



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 23 May, 2024

1. The House met at 11.26 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, 22 May, 2024.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcement**
Visitors in the Gallery:
Mr Deputy Speaker announced the presence of the following visitors in the Gallery:

- (1) Staff and Students of Destiny Builders Academy, Abuja;
- (2) Staff and Students of Iconville Model School, Guata, Keffi, Nasarawa State;
- (3) Staff and Students of Yusell Mcchris Academy, Karshi - Nyanya, Abuja.

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

Closed Session — 11.36 a.m.

Open Session — 12 .12 p.m.

6. **Petitions**
 - (i) The following petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Kolawole D. Akinlayo (*Moba/Ido-Osi/Ilejemeje Federal Constituency*):
 - (a) Adebayo Ademuwa, on his dismissal from service by the Federal Road Safety Commission;

- (b) Towers Attorneys & Advisory (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Deborah Ademilua, on alleged fraud and theft of the sum of Sixteen Million, Five Hundred and Seventy-Two Thousand Naira (₦16,572,000.00) only by Olorunfemi Kehinde and six others;
- (c) Ukpai Ukpai Eni and 1 other, on alleged harassment and threat to life by the Management of Maritime Academy of Nigeria, Oron, Akwa Ibom State.

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

(i) *Disparity in Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) Performance:*

Hon. Chinedu Ogah (*Ikwo/Ezza South Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Disparity in Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) Performance:

The House:

Notes the government is enjoined by the provisions of Section 18 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) to ensure that there are equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels;

Also notes that Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) is a Nigerian entrance examination board for tertiary-level institutions;

Further notes that the board conducts entrance Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination for prospective undergraduates into Nigerian Universities and the board is also charged with the responsibility to administer similar examinations for applicants to Nigerian public and private Monotechnics, Polytechnics, and Colleges of Education;

Aware that on annual basis, the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) conduct examination for students across the country which serves as a precondition requirement to access higher education system in Nigeria and candidates must have obtained a certain mark to be certified to have passed the examination;

Also aware that the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) is only valid for a year and the grade is between 0 and 400;

Further aware that, since establishment of Jamb in 1977, Students write the Jamb examinations using paper and pencil model but in 2015, the full-fledged of using Jamb CBT (Computer Based Test) to write exams was manifested;

Worried that it has become increasingly apparent that the current Computer Based Test (CBT) mode is creating a significant disadvantage for candidates from less privileged backgrounds, with special interest to those in rural areas;

Also worried that, about 75% or more of Nigeria's secondary schools, especially those in

rural areas, lack computer laboratories, this puts candidates from these schools at a severe disadvantage, as they are often not exposed to computer usage before the JAMB examinations;

Disturbed that majority of candidates from villages, experiencing a computer for the first time in life, face daunting challenges ranging from inability to acclimatize themselves with the gadgets and other operations of the computers leading to massive failure of those particularly from the rural settings for the reason that they were not computer literate;

Also disturbed that this unfairly slants only results in favour of candidates from more privileged backgrounds, who have had better exposure to computers system;

Concerned that this disparity is more evident in the admission process as students from wealthy homes, who attended well-equipped private schools, tend to perform better and secure admission into professional courses like Medicine, Law, Nursing, Engineering among others;

Cognizant that this situation raises puzzles about the quality of education in Nigeria which is clear that the issue is not about intelligence but about access to resources and infrastructure;

Also cognizant that it is imperative to uphold the principles of fairness and equality in education, ensuring that every Nigerian child has an equal opportunity to succeed, regardless of their background;

Further cognizant that the pressing issue requires our swift action to address and reduce drastically the rate of students' failure in Jamb examinations in Nigeria;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy to establish Information Communication Technology (ICT) centers for basic training of pupils in one secondary school of each electoral ward in Nigeria;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Education and Universal Basic Education (UBEC) to provide computers to one secondary school in each electoral ward in Nigeria;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Appropriations to make budgetary provisions in the 2024 Supplementary Appropriation Bill as well as the 2025 Appropriation Bill to cater for the training centers and computers;
- (iv) also mandate the Committees on Education, Universal Basic Education (UBEC), Information Technology, Communications, Appropriations, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Chinedu N. Ogah — Ikwo/Ezza South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the government is enjoined by the provisions of Section 18 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) to ensure that there are equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels;

Also noted that Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) is a Nigerian entrance examination board for tertiary-level institutions;

Further noted that the board conducts entrance Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination for prospective undergraduates into Nigerian Universities and the board is also charged with the responsibility to administer similar examinations for applicants to Nigerian public and private Monotechnics, Polytechnics, and Colleges of Education;

Aware that on annual basis, the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) conduct examination for students across the country which serves as a precondition requirement to access higher education system in Nigeria and candidates must have obtained a certain mark to be certified to have passed the examination;

Also aware that the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) is only valid for a year and the grade is between 0 and 400;

Further aware that, since establishment of Jamb in 1977, Students write the Jamb examinations using paper and pencil model but in 2015, the full-fledged of using Jamb CBT (Computer Based Test) to write exams was manifested;

Worried that it has become increasingly apparent that the current Computer Based Test (CBT) mode is creating a significant disadvantage for candidates from less privileged backgrounds, with special interest to those in rural areas;

Also worried that about 75% or more of Nigeria's secondary schools, especially those in rural areas, lack computer laboratories, this puts candidates from these schools at a severe disadvantage, as they are often not exposed to computer usage before the JAMB examinations;

Disturbed that majority of candidates from villages, experiencing a computer for the first time in life, face daunting challenges ranging from inability to acclimatize themselves with the gadgets and other operations of the computers leading to massive failure of those particularly from the rural settings for the reason that they were not computer literate;

Also disturbed that this unfairly slants only results in favour of candidates from more privileged backgrounds, who have had better exposure to computers system;

Concerned that this disparity is more evident in the admission process as students from wealthy homes, who attended well-equipped private schools, tend to perform better and secure admission into professional courses like Medicine, Law, Nursing, Engineering among others;

Cognizant that this situation raises puzzles about the quality of education in Nigeria which is clear that the issue is not about intelligence but about access to resources and infrastructure;

Also cognizant that it is imperative to uphold the principles of fairness and equality in education, ensuring that every Nigerian child has an equal opportunity to succeed, regardless of their background;

Further cognizant that the pressing issue requires our swift action to address and reduce drastically the rate of students' failure in Jamb examinations in Nigeria;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy to establish

Information Communication Technology (ICT) centers for basic training of pupils in one secondary school of each electoral ward in Nigeria;

- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Education and Universal Basic Education (UBEC) to provide computers to one secondary school in each electoral ward in Nigeria;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Appropriations to make budgetary provisions in the 2024 Supplementary Appropriation Bill as well as the 2025 Appropriation Bill to cater for the training centers and computers;
- (iv) also mandate the Committees on Education, Universal Basic Education (UBEC), Information Technology, Communications, Appropriations, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 235/05/2024**).

(ii) ***Dismal Supply of Electricity to Gombe State:***

Hon. Inuwa Garba (*Yamaltu/Deba Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Dismal Supply of Electricity to Gombe State:

The House:

Notes that the entire Gombe State has been plunged into darkness for over two (2) weeks following non-supply of electricity by the Jos Electricity Distribution Company due to unexplainable reasons;

Concerned that this development has caused more economic pains to the entire residents of the State;

Worried that with the power outage, many hospitals and healthcare facilities are no longer functioning, leading to so many casualties. Similarly, water supply has been affected and residents are forced to consume water from unhealthy sources just because the public power supply is not available;

Also worried that life has been made difficult for the people of Gombe State due to this power outage and businesses are dying, manufacturing industries and artisans who daily depend on public power supply have all had their businesses and activities disrupted, in some extreme cases, shut down completely due to inability to buy diesel or petrol, both of which are expensive;

Disturbed that this development has not only disrupted businesses but has caused inconveniences connected to heatwaves and increase in crime and loss of revenue;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the North East Development Commission to proffer support/solutions to the State;

- (ii) mandate the Committee on Power to urgently investigate the cause of the lingering power outage in Gombe Stat;
- (iii) also mandate the relevant Committee on Health to liaise with relevant hospitals in the State to provide alternative sources of energy to curtail unnecessary deaths;
- (iv) further mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and report in two (2) weeks (*Hon. Inuwa Garba — Yamaltu/Deba Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Motion withdrawn by leave of the House..

- (iii) ***Acquisition and Demolition of the Traffic Training School, Carriage Wagon Running Shed, Engineering Training School and Staff Quarters, Belonging to Nigeria Railway Corporation, Eastern District, Enugu:***

Hon. Hart Cyril Godwin (*Degema/Bonny Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Acquisition and Demolition of the Traffic Training School, Carriage Wagon Running Shed, Engineering Training School and Staff Quarters, Belonging to Nigeria Railway Corporation, Eastern District, Enugu:

The House:

Notes that some properties of the Nigeria Railway Corporation, Eastern District of Enugu State, which include Traffic Training School and staff quarters, were recently demolished, and occupants of the quarters forcefully ejected by the Enugu State Government;

Aware that on 21 May, 2024, the Nigerian Union of Railway Workers Eastern District of Enugu State staged a mass protest against the Government of Enugu State over the forceful acquisition and demolition of the properties of the Nigeria Railway Corporation;

Worried that the staff of the Corporation were forcefully ejected from their homes, properties worth millions of Naira were demolished and citizens rendered homeless by Enugu State Government;

Concerned that these properties demolished by the State Government were leased to individuals by the Nigeria Railway Corporation and no compensation paid to them by either the State Government or the Railway Corporation;

Also worried by the State Government's resolve and inhumane approach of issuing notices and marking of buildings for onward demolition without considering the plight and plea of families of the workers;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to urgently halt the demolition of the properties of the Nigeria Railway Corporation being carried out by the Enugu State Government;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Land Transport to carry out thorough and speedy investigation on the acquisition and demolition of the properties of the Nigeria Railway Corporation and the use of brute force to eject its workers and report within six (6) weeks (*Hon. Hart Cyril Godwin — Degema/Bonny Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

(HR. 236/05/2024).

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (4) to enable it take more than 3 matters of urgent public importance” (*Hon. Gabriel Saleh Zock — Kachia/Kagarko Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

- (iv) ***Activities of Bandits and Kidnappers in Kachia and Kagarko Local Government Areas, Kaduna State:***

Hon. Gabriel Saleh Zock (*Kachia/Kagarko Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Activities of Bandits and Kidnappers in Kachia and Kagarko Local Government Areas of Kaduna State:

The House:

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

Also notes that the activities of kidnappers and bandits have been going on for a while now in Katari, Bishini, Awom, Kachai Urban, Gomel, and Ankwa in Kachia and Kagarko Local Government Areas of Kaduna State;

Further notes that the Legislative Agenda of the 10th House of Representatives provides for improving National Security of Nigeria;

Informed that on 8 May, 2024, kidnappers invaded Idda in Kagarko Local Government Area and killed one Mr Yaro, and another Mr Ibrahim and the following people were kidnapped to an unknown destination: Hanatu Sati, Rose Mary Sati, Junior Samuel, Japhet Emmanuel,

Chinedu (SNU), Salansa (SNU), Jostin Manda, and Mrs Doris Markus, Morin Felix, and Mrs Abraham with her two children, some students whose number is yet to be ascertained, were also kidnapped;

Also informed that on 14 May, 2024, the kidnappers invaded Kwaturu in Kachia and kidnapped 4 people in Kurmin Gwaza, and in the following week, they also attacked Ungwan Tama and kidnapped 5 people;

Worried that bandits attacks, and kidnapping in Kachia Local Government Area of Kaduna State has continued unabated, and many women, children, families and their loved ones have suffered to pay ransoms in return for their loved ones;

Also disturbed that residents no longer go to their farms, which is their economy mainstay; all farming activities have been grounded with a likelihood of severe hunger in the Local Government in the year 2024;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Chief of Army Staff and all other Service Chiefs, including the Inspector General of Police, and the Director-General, Department of State Services (DSS) to ensure the speedy rescue of the kidnapped victims;
- (ii) also urge the Nigerian Army to establish a FRONT OPERATIONS BASE (FOB) in the areas affected for proper security for the citizens;
- (iii) further urge the Service Chiefs to ensure adequate Security formation in the mountainous and crowded areas in Kachia and Kagarko Local Government Areas;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, Defence, National Security and Intelligence, and Legislative Compliance to ensure strict compliance (*Hon. Gabriel Saleh Zock — Kachia/Kagarko Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

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

Also noted that the activities of kidnappers and bandits have been going on for a while now in Katari, Bishini, Awom, Kachai Urban, Gomel, and Ankwa in Kachia and Kagarko Local Government Areas of Kaduna State;

Further noted that the Legislative Agenda of the 10th House of Representatives provides for improving National Security of Nigeria;

Informed that on 8 May, 2024, kidnappers invaded Idda in Kagarko Local Government Area and killed one Mr Yaro, and another Mr Ibrahim and the following people were kidnapped to an unknown destination: Hanatu Sati, Rose Mary Sati, Junior Samuel, Japhet Emmanuel, Chinedu (SNU), Salansa (SNU), Jostin Manda, and Mrs Doris Markus, Morin Felix, and Mrs Abraham with her two children, some students whose number is yet to be ascertained, were also kidnapped;

Also informed that on 14 May, 2024, the kidnappers invaded Kwaturu in Kachia and kidnapped 4 people in Kurmin Gwaza, and in the following week, they also attacked Ungwan Tama and kidnapped 5 people;

Worried that bandits attacks, and kidnapping in Kachia Local Government Area of Kaduna State has continued unabated, and many women, children, families and their loved ones have suffered to pay ransoms in return for their loved ones;

Also disturbed that residents no longer go to their farms, which is their economy mainstay; all farming activities have been grounded with a likelihood of severe hunger in the Local Government in the year 2024;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Chief of Army Staff and all other Service Chiefs, including the Inspector General of Police, and the Director-General, Department of State Services (DSS) to ensure the speedy rescue of the kidnapped victims;
 - (ii) also urge the Nigerian Army to establish a FRONT OPERATIONS BASE (FOB) in the areas affected for proper security for the citizens;
 - (iii) further urge the Service Chiefs to ensure adequate Security formation in the mountainous and crowded areas in Kachia and Kagarko Local Government Areas;
 - (iv) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, Defence, National Security and Intelligence, and Legislative Compliance to ensure strict compliance (**HR. 237/05/2024**).
- (v) ***Gruesome and Incessant Killings and Attacks on Eda Oniyo Community of Ekiti North Local Government Area, Ekiti State:***
Hon. Kolawole Akinlayo (*Moba/Ido-Osi/Ilejemeje Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

Gruesome and Incessant Killings and Attacks on Eda Oniyo Community of Ekiti North Local Government Area, Ekiti State:

The House:

Notes that Security of lives and properties is the sole responsibility of government;

Also notes that there has been festering boundary dispute between Eda Oniyo in Ekiti State and Obbo Ayegunle in Kwara State;

Further notes that few years ago the Ekiti State Government and Kwara State Government met with a view to resolving the boundary issue and a resolution was reached that the said land should be ceded to Eda Oniyo in Ilejemeje the headquarter of the Local Government Area of Ekiti State being the rightful owner of the land;

Worried that the boundary issue has escalated and lead to incessant attacks, killings and wanton destruction of properties in Ekiti North Federal Constituency II, Eda Oniyo to be precise;

Also worried that cars, motorcycles and other businesses worth millions of naira have been severally vandalized and destroyed by the hoodlums;

Disturbed that farmlands of the people of Eda Oniyo were destroyed and the affected victims have been subjected to untold hardship as their means of livelihood has been halted;

Also disturbed that the unfortunate incident has been brewing up tension in the community and this is against the peaceful and serene atmosphere the area have enjoyed for many years;

Cognizant that there is need to take a stance against surge of violence that may cause instability;

Also cognizant that the need for collective resolve to stem the tide of the unfortunate incident cannot be overemphasized;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) call on the Inspector General of Police and other security agencies to beef-up security/surveillance in order to forestall further occurrences;
- (iii) urge the National Boundary Commission to intervene on the boundary dispute matter in the area;
- (iv) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the gruesome killings and incessant attacks on the lives and properties of the constituents (*Hon. Kolawole D. Akinlayo — Moba/Ido-Osi/Ilejemeje Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (iv), *leave out* the words “set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee” and *insert* the words “mandate the Committees on National Security and Intelligence, Special Duties, and Police Affairs” (*Hon. Ahmadu Usman Jaha — Chibok/Damboa/Gwoza Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Security of lives and properties is the sole responsibility of government;

Also noted that there has been festering boundary dispute between Eda Oniyo in Ekiti State and Obbo Ayegunle in Kwara State;

Further noted that few years ago the Ekiti State Government and Kwara State Government met with a view to resolving the boundary issue and a resolution was reached that the said land should be ceded to Eda Oniyo in Ilejemeje the headquarter of the Local Government Area of Ekiti State being the rightful owner of the land;

Worried that the boundary issue has escalated and lead to incessant attacks, killings and wanton destruction of properties in Ekiti North Federal Constituency II, Eda Oniyo to be precise;

Also worried that cars, motorcycles and other businesses worth millions of naira have been severally vandalized and destroyed by the hoodlums;

Disturbed that farmlands of the people of Eda Oniyo were destroyed and the affected victims have been subjected to untold hardship as their means of livelihood has been halted;

Also disturbed that the unfortunate incident has been brewing up tension in the community and this is against the peaceful and serene atmosphere the area have enjoyed for many years;

Cognizant that there is need to take a stance against surge of violence that may cause instability;

Also cognizant that the need for collective resolve to stem the tide of the unfortunate incident cannot be overemphasized;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) call on the Inspector General of Police and other security agencies to beef-up security/surveillance in order to forestall further occurrences;
- (iii) urge the National Boundary Commission to intervene on the boundary dispute matter in the area;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on National Security and Intelligence, Special Duties, and Police Affairs to investigate the gruesome killings and incessant attacks on the lives and properties of the constituents (**HR. 238/05/2024**).

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

(vi) Closure of Banex Plaza, Abuja:

Hon. Sesi Oluwaseun Whingan (*Badagry Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Closure of Banex Plaza, Abuja:

The House:

Notes the recent unrest at Banex Plaza, Wuse, Abuja, involving hoodlums who attacked Nigerian Army personnel;

Also notes the intervention by soldiers and policemen to rescue the attacked personnel;

Informed that the attacked soldiers were unarmed and posed no threat, making the attack unjustifiable;

Concerned that the closure of Banex Plaza, a major commercial hub affect businesses and the economy;

Also concerned about the over-reliance on traditional, heavy-handed methods in civil matters, causing unnecessary disruption;

Worried about the inappropriate use of military personnel in civil matters, detracting from their primary role of national defense;

Recalls that the Okuama crisis in Delta State, where 17 soldiers were killed, allegedly while on a peace mission, led to severe military reprisals and significant destruction. This highlights the ineffective rules of engagement and the need for a review of military intervention in civil matters.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government and the Nigerian Army to reopen the Banex Plaza to resume normal business activities immediately and use modern technology, such as surveillance and Closed Circuit Television, to identify and apprehend the perpetrators;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on National Security and Intelligence, Defence, and Police Affairs to investigate the circumstances leading to the closure of Banex Plaza and the military's involvement and recommend more effective, less disruptive methods for handling similar situations in the future (*Hon. Sesi Oluwaseun Whingan — Badagry Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the recent unrest at Banex Plaza, Wuse, Abuja, involving hoodlums who attacked Nigerian Army personnel;

Also noted the intervention by soldiers and policemen to rescue the attacked personnel;

Informed that the attacked soldiers were unarmed and posed no threat, making the attack unjustifiable;

Concerned that the closure of Banex Plaza, a major commercial hub affect businesses and the economy;

Also concerned about the over-reliance on traditional, heavy-handed methods in civil matters, causing unnecessary disruption;

Worried about the inappropriate use of military personnel in civil matters, detracting from their primary role of national defense;

Recalled that the Okuama crisis in Delta State, where 17 soldiers were killed, allegedly while on a peace mission, led to severe military reprisals and significant destruction. This

highlights the ineffective rules of engagement and the need for a review of military intervention in civil matters.

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government and the Nigerian Army to reopen the Banex Plaza to resume normal business activities immediately and use modern technology, such as surveillance and Closed Circuit Television, to identify and apprehend the perpetrators;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on National Security and Intelligence, Defence, and Police Affairs to investigate the circumstances leading to the closure of Banex Plaza and the military's involvement and recommend more effective, less disruptive methods for handling similar situations in the future (**HR. 239/05/2024**).

8. Personal Explanation (Order Eight, Rule 6)

Hon. Kelechi Nwogu (*Etche/Omuma Federal Constituency*), drew the attention of the House to the provision of Order Eighteen, Rule 11 (5) of the Standing Orders of the House, relating to limitation as to the time frame for submission of Reports. He noted that 80 days after the House, on Wednesday, 6 March, 2024, passed a Resolution on a Motion “On the Need to Provide Living Wage for Workers in Nigeria (**HR.116/03/2024**)”, the Committees on Finance, National Planning and Economic Development, and Labour, Employment and Productivity, are yet to submit a report on the matter. He also noted that in view of the impending strike action by the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC), and the need for the House to be proactive in preventing the strike, that the Committees be discharged of the mandate and the matter referred to an *Ad-hoc* Committee of the House.

Ordered: *The Leadership of the House in conjunction with the Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity should interface with the organized Labour and report within one week.*

9. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1393).
- (2) Nigerian Co-operative Societies Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1394).
- (3) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1408).
- (4) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1409).
- (5) Federal Colleges of Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1418).
- (6) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1419).
- (7) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1421).
- (8) Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery Egbu, Owerri North, Imo State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1395).

- (9) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1396).
- (10) Integrated Agro-Industrial Park Nekede, Owerri West, Imo State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1397).
- (11) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1410).
- (12) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1411).
- (13) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1412).
- (14) Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skills Acquisition, Ingawa, Katsina State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1416).
- (15) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1422).
- (16) Federal Colleges of Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1433).
- (17) National Anthem Bill, 2024 (HB. 1470).
- (18) Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1462).

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do suspend Order Twelve, Rule 4 to enable it take the Second Reading on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the National Anthem of Nigeria and for Matters Related (HB. 1470)” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*) — ***Agreed to.***

10. A Bill for an Act to Provide for the National Anthem of Nigeria and for Matters Related (HB. 1470)

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the National Anthem of Nigeria and for Matters Related (HB. 1470) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee of the Whole.

11. A Bill for an Act to Domesticicate and Enforce in Nigeria the International Convention against Doping in Sports, Establish Nigeria Anti-Doping Centre to Implement Nigeria's obligations to World Anti-Doping Code, International Standards and for Related Matters (HB.1441) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Domesticicate and Enforce in Nigeria the International Convention against Doping in Sports, Establish Nigeria Anti-Doping Centre to Implement Nigeria's obligations to World Anti-Doping Code, International Standards and for Related Matters (HB.1441) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Treaties, Protocols and Agreement.

12. Consideration of Report

A Bill for an Act to Provide for the National Anthem of Nigeria and for Matters Related (HB. 1470) (Committee of the Whole)

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report of the Committee of the Whole on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the National Anthem of Nigeria and for Matters Related (HB. 1470) ”(*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE
NATIONAL ANTHEM OF NIGERIA, AND FOR
MATTERS RELATED THERETO (HB. 1470)

Clause 1: National Anthem.

On the date of commencement of this Bill, the national anthem of the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be "Nigeria, We Hail Thee," which is prescribed in the Schedule to this Bill (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 2: A National Symbol and Sign of Authority.

- (1) The national anthem of the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be a national symbol and sign of authority.
- (2) All persons, individuals or corporate entities, shall respect the national anthem and preserve the dignity of the national anthem (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 3: Mandatory Performance or singing of the National Anthem.

The national anthem shall be performed and sung on the following occasions:

- (a) opening and closing ceremonies of Federal Executive Council, and State Executives Council meetings;
- (b) opening and closing of sittings of Legislative Houses in Nigeria;

- (c) Constitutional oath-swearing ceremonies;
- (d) Flag-raising ceremonies;
- (e) major celebrations, major award ceremonies, major commemorative ceremonies, national memorial ceremonies and the like, which are organized by MDAs;
- (f) major diplomatic activities;
- (g) major sporting events;
- (h) other occasions as may from time to time, be determined by the minister responsible for education with the consent of the President (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 4: Prohibition of Alteration of Lyrics.

The Performance and singing of the national anthem shall follow the lyrics prescribed by the Federal Government of Nigeria (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 5: Composure when the National Anthem is performed or Sung.

When the national anthem is performed and sung —

- (a) those present shall stand and deport respectfully; and
- (b) at flag-raising ceremonies, those present shall face the flag, and uniformed military personnel, Police and other Security personnel are to give a hand salute, and other persons are to look on in respect (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 6: Standard and Official Recording.

- (1) The Ministry responsible for information shall organize the review and approval of the standard for performance of the national anthem, and record the official recording of the national anthem to be played.
- (2) The standard and official recorded versions of the national anthem shall be published on the Federal Government of Nigeria's website (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 7: Part of Civic Education.

Primary and Secondary schools shall make the lyrics of the national anthem part of the civic education and organize pupils and students to learn the national anthem (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 8: The National Prayer.

The second stanza of the former national anthem shall be the national prayer (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Clause 9: Interpretation.

In this Bill, unless otherwise indicated by the context:

“National Anthem” means We Nigeria We Hail Thee (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the words “National Anthem” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

“MDAs” means Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Question that the meaning of the abbreviations “MDAs” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

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

Clause 10: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the National Anthem Bill, 2024 (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

SCHEDULE**NIGERIA, WE HAIL THEE**

Nigeria we hail thee
Our own dear native land
Though tribe and tongue may differ
In brotherhood we stand
Nigerians all, are proud to serve
Our sovereign Motherland.

Our flag shall be a symbol
That truth and justice reign
In peace or battle, honour'd,
And this we count as gain,
To hand on to our children
A banner without stain.

O God of all creation
Grant this our one request.
Help us to build a nation
Where no man is oppressed
And so with peace and plenty
Nigeria may be blessed (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to provide for the National Anthem of Nigeria, and for matters related thereto (HB. 1470) (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Provide for the National Anthem of Nigeria, and for Matters Related Thereto (HB. 1470) (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the National Anthem of Nigeria and for Matters Related (HB. 1470) and approved Clauses 1 - 10, the Schedule, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

13. A Bill for an Act to Provide for the National Anthem of Nigeria and for Matters Related (HB. 1470) — Third Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the National Anthem of Nigeria and for Matters Related (HB. 1470) be now read the Third Time” (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

14. Order of the Day

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do set down items 2 - 17, on the Order Paper till another legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 7 (3)” (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

15. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 30 May, 2024 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.14 p.m.

Benjamin Okezie Kalu
Deputy Speaker