



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 24 October, 2023

1. The House met at 12.35 p.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 19 October, 2023.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Petitions**
 - (i) The following petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Ogene Victor Afam (*Ogbara Federal Constituency*):
 - (a) K. E Okoro & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on alleged sale and conversion of containers purchased by their client by the Nigerian Customs Service;
 - (b) Daniel Ujong & Associates (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Mfamosing Community of Akamkpa Local Government Area of Rivers State, on alleged unlawful and hazardous operations by Lafarge Africa Plc in Mfamosing Community;
 - (ii) A petition from Non-Teaching Employees of the University of Calabar, on the refusal to include them in payroll by the Management of the University of Calabar, was presented and laid by Hon. Fatoba Olusola (*Ado Ekiti/Irepodun/Ifelodun Federal Constituency*);
 - (iii) The following petitions were presented and laid by Hon. Akiba Bassey (*Calabar Municipal/Odukpani Federal Constituency*):
 - (a) Bolaji Yunus, on the refusal by Access Bank to pay his hospital bill incurred from injuries sustained while working for Access Bank, Victoria Inland Branch, Lagos State;
 - (b) Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics on alleged refusal to regularise the appointments of Engineering Technologist Staff employed in 2019 to date;

- (c) Makun Abubakar Alhaji, on the termination of his appointment by Federal Capital Territory Administration;
- (d) Raphael Etukudo, on non-payment of his gratuity and pension by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

(i) *Robbery Attack and Gruesome Killings of Police Officers and Citizens of Otukpo Community in Benue State:*

Hon. Onuh Onyeche Blessing (*Otukpo/Ohimini 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.

Robbery Attack and Gruesome Killings of Police Officers and Citizens of Otukpo Community in Benue State:

The House;

Notes that the primary purpose of government is the security and welfare of its citizens;

Also notes that on Friday, 20 October, 2023, at about 3.00 p.m., Otukpo a relatively peaceful town in Benue State was invaded by heavily armed gunmen numbering over twenty;

Further notes that gunmen held the community under siege for over two hours, and wrecked havoc using rocket launchers, dynamites, AK47 rifles and other sophisticated weapons;

Aware that these yet to be identified gunmen started their killing spree by attacking the vigilante group which is the first line in the homeland security, and thereafter proceeded to the Otukpo Police Station, killing the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) and three other female police officers;

Also aware that while the attack on the police station was ongoing, other members of the gang were busy attacking four commercial banks simultaneously, killing and carting away huge sum of money;

Further aware that the banks attacked were, Stanbic IBTC, Zenith, UBA and First Bank with several persons killed and many others sustained gunshot injuries;

Concerned that residents are currently traumatized by the incident and are greatly feeling unsafe.

Worried that the security architecture of Otukpo Community, particularly the police and vigilante are badly demoralized;

Also worried that the commercial and business activities in Otukpo and Benue South as a whole are currently halted as banks and other commercial institutions have completely shut

down operations;

Resolves to:

- (i) condemn in strong terms the gruesome and brutal killing of security personnel, bank officials and other law abiding members of the community;
- (ii) urge the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), the Department of State Services (DSS) and other Security agencies to, as a matter of urgency, make effort to arrest and prosecute the perpetrators of this heinous act;
- (iii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to as a matter of urgency increase the security architecture within the town and its environs to prevent recurrence;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on National Security and Intelligence, Police Affairs, and Army to investigate the immediate and remote causes of the incident;
- (v) observe a minute silence in honour of the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) other security personnel and members of the community who lost their lives during the attack (*Hon. Onyeche Blessing Onuh — Otukpo/Ohimini Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House;

Noted that the primary purpose of government is the security and welfare of it's citizens;

Also noted that on Friday, 20 October, 2023, at about 3.00 p.m., Otukpo a relatively peaceful town in Benue State was invaded by heavily armed gunmen numbering over twenty;

Further noted that gunmen held the community under siege for over two hours, and wrecked havoc using rocket launchers, dynamites, AK47 rifles and other sophisticated weapons;

Aware that these yet to be identified gunmen started their killing spree by attacking the vigilante group which is the first line in the homeland security, and thereafter proceeded to the Otukpo Police Station, killing the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) and three other female police officers;

Also aware that while the attack on the police station was ongoing, other members of the gang were busy attacking four commercial banks simultaneously, killing and carting away huge sum of money;

Further aware that the banks attacked were, Stanbic IBTC, Zenith, UBA and First Bank with several persons killed and many others sustained gunshot injuries;

Concerned that residents are currently traumatized by the incident and are greatly feeling unsafe.

Worried that the security architecture of Otukpo Community, particularly the police and vigilante are badly demoralized;

Also worried that the commercial and business activities in Otukpo and Benue South as a whole are currently halted as banks and other commercial institutions have completely shut down operations;

Resolved to:

- (i) condemn in strong terms the gruesome and brutal killing of security personnel, bank officials and other law abiding members of the community;
- (ii) urge the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Department of State Services (DSS) and other Security agencies as a matter of urgency, make effort to arrest and prosecute the perpetrators of this heinous act;
- (iii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to as a matter of urgency increase the security architecture within the town and its environs to prevent recurrence;
- (iv) observe a minute silence in honour of the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) other security personnel and members of the community who lost their lives during the attack;
- (v) mandate the Committees on National Security and Intelligence, Police Affairs, and Army to investigate the immediate and remote causes of the incident (**HR. 280/10/2023**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

- (ii) **Lifting of FOREX Restrictions on 43 Items by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN):**
Hon. Sada Soli (*Jibia/Kaita 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.

Lifting of FOREX Restrictions on 43 Items by the Central Bank of Nigeria:

The House:

Notes that the CBN in June 2015, imposed the restrictions to conserve the foreign exchange reserves and promote local production of certain goods, including about 11 food items;

Also notes that on October 12, 2023, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) announced, among other issues, the lift on FOREX restrictions earlier placed on 43 items;

Further notes that some of the items are part of the imports prohibition list with tariffs to protect local industries, as they;

Concerned that the decision of the CBN will adversely affect local production of items such as rice, cement, and palm oil among others, and force local manufacturers to hold the short end of the stick, thereby leading to factory closure and ultimately eroding our capacity to build the country's local economy;

Aware that almost all the 43 items are from two critical sectors which have been identified by all policy documents from NEEDS, SEEDS to Vision 2022;

Worried that some of the listed items enjoy 60%-70% subsidy from their countries of origin, thus putting Nigeria's local products at a comparative disadvantage, without any protection, and will lead to job losses and social exclusion;

Also worried that the benefit of the cheaper imported inputs as stated by the CBN will give undue advantage to middlemen to drive the economy, which is inimical to our economic growth and not suitable to the current unified FOREX market in the country;

Further worried that Nigeria will not be competitive within the African Continental Free Trade Area if our markets are flooded with imported finished goods;

Alarmed that the decision followed the rising food inflation in the country which has significantly impacted the economy and the purchasing power of consumers in the country;

Cognizant that in reality, the lifting of the FOREX restriction on the importation of 43 items may not have meaningful impact on the rising food inflation as a result of soaring exchange rate;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to engage other stakeholders within the fiscal ecosystem on the recent decision to lift FOREX restrictions on 43 items;
- (ii) also urge the CBN to develop a system that will engender professional conduct by all key players in the Nigerian Foreign Exchange Market to guarantee market forces determine exchange rates on a Willing Buyer-Willing Seller Principle;
- (iii) further urge the CBN to desist from market suppression tendencies with regards to I & E Window;
- (iv) invite the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, pursuant to Section 8 (4) (a) - (b) and Section 5 (b) of the CBN Act, 2007 (*Hon. Sada Soli — Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (v) as follows:
“urge the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria to suspend the execution of the lifting of FOREX restrictions on 43 items on till the conclusion of the investigation” (*Hon. Jesse Okey-Joe Onuakalusi — Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

- (ii) *Leave out* all the Prayers and *insert* a new Prayer as follows:
“mandate the Committees on Regulatory Banking, and Customs and Excise to invite the Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria to investigate the matter and report within two (2) weeks” (*Hon. Kingsley Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the CBN in June 2015, imposed the restrictions to conserve the foreign exchange

reserves and promote local production of certain goods, including about 11 food items; *Also noted* that on October 12, 2023, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) announced, among other issues, the lift on FOREX restrictions earlier placed on 43 items;

Further noted that some of the items are part of the imports prohibition list with tariffs to protect local industries, as they;

Concerned that the decision of the CBN will adversely affect local production of items such as rice, cement, and palm oil among others, and force local manufacturers to hold the short end of the stick, thereby leading to factory closure and ultimately eroding our capacity to build the country's local economy;

Aware that almost all the 43 items are from two critical sectors which have been identified by all policy documents from NEEDS, SEEDS to Vision 2022;

Worried that some of the listed items enjoy 60%-70% subsidy from their countries of origin, thus putting Nigeria's local products at a comparative disadvantage, without any protection, and will lead to job losses and social exclusion;

Also worried that the benefit of the cheaper imported inputs as stated by the CBN will give undue advantage to middlemen to drive the economy, which is inimical to our economic growth and not suitable to the current unified FOREX market in the country;

Further worried that Nigeria will not be competitive within the African Continental Free Trade Area if our markets are flooded with imported finished goods;

Alarmed that the decision followed the rising food inflation in the country which has significantly impacted the economy and the purchasing power of consumers in the country;

Cognizant that in reality, the lifting of the FOREX restriction on the importation of 43 items may not have meaningful impact on the rising food inflation as a result of soaring exchange rate;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Regulatory Banking, and Customs and Excise to invite the Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria to investigate the matter and report within two (2) weeks (**HR. 281/10/2023**).

6. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.710).
- (2) Ministry of Finance Incorporated Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2023 (HB.711).
- (3) Association of National Accountants of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.712).
- (4) Chartered Institute of Finance and Intelligence Managers (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.713).
- (5) Institute of Chartered Trustees of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.714).
- (6) National Institute of Flood and Erosion Control (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.715).
- (7) National Commission for Nomadic Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.716).

- (8) Federal College of Land Resources Technology, Rabah, Sokoto State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.717).
- (9) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.718).
- (10) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, Act (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (HB.719).
- (11) Federal Road Safety Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.720).
- (12) Federal Character Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.721).
- (13) Federal University of Ecology and Wildlife Conservation Studies, Yankari, Bauchi State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.722).
- (14) Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Esie (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.723).
- (15) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.724).
- (16) National Residency Training Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.725).
- (17) Oba Obafemi Owode Vocational Skills and Entrepreneur University, Owode (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.726).
- (18) National Science, Technology, Innovation and Research Council (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.727) .
- (19) Agriculture Research Council Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.728).
- (20) Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.729).
- (21) National Football Academy, Mbaitoli, Imo State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.730).
- (22) Debt Management Bureau Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.731).
- (23) Central Bank of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.732).
- (24) National Space Research and Development Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.733).
- (25) Federal Colleges of Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.734).
- (26) Armed Forces Comfort Fund Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.735).
- (27) National Vocational Training Centres (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.736).
- (28) National Institute of Rubber Research and Technology (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.737).
- (29) Federal University of Health Sciences, Azare Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.738).
- (30) Federal College of Dental Technology and Therapy, Kano Municipal, Kano State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.739).

7. Presentation of Reports

- (i) *Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Disposal of Public Property by Some Agencies Between 2010 - 2022:*
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Ad-Hoc

Committee to Investigate the Disposal of Public Property by some Agencies between 2010 - 2022 to Unravel the Extent of Illegal Auctioning of Public Property, Non-Remittance of Revenue Realized into the Consolidated Revenue Fund” (*Hon. Julius O. Ihonvbere — Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) Ad-hoc Committee with Critical Stakeholders and the Nigerian Association of Resident Doctors:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee with Critical Stakeholders and the Nigerian Association of Resident Doctors to resolve the Ongoing Strike embarked upon by Resident Doctors” (*Hon. Julius O. Ihonvbere — Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iii) Ad -hoc Committee on Legislative Agenda:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on Legislative Agenda of the House of Representatives” (*Hon. Julius O. Ihonvbere — Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iv) Ad-hoc Committee on the Review of Standing Orders of the House of Representatives:
Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Review of Standing Orders of the House of Representatives” (*Hon. Igariwey Iduma Enwo — Afikpo North/Afikpo South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(v) Ad-hoc Committee on International Boundary Dispute with Cameroon:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on International Boundary Dispute with Cameroon between Nigeria and Cameroon on the Need to Locate Pillar 113A in the Demarcation and/or Ceding of Danare and Biajua Communities of Boki Local Government Area of Cross River State and Sina-Kamale Area of Michika Local Government Area of Adamawa State” (*Hon. Abiante Awaji-Inombek Dagomie — Andoni/Opobo Nkoro Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(vi) Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate Alleged Fictitious Contract Awards, Gross Mismanagement of Billions of Naira and Lopsided Placement of Directors by the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA):

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate alleged fictitious Contract Awards, Gross Mismanagement of Billions of Naira and Lopsided Placement of Directors by the Nigerian Maritime

Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA)": (HR.57/07/2023)" (Hon. Kelechi Nwogu — Etche.Omuma Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

8. A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigeria Medical Research Council and for Related Matters 2023 (HB.470) — Third Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigeria Medical Research Council and for Related Matters 2023 (HB.470) be now read the Third Time" (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

9. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap. 17 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Establish Federal Polytechnic, Rano, Kano State and for Related Matters (HB. 92) — Third Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap. 17 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Establish Federal Polytechnic, Rano, Kano State and for Related Matters (HB. 92) be now read the Third Time" (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

10. A Bill For an Act to Make Provisions for the Retirement Age for Staff of National Assembly Service and for Related Matters (HB. 529) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill For an Act to Make Provisions for the Retirement Age for Staff of National Assembly Service and for Related Matters (HB. 529) be read a Second Time" (Hon. Aliyu Sani Madaki — Dala Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Public Service Matters.

11. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act and Establish Federal Medical Centre, Ako-Nike, Enugu State and for Related Matters (HB. 490) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act and Establish Federal Medical Centre, Ako-Nike, Enugu State and for Related Matters (HB. 490) be read a Second Time" (Hon. Paul Sunday Nnamchi — Enugu East/Isi-Uzo Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Health Institutions.

12. Order of the Day

Motion made and Question proposed: “That the House do set down Items 5 - 17 on the Order Paper to the next legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (3)” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

13. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 25 October, 2023 at 9.00 a.m. (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.03 p.m.

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker