sub-region at large;

Also aware that establishment of vocational training and sports centres will immensely empower the hardworking youths and women of Askira-Uba/ Hawul Federal Constituency;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development (FMHDS), National Directorate of Employment (NDE) and other relevant Agencies to establish vocational training and sports centres in Askira-Uba and Hawul Local Government Areas of Borno State;
- (ii) also urge the Northeast Development Commission (NEDC) to consider as a matter of strategic importance, massive construction of modern vocational training and sports centres in the BAY (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe) States; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on North-East Development Commission, Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees (IDPs) and Labour, Employment and Productivity (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Midala Usman Balami — Askira-Uba/Kala-Balge Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:

“Also urge the North East Development Commission to as a matter of urgency consider massive construction of modern vocational training and sports centres in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe States” (*Hon. Aliyu Bappa Misau — Misau/Dambam Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the over-a-decade-long insurgency in the Northeast especially the Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States with Borno State as the epicentre has grossly affected the socio-economic well-being of the people of Askira-Uba and Hawua Local Government Areas;

Also noted that despite the horrific situation, it is pertinent to acknowledge the recent level of improvement in the security and stability of the Northeast sub region. Thus, the need to consolidate and continue to building on the achieved progress requires strategic initiatives that will counter some of the causative factors of the crisis- pervasive poverty, gross social discontent, unemployment, employability and underemployment, among others;

Aware that establishing the centers will have a multi-faceted impact which is but not limited to skill development, employability, entrepreneurship and self-employment, reduction of unemployment, social well-being, transferable life skills, and social integration, among others;

Worried that the scale of devastation on the people and the gross vulnerability of the population to not only the existing threats posed by the insurgents but the emerging and underlying challenges owing to the lack or unavailability of positive alternatives that will counter the menace fueled by the conflict;

Cognizant of the pivotal roles the vocational training and sports centres play in the facilitation and promotion of sustainable socio-economic well-being including the promotion of peace, security and development of the affected communities, Borno State and the Northeast sub-region at large;

Also aware that establishment of vocational training and sports centres will immensely empower the hardworking youths and women of Askira-Uba/Hawul Federal Constituency;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development (FMHDS), National Directorate of Employment (NDE) and other relevant Agencies to establish vocational training and sports centres in Askira-Uba and Hawul Local Government Areas of Borno State;
- (ii) also urge the Northeast Development Commission (NEDC) to consider as a matter of strategic importance, massive construction of modern vocational training and sports centres in the BAY (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe) States;
- (iii) further urge the North East Development Commission to as a matter of urgency consider massive construction of modern vocational training and sports centres in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe States; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on North-East Development Commission, Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees (IDPs) and Labour, Employment and Productivity (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (**HR. 130/07/2023**).

24. Refusal of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to Disclose the interests accruing from the Petroleum Profit tax (PPT)/Royalty and Foreign Excess Crude Account

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) is the banker to the Federal Government's Banker and custodian of investment vehicles, including the Petroleum Profits Tax (PPT) and the Excess Crude Account (ECA), among others;

Concerned that the 2015 Annual Report of the Auditor-General for the Federation showed that an interest of USD1,829,025.45 was deposited in the Excess Crude Account as interest on Investments, but there were no details as regards the principal sums deposited, the tenor and the interest rate;

Also concerned that the CBN has flagrantly and consistently refused the requests by the

Auditor-General for the Federation to disclose the details regarding the management of interests accruing from the Petroleum Profit tax (PPT)/Royalty and Foreign Excess Crude Account;

Further concerned about reports which revealed unapproved and indiscriminate withdrawals from the ECA, including current year expenditures, fuel subsidies, debt financing and power projects, all of which are outside the fund's mandate;

Disturbed that the 2016 audit report revealed the disappearance of over \$9.5M interest accrued from the Petroleum Profit Tax (PPT) Investment;

Also disturbed that obscurity has consistently characterized the management of interests accruing on Federal Government investments, which is in contravention of the accountability principle, and points to misuse of much-needed government funds;

Further disturbed that the ECA has been riddled with controversy, allegations of corruption, and uncertain performance, and its absence of rules governing deposits, withdrawals and investments led to the Natural Resource Governance Institute ranking Nigeria as the second-most poorly governed fund among 34 resource-rich nations;

Worried that over the years, the ECA has consistently borne allegations of mismanagement along with a barrage of lawsuits challenging its legality as there is no law backing it;

Also worried that experts have raised concerns several times over ECA's balances which seem to change at will without any corresponding evidence of withdrawals or approvals of such withdrawals;

Further worried that the lack of transparency from the CBN has significantly affected the revenue accruable to the Federation Account, as well as undermines the Federal Government's efforts to plug leakages, reduce corruption, and improve revenue for the Federation;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to disclose without further delay, and following the required format, all the interests and principal sums on the investments in the Excess Crude Oil/Petroleum Profits tax/Royalty Account to the Auditor-General for the Federation's Office; and
- (ii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to determine the legality of the Excess Crude Account and investigate the status and management of all the Principal Sums deposited, tenor, and interest rate of the Petroleum Profits Tax/Royalty and Excess Crude Account from 2015 to date (*Hon. Esosa Iyawe — Oredo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) is the banker to the Federal Government's Banker and custodian of investment vehicles, including the Petroleum Profits Tax (PPT) and the Excess Crude Account (ECA), among others;

Concerned that the 2015 Annual Report of the Auditor-General for the Federation showed that an interest of USD1,829,025.45 was deposited in the Excess Crude Account as interest on Investments, but there were no details as regards the principal sums deposited, the tenor and the interest rate;

Also concerned that the CBN has flagrantly and consistently refused the requests by the

Auditor-General for the Federation to disclose the details regarding the management of interests accruing from the Petroleum Profit tax (PPT)/Royalty and Foreign Excess Crude Account;

Further concerned about reports which revealed unapproved and indiscriminate withdrawals from the ECA, including current year expenditures, fuel subsidies, debt financing and power projects, all of which are outside the fund's mandate;

Disturbed that the 2016 audit report revealed the disappearance of over \$9.5M interest accrued from the Petroleum Profit Tax (PPT) Investment;

Also disturbed that obscurity has consistently characterized the management of interests accruing on Federal Government investments, which is in contravention of the accountability principle, and points to misuse of much-needed government funds;

Further disturbed that the ECA has been riddled with controversy, allegations of corruption, and uncertain performance, and its absence of rules governing deposits, withdrawals and investments led to the Natural Resource Governance Institute ranking Nigeria as the second-most poorly governed fund among 34 resource-rich nations;

Worried that over the years, the ECA has consistently borne allegations of mismanagement along with a barrage of lawsuits challenging its legality as there is no law backing it;

Also worried that experts have raised concerns several times over ECA's balances which seem to change at will without any corresponding evidence of withdrawals or approvals of such withdrawals;

Further worried that the lack of transparency from the CBN has significantly affected the revenue accruable to the Federation Account, as well as undermines the Federal Government's efforts to plug leakages, reduce corruption, and improve revenue for the Federation;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to disclose without further delay, and following the required format, all the interests and principal sums on the investments in the Excess Crude Oil/Petroleum Profits tax/Royalty Account to the Auditor-General for the Federation's Office; and
- (ii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to determine the legality of the Excess Crude Account and investigate the status and management of all the Principal Sums deposited, tenor, and interest rate of the Petroleum Profits Tax/Royalty and Excess Crude Account from 2015 to date (HR. 131/07/2023).

25. Need to Harness the Untapped Potential of the Chalawa Gorge Dam in Karaye Local Government Area of Kano State and to Construct Irrigation Canal to Madobi, Kura and Garum Mallam Local Government Areas of (Kura/Madobi/Garum Mallam) Federal Constituency

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Chalawa Gorge Dam in Karaye Local Government Area of Kano State is about 42 meters high, 7.8 kilometres long and has a storage capacity of over 900-million-meter cubes;

Also notes that the Dam managed by Hadejia Jama'are River Basin Development Authority is currently under the jurisdiction of the Federal Ministry of Water Resources;

Observed that constructing an irrigation canal that connects Karaye to Madobi through Kura to Garun

Mallam will boost the country's economic growth, food security and improve biodiversity conservation;

Further observes that the proposed irrigation project will increase market opportunities significantly, make the local economy more resilient to market fluctuations, stimulate economic growth and create a more viable future for the people of Kano State and neighbouring States;

Perceived that the irrigation project will mitigate the devastating impact of recurring floods, promote food security and efficient utilization of water resources;

Concerned that the annual overflow of excess water from the Dam has always resulted in uncontrolled flooding that destroys farmlands and other infrastructural facilities of economic importance to the state;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government of Nigeria to commence the construction of the irrigation canal from the Chalawa Dam site in Karaye to Madobi through Kura to Garun Malam in Kura/Madobi/Garun Mallam Federal Constituency to stimulate economic development, and improve food security in the state;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources through the Hadejia Jama'are River Basin Development Authority to include the irrigation canal construction project in their 2024 budget and prioritize funding of same;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Water Resources, Agricultural Production And Service and Appropriations to ensure the implementation of the proposed project (*Hon. Yusuf Umar Datti — Kura/Madobi/Garun Mallam Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (i), immediately after the word “Constituency”, *insert* the words “and from Karaye to Rogo Local Government Area in Karaye/Rogo Federal Constituency” (*Hon. Abdullahi Sani Rogo — Karaye/Rogo Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayer (iii) immediately after the word “Appropriations”, *insert* the words “(when constituted)” (*Hon. Sani Lawan — Sango/Baure Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Chalawa Gorge Dam in Karaye Local Government Area of Kano State is about 42 meters high, 7.8 kilometres long and has a storage capacity of over 900-million-meter cubes;

Also noted that the Dam managed by Hadejia Jama'are River Basin Development Authority is currently under the jurisdiction of the Federal Ministry of Water Resources;

Observed that constructing an irrigation canal that connects Karaye to Madobi through Kura to Garun

Mallam will boost the country's economic growth, food security and improve biodiversity conservation;

Further observed that the proposed irrigation project will increase market opportunities significantly, make the local economy more resilient to market fluctuations, stimulate economic growth and create a more viable future for the people of Kano State and neighbouring States;

Perceived that the irrigation project will mitigate the devastating impact of recurring floods, promote food security and efficient utilization of water resources;

Concerned that the annual overflow of excess water from the Dam has always resulted in uncontrolled flooding that destroys farmlands and other infrastructural facilities of economic importance to the state;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government of Nigeria to commence the construction of the irrigation canal from the Chalawa Dam site in Karaye to Madobi through Kura to Garun Malam in Kura/Madobi/Garun Mallam Federal Constituency, and from Karaye to Rogo Local Government Area in Karaye/Rogo Federal Constituency to stimulate economic development, and improve food security in the state;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources through the Hadejia Jama'are River Basin Development Authority to include the irrigation canal construction project in their 2024 budget and prioritize funding of same;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Water Resources, Agricultural Production And Service and Appropriations (*when constituted*) to ensure the implementation of the proposed project (**HR. 132/07/2023**).

26. Need to complete the Rehabilitation of Enugu - Port Harcourt - Dual Carriageway, Section IV: (Aba - Port Harcourt)

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the economic benefits of good/motorable roads in a society cannot be overemphasized as they play major roles in poverty alleviation in rural areas and urban areas, enabling transportation of men, material and goods thereby leading to diversification of agricultural activities and boosting rural as well as overall economic growth of the country;

Also notes that the Aba-Port Harcourt Road is a Section of the Enugu-Umuahia-Aba-Port Harcourt Road; which is a North-South Federal Trunk Route 70 that links up several Communities within the axis of South-East and South-South States, thereby boosting their socio-economic activities and also connecting Important National Assets including Onne Ports/Free Trade Zone, Port Harcourt Refineries, Eleme Petrochemical Plant, Fertilizer Plant, Ariaria International Market, proposed Eyimba Economic City amongst others;

Aware that the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing commenced the Rehabilitation of the 41.4KM Road on January 24, 2015 through the Project Contractor - M/S CCECC (Nig.) Ltd with a Stipulated Completion Date of 30 Months (July 25, 2017) which was later extended to 60 Months Completion Date (January 20, 2020) But the Project currently is at 47.15% completion;

Also aware that the Contractor handling the Section IV of the said Road Project - CCECC (Nig.) Ltd abandoned the Project and demobilized from Site since June 2021, thereby making the road to be in a complete dilapidated state over the years thus, resulting to untold hardship, poverty and avoidable accidents leading to loss of both human and material resources;

Disturbed that reports of fatal accidents on the Enugu-Port Harcourt Highway has assumed an alarming dimension as premium Times online news recently reported as follows:

- (a) 11 people killed in Enugu-Port Harcourt Highway accident FRSC Agency Report of October 31, 2022,
- (b) 15 killed, burnt beyond recognition in Enugu Highway- FRSC Agency Report of April 19, 2023;

Worried that the Present Bad state of the Road has caused severe pains, avoidable accidents/deaths, hardship and huge economic losses to the People of South-East, South-South and Nigeria at large.

Concerned that at a time when the country yearns for expanded economic activities for development and poverty alleviation, Nigeria cannot afford to continue to lose her human and material resources resulting from bad roads;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee Works (*when constituted*) to engage the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Works and Housing in the absence of a Minister with a view of coming up with a workable and time bound plan towards completing the Road Project and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Chris Nkwonta — Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* all the words in the Prayer, and *insert* as follows:
“Mandate the Committee Works (*when constituted*) to engage the Ministry of Works and Housing on workable time frame towards completing the road project and report within four (4) weeks” (*Hon. Agbedi Frederick — Ekeremor/Sagbama Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (ii) as follows:
“observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased” (*Hon. Dominic Okafor — Aguata Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the economic benefits of good/motorable roads in a society cannot be overemphasized as they play major roles in poverty alleviation in rural areas and urban areas, enabling transportation of men, material and goods thereby leading to diversification of agricultural activities and boosting rural as well as overall economic growth of the country;

Also noted that the Aba-Port Harcourt Road is a Section of the Enugu-Umuahia-Aba-Port Harcourt Road; which is a North-South Federal Trunk Route 70 that links up several Communities within the axis of South-East and South-South States, thereby boosting their socio-economic activities and also connecting Important National Assets including Onne Ports/Free Trade Zone, Port Harcourt Refineries, Eleme Petrochemical Plant, Fertilizer Plant, Ariaria International Market, proposed Eyimba Economic City amongst others;

Aware that the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing commenced the Rehabilitation of the 41.4KM

Road on January 24, 2015 through the Project Contractor - M/S CCECC (NIG) LTD with a Stipulated Completion Date of 30 Months (July 25, 2017) which was later extended to 60 Months Completion Date (January 20, 2020) But the Project currently is at 47.15% completion;

Also aware that the Contractor handling the Section IV of the said Road Project - CCECC (Nig.) Ltd abandoned the Project and demobilized from Site since June 2021, thereby making the road to be in a complete dilapidated state over the years thus, resulting to untold hardship, poverty and avoidable accidents leading to loss of both human and material resources;

Disturbed that reports of fatal accidents on the Enugu-Port Harcourt Highway has assumed an alarming dimension as premium Times online news recently reported as follows:

- (a) 11 people killed in Enugu-Port Harcourt Highway accident FRSC Agency Report of October 31, 2022,
- (b) 15 killed, burnt beyond recognition in Enugu Highway- FRSC Agency Report of April 19, 2023;

Worried that the Present Bad state of the Road has caused severe pains, avoidable accidents/deaths, hardship and huge economic losses to the People of South-East, South-South and Nigeria at large.

Concerned that at a time when the country yearns for expanded economic activities for development and poverty alleviation, Nigeria cannot afford to continue to lose her human and material resources resulting from bad roads;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased
- (ii) mandate the Committee Works (*when constituted*) to engage the Ministry of Works and Housing on workable time frame towards completing the road project and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 133/07/2023**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

27. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 25 July, 2023 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 3.01 p.m.

Benjamin Okezie Kalu
Deputy Speaker