



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA FIRST VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 20 March, 2025

1. The House met at 10.38 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House sang the National Anthem and recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Wednesday, 19 March, 2025.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Executive Session**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do resolve into a Closed Session" (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Closed Session — 10.50 a.m.

Open Session — 11.03 a.m.

5. **Message**
Mr Speaker read a message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRES/134.1/HR/1

19th March, 2025

Rt Hon. Tajudeen Abbas, GCON
*Speaker of the House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Rt Hon. Speaker,

GAZETTE OF STATE OF EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION, 2025 — RIVERS STATE

In accordance with the provisions of Section 305 (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), I hereby forward for the consideration of the House of Representatives, copies of the Official Gazette of the State of Emergency Proclamation, 2025.

2. *I wish in view of the grave and urgent situation that has necessitated its issuance, to particularly commend this Proclamation to the House of Representatives for consideration and approval in line with the Constitution.*

3. *The main features of the Proclamation are as follows:*

- (a) *a declaration of a State of Emergency in one State of the Federation, namely Rivers State;*
- (b) *the suspension from Office of the Governor, his deputy and all members of the State House of Assembly; and*
- (c) *appointment of Vice Admiral Ibokette Ibas (rtd), as administrator to administer the State subject to any instruction or regulation as may, from time to time, be issued by me.*

4. *While I look forward to the expeditious consideration of the House, please accept Rt Hon. Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.*

Yours Sincerely,

(Signed)

Bola Ahmed Tinubu

S. I. No. 1 of 2025

**CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
NIGERIA, 1999 AS AMENDED**

STATE OF EMERGENCY (RIVERS STATE) PROCLAMATION, 2025

Commencement: [18th Day of March, 2025]

WHEREAS, there is a clear and present danger of an imminent breakdown of public order and public safety in Rivers State of Nigeria, which require extraordinary measures to avert such danger;

WHEREAS, there is a clear and present danger of the looming crisis in Rivers State which, if left unchecked, could degenerate, leading to massive loss of lives and property in the State;

WHEREAS, extraordinary measures are required to restore good governance, peace, security and order in Rivers State;

NOW THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me by section 305 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 and all other powers enabling me in that behalf, I, BOLA AHMED TINUBU, GCFR, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, hereby make the following proclamation.

Proclamation of a State of Emergency in Rivers State

1. *As from the commencement of this Proclamation, a State of Emergency is hereby declared in Rivers State (in the Proclamation referred to as "the State").*

Suspension of the Offices of the Governor, his deputy and elected members of the State House of Assembly

2. *As from the commencement of this Proclamation, the Offices of the Governor, Deputy Governor and State House of Assembly are here suspended.*

Appointment of Administrator

3. *The State shall for the duration of the emergency, be administered by Vice-Admiral Ibokette Ibas (Rtd), as Administrator, who shall operate on the basis of such Regulations that may, from time to time, be issued by me.*

Short Title

4. *This Proclamation may be cited as the State of Emergency (Rivers State) Proclamation, 2025.*

Made at Abuja this 18th day of March, 2025.

(Signed)

BOLA AHMED TINUBU, GCFR

*President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces
of the Federal Republic of Nigeria*

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

(i) *Insert a new Clause 4 as follows:*

"A National Committee comprising eminent Nigerians from the Executive, the National Assembly and any other at the discretion of the President be set up to reconcile the disputing parties within the period of the State of Emergency to ensure restoration of peace in the State" (Hon. Philip Agbese — Ado/Okpokuma/Ogbadigbo Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(ii) *Insert a new Clause 5 as follows:*

"Regulations by the Sole Administrator to be oversighted by the National Assembly, not the Federal Executive Council, in line with Section 11 (4) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) which yields the Legislative Powers of the State Legislature to the National Assembly in such circumstances" (Hon. Benedict Etanabene — Okpe/Sapele/Uvwie Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(iii) *Insert a new Clause 6 as follows:*

*“Mr President to review or terminate the State of Emergency Proclamation at any given time peace is restored in the State and not necessarily wait for the expiration of six (6) months”
(Hon. Ali Isa JC — Balanga/Billiri Federal Constituency).*

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

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4. *A National Committee comprising eminent Nigerians from the Executive, the National Assembly and any other at the discretion of the President be set up to reconcile the disputing parties within the period of the State of Emergency to ensure restoration of peace in the State.*

5. *Regulations by the Sole Administrator to be oversighted by the National Assembly, in line with Section 11 (4) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) which yields the Legislative Powers of the State Legislature to the National Assembly in such circumstances.*

6. *Mr President to review or terminate the State of Emergency Proclamation at any given time peace is restored in the State and not necessarily wait for the expiration of six (6) months.*

Short Title

7. *This Proclamation may be cited as the State of Emergency (Rivers State) Proclamation, 2025.*

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House considered the Gazette of State of Emergency (Rivers State) Proclamation, 2025, and approved Clauses 1 - 3, approved new Clauses 4 - 6 and the Short Title.

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do adopt the Report of the Consideration on the State of Emergency (Rivers State) Proclamation, 2025” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

No. of Members: 243

No. of Ayes: 243

No. of Noes: 0

Abstention: 0

Agreed to.

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

6. Order of the Day

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do set down Presentation of Reports, and items 1 - 17 on the Order Paper till another legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (3)” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

7. Adjournment of First Sitting

That the House do adjourn the First Sitting till 12.00 Noon (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 11.40 a.m.

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker