



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 24 October, 2024

1. The House met at 11.14 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, 23 October, 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:
  - (i) Staff and Students of the Christ Apostolic Church Nursery and Primary School, Kubwa, Abuja;
  - (ii) Staff and Students of ECWA Secondary School, Fadan Karshi, Kafanchan, Kaduna State;
  - (iii) Staff and Students of Flashygems Academy, Lugbe, Abuja.
5. **Petition**  
A petition from Sovereignty (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Coalition of Stakeholders in Education on the invalidation of their Educational certificates obtained from Republics of Benin and Togo by the Federal Ministry of Education, was presented and laid by Hon. Obinna Aguocha (*Ikwuano/Umuahia North/Umuahia South Federal Constituency*).  
  
*Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.*
6. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 5)**
  - (i) ***Need to Address the Erosion Threat to Tsaragi - Shonga Road and Tsaragi - Bacita Road in Edu Local Government Area, Kwara State:***  
Hon. Ahmed Adamu Baba (*Edu/Moro/Pategi 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.*

**Need to Address the Erosion Threat to Tsaragi - Shonga Road and Tsaragi - Bacita Road in Edu Local Government Area, Kwara State:**

The House:

*Notes* that the Bacita-Shonga-Lafiagi Route, a 74.3-kilometer is a critical route for transportation, connecting communities and promoting economic activities within the area;

*Also notes* that the Tsaragi - Shonga Road and Tsaragi - Bacita Road are major roads that linked Gbugbu and Tsaragi international markets in Edu Local Government Area;

*Aware* that the road, which facilitates vehicular movement is threatened by erosion, which has almost destroyed significant portions of the road, making it difficult for road users and posing serious risks to nearby properties and buildings;

*Worried* that Bacita hosts a sugar company and Shonga hosts new Nigeria farmers with larger numbers of small scale farmers who find it difficult to move out goods to the markets;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Ministry of Environment and Ecological Fund Office to immediately conduct a technical assessment of the erosion situation in Kpadaroko and Emigbazhi in Shonga and Bocita Road and possible control measures;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Environment, and Ecological Funds to ensure compliance (*Hon. Saba Ahmed Adamu — Edu/Moro/Pategi Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**(HR. 136/10/2024).**

*Motion referred to the Committees on Environment, and Ecological Funds, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 10 (5).*

**(ii) Need for Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to Sensitize Nigerians about the Non-Legal Tender Status of Old Naira Notes from January 1, 2025:**

Hon. Afam Victor Ogene (*Ogbaru 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.*

**Need for Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to Sensitize Nigerians about the Non-Legal Tender Status of Old Naira Notes from January 1, 2025:**

The House:

*Recalls* the hardship, frustration, controversy and chaotic situation occasioned by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) change of currency in 2023, that affected the validity of the old ₦200, ₦500 and ₦1,000 Naira notes that resulted in litigations;

*Also recalls* the scarcity that led to untold hardship in the nation as a result of the CBN's inability to supply new versions of the changed currency notes;

*Aware* that going by the Supreme Court's subsequent ruling and order, the ₦200, ₦500 and ₦1,000 notes shall cease to be legal tender, medium of exchange for goods and services in Nigeria, and shall also cease to be in circulation as from January 1, 2025;

*Concerned* that the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has not shown any sign of sensitization or kick-started any awareness programme to remind Nigerians about this important economic policy in order to make them prepare for the deadline of 31 December, 2024;

*Worried* that Nigerians will be plunged into more chaotic situations than what happened in February, 2023, when the old ₦200, ₦500 and ₦1,000 notes shall cease to be legal tender and medium of exchange for goods and services as from January 1, 2025;

*Disturbed* that the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) ought to have started public awareness, such as Jingles, Television and Radio announcements, Social Media postings, Flyers, Daily Newspapers and Periodic Magazines publications three (3) months before the deadline but with about two (2) months to the deadline, there is no evidence that the apex bank is prepared for the exercise;

*Also worried* that the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) is still comfortably releasing the old ₦200, ₦500 and ₦1,000 notes mixed with the new ₦200, ₦500 and ₦1,000 notes for business transactions in Nigeria, instead of the gradual mopping up of the old notes from circulation or ordering commercial banks to do so by issuing out only the new notes;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to —
  - (a) issue more new ₦200, ₦500 and ₦1,000 notes and begin the gradual withdrawal of the old notes from circulation before the deadline of December 31, 2024,
  - (b) order commercial banks to forthwith stop cash payment to their customers with old ₦200, ₦500 and ₦1,000 notes but instead, engage in gradual mopping up of the old notes,
  - (c) kick-start awareness programmes for Nigerians to be aware and prepare for the deadline of December 31, 2024;

- (ii) mandate the Committee on Banking Regulations to ensure compliance and report within three (3) weeks (*Hon. Afam Victor Ogene — Ogbaru Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Recalled* the hardship, frustration, controversy and chaotic situation occasioned by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) change of currency in 2023, that affected the validity of the old ₦200, ₦500 and ₦1,000 Naira notes that resulted in litigations;

*Also recalled* the scarcity that led to untold hardship in the nation as a result of the CBN's inability to supply new versions of the changed currency notes;

*Aware* that going by the Supreme Court's subsequent ruling and order, the ₦200, ₦500 and ₦1,000 notes shall cease to be legal tender, medium of exchange for goods and services in Nigeria, and shall also cease to be in circulation as from January 1, 2025;

*Concerned* that the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has not shown any sign of sensitization or kick-started any awareness programme to remind Nigerians about this important economic policy in order to make them prepare for the deadline of 31 December, 2024;

*Worried* that Nigerians will be plunged into more chaotic situations than what happened in February, 2023, when the old ₦200, ₦500 and ₦1,000 notes shall cease to be legal tender and medium of exchange for goods and services as from January 1, 2025;

*Disturbed* that the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) ought to have started public awareness, such as Jingles, Television and Radio announcements, Social Media postings, Flyers, Daily Newspapers and Periodic Magazines publications three (3) months before the deadline but with about two (2) months to the deadline, there is no evidence that the apex bank is prepared for the exercise;

*Also worried* that the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) is still comfortably releasing the old ₦200, ₦500 and ₦1,000 notes mixed with the new ₦200, ₦500 and ₦1,000 notes for business transactions in Nigeria, instead of the gradual mopping up of the old notes from circulation or ordering commercial banks to do so by issuing out only the new notes;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to —
- (a) issue more new ₦200, ₦500 and ₦1,000 notes and begin the gradual withdrawal of the old notes from circulation before the deadline of December 31, 2024,
  - (b) order commercial banks to forthwith stop cash payment to their customers with old ₦200, ₦500 and ₦1,000 notes but instead, engage in gradual mopping up of the old notes,
  - (c) kick-start awareness programmes for Nigerians to be aware and prepare for the deadline of December 31, 2024;

- (ii) mandate the Committee on Banking Regulations to ensure compliance and report within three (3) weeks (**HR. 137/10/2024**).

**7. Presentation of Bills**

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024. (HB.1490) (Welfare of Nigerians working in Private Organizations).
- (2) Private Intelligence and Investigation Council (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1721).
- (3) Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skills Acquisition, Zaki-Biam, Benue State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2024 (HB.1824).
- (4) Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1825).
- (5) Federal University of Education, Katsina – Ala, Benue State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2024 (HB.1826).
- (6) Tertiary Education Trust Fund Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1754).

**8. Presentation of Reports**

***Committee on Public Assets:***

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Assets on the Investigation of the Sales of Two (2) Bell Helicopters 206 L4 BZB and BZC M206 L4 by the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology, Zaria, Kaduna State” (*Hon. Ademorin Kuye Aliu — Shomolu Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

**9. Consolidation of Bills**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Institute for Nigerian Languages Act and to Enact the National Institute for Nigerian Languages Act to Ensure that the Legal Framework of the Institute Conforms with the Regulations of the National Universities Commission in Order to Enable the Institute to Run Degree Programmes and for Related Matters (HB. 692); and a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Nigeria Languages, Aba, to Make Comprehensive Provisions for its due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (HB. 1753) be now consolidated” (*Hon. Isah Bello Ambarura — Illela/Gwadabawa Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**10. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Tertiary Education Trust Fund Act, 2011 to Provide for additional conditions for assessing of Funds for Capital Projects by beneficiary Institutions and for Related Matters (HB. 02) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Tertiary Education Trust Fund Act, 2011 to Provide for additional conditions for assessing of Funds for Capital Projects by beneficiary Institutions and for Related Matters (HB. 02) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Babajimi Benson Adegoke — Ikorodu Federal Constituency and 1 others*).

*Debate.*

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

*Bill read the Second Time.*

*Bill referred to the Committee on TETFUND and Other Services.*

11. **A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to Review the Description of Islamic Law in the Constitution and for Related Matters (HB.1502) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to Review the Description of Islamic Law in the Constitution and for Related Matters (HB.1502) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Aliyu Bappa Missau — Misau/Dambam Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Question that the Bill be now read a Second Time — Negatived.*

12. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap. F17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Establish Federal Polytechnic, Adikpo, Benue State to provide Full and Part – Time Courses of Instruction in different fields of Study and for Related Matters (HB.1372) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap. F17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Establish Federal Polytechnic, Adikpo, Benue State to provide Full and Part – Time Courses of Instruction in different fields of Study and for Related Matters (HB.1372) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Terseer Ugbor — Kwande/Ushongo 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 Federal Polytechnics and Higher Technical Education.*

13. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Colleges of Education Act, Cap. F8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Establish Federal College of Education, Oke Oyi, Kwara State and for Related Matters (HB.833) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Colleges of Education Act, Cap. F8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Establish Federal College of Education, Oke Oyi, Kwara State and for Related Matters (HB.833) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Aluko Ahmed Yinka — Ilorin East/Ilorin South 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 Federal Colleges of Education.*

14. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act, Cap. A12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make Provision for Establishment of Federal College of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Oluonna, Osun State and for Related Matters (HB.849) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act, Cap. A12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make Provision for Establishment of Federal College of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Oluonna, Osun State and for Related Matters (HB.849) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Lukman Alani Mudashiru — Ayedire/Iwo/Ola-Oluwa 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 Agricultural Colleges and Institutions.*

15. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act, Cap. A12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make Provision for Establishment of National Institute of Rubber Research and Technology, Ilushin, Ogun State and for Related Matters (HB. 737) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act, Cap. A12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make Provision for Establishment of National Institute of Rubber Research and Technology, Ilushin, Ogun State and for Related Matters (HB. 737) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Adegbesan Joseph Folorunsho — Ijebu North/Ijebu East/Ogun Waterside 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 Agricultural Colleges and Institutions.*

16. **Need to Investigate the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) over Allegations of Lopsided Employments and Extra-Budgetary Expenditures**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) are key Government Agencies responsible for critical aspects of the nation's economy in tax administration, corporate regulation, and the protection of depositors' funds;

*Aware* that the allegations of staff recruitment processes in these Agencies are marred by irregularities of favoritism and non-compliance with the Federal Character principles pursuant to Section 14(3) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);

*Also aware* that the allegations extended to extra-budgetary expenditures by the Agencies with funds meant for statutory operations being used for non-statutory items in gross violation of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007;

*Concerned* that if the allegations of lopsided employments and extra-budgetary expenditures are true, the principles of fairness, equality and transparency are violated, erode public trust in critical institutions, reduce operational efficiency, and will foster a sense of marginalization and hopelessness among sections of the Nigerian populace;

*Worried* that the alleged malpractices could undermine the capacity of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) to effectively carry out their mandates, resulting in inefficiencies that may affect tax collection, corporate regulation, and the stability of Nigeria's financial system;

*Resolves to:*

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the employment processes in the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) with a view to determining compliance with the Federal Character principles of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Ali Isa JC — Balanga/Billiri Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendments Proposed:**

- (i) In the Prayer, immediately after the words “Corporation (NDIC)”, *insert* the words “ and all the Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs)” (*Hon. Ilyasu Aliyu Abubakar — Batsari/Safana/Danmusa Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.*

- (ii) In the Prayer, *leave out* the words “set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee”, and *insert* the words: “mandate the relevant Committees” (*Hon. Saidu Musa Abdullahi — Bida/Gbako/Katcha Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.*

- (iii) In the Prayer, immediately after the words “employment processes”, *insert* the words “and extra budgetary provision” (*Hon. Zakaria Nyampa — Madagali/Michika Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.*

*Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) are key Government Agencies responsible for critical aspects of the nation's economy in tax administration, corporate regulation, and the protection of depositors' funds;

*Aware* that the allegations of staff recruitment processes in these Agencies are marred by irregularities of favoritism and non-compliance with the Federal Character principles pursuant to Section 14 (3) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);

*Also aware* that the allegations extended to extra-budgetary expenditures by the Agencies with funds meant for statutory operations being used for non-statutory items in gross violation of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007;

*Concerned* that if the allegations of lopsided employments and extra-budgetary expenditures are true, the principles of fairness, equality and transparency are violated, erode public trust in critical institutions, reduce operational efficiency, and will foster a sense of marginalization and hopelessness among sections of the Nigerian populace;

*Worried* that the alleged malpractices could undermine the capacity of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) to effectively carry out their mandates, resulting in inefficiencies that may affect tax collection, corporate regulation, and the stability of Nigeria's financial system;



*Resolved to:*

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the employment processes, and extra budgetary provision in the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) with a view to determining compliance with the Federal Character principles of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and report within four (4) weeks **(HR. 138/10/2024)**.

**17. Call on the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission to Place Public Tertiary Institutions on the Service-Based Tariff (SBT) of Band "C" or Lower**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that Tertiary Education is an invaluable tool for socio-economic development;

*Also notes* that Public Institutions in Nigeria offer education at minimal charges, most students cannot afford the fees and attempts by the institutions to increase school fees have always been met with resistance from the students;

*Concerned* that due to inadequate funding by the Federal Government, public institutions are unable to operate optimally, thus the recent hike in electricity tariffs and the consequent power cut for defaulting institutions has thrown them into total darkness, putting important equipment at risk and security of students and staff in jeopardy;

*Also concerned* that the attendant riots by students due to inability to use important learning equipment resulted in the closure of the affected institutions;

*Worried* that grounding of academic activities in Nigeria could lead to increased frustration among students and potentially have severe socio-economic consequences.

*Aware* that Section 14 (2)(b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary responsibility of the government, while Section 18 (1) of the Constitution mandates the Federal Government to ensure equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels;

*Disturbed* that if immediate measures are not taken to restore power supply and make electricity affordable in public institutions, the institutions will be forced to increase fees to meet up with current electricity costs and other bills, which would likely stir up violent resistance that may spell grave danger to the country;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to direct the:
  - (a) Federal Ministry of Power, the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission, all the electricity Distribution Companies and such other government agencies, companies or stations across the country that are directly or indirectly involved in the management of electricity in Nigeria to immediately stop further billing or disconnection of electricity supply to public tertiary institutions in Nigeria using the current tariff,
  - (b) relevant agencies to immediately reverse Service-Based Tariff of public tertiary institutions to either Band "C" or Band "D", but retaining the services of Band "A";
- (ii) mandate the Committees on University Education, Federal Polytechnics and Higher

Technical Education, Federal Colleges of Education, Power, and Legislative Compliance to liaise with the relevant bodies to come up with a workable, affordable and sustainable electricity tariff regime for Public Tertiary Institutions and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri Kasama Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**(HR. 139/10/2024).**

*Motion referred to the Committees on University Education, Federal Polytechnics and Higher Technical Education, Federal Colleges of Education, Power, and Legislative Compliance, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 10 (5).*

**18. Rehabilitation of Zaria- Funtua-Gusau-Kauran Namoda Railway line**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the Zaria-Funtua-Gusau-Kauran Namoda Railway line is one of the oldest railway lines in Nigeria, established in 1926 by the British Colonial Administration;

*Also notes* that the railway line serves as a link to Kaduna, Katsina and Zamfara States respectively;

*Aware* that Railway networks are globally recognized as safe and reliable transportation methods, facilitating the easy conveyance of goods, cargo, and raw materials;

*Also aware* that efficient rail transport connects remote areas with urban centres, facilitates trade, generates economic growth, and creates jobs for the population;

*Concerned* that despite the huge population and the economic activities in Kaduna and its environs, the Zaria- Funtua-Gusau-Kauran Namoda rail line is currently not functional;

*Also concerned* about the inefficient management of the Nigerian Railway Corporation's infrastructure, as well as the high number of about 2,187 road accidents in Third Quarter of 2023, as reported by the Federal Road Safety Corps;

*Cognizant* that Rehabilitating the Zaria-Funtua-Gusau-Kauran Namoda rail line would reduce fatalities, boost commercial activities, and reduce transportation costs for commuters, travelers, traders, farmers, and artisans;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Transportation to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Finance to make adequate budgetary provisions for the rehabilitation of the Zaria-Funtua -Gusau - Kauran Namoda rail lines in the 2025 budget estimates;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Land Transport to invite the Management Board of the Nigerian Railway Corporation to address the deplorable state of railway infrastructure and inadequate management processes in the Zaria-Funtua-Gusau-Kauran Namoda Rail line; and
- (iii) also mandate the Committees on Land Transport, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Dalhatu Shehu — Faskari/Kankara/Sabuwa Federal Constituency and 7 others*).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

In Prayer (iii), immediately after the words “Land Transport”, *insert* the words “National Planning and Economic Development” (*Hon. Kabiru Amadu — Gusau/Tsafe Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.*

*Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the Zaria-Funtua-Gusau-Kauran Namoda Railway line is one of the oldest railway lines in Nigeria, established in 1926 by the British Colonial Administration;

*Also noted* that the railway line serves as a link to Kaduna, Katsina and Zamfara States respectively;

*Aware* that Railway networks are globally recognized as safe and reliable transportation methods, facilitating the easy conveyance of goods, cargo, and raw materials;

*Also aware* that efficient rail transport connects remote areas with urban centres, facilitates trade, generates economic growth, and creates jobs for the population;

*Concerned* that despite the huge population and the economic activities in Kaduna and its environs, the Zaria- Funtua-Gusau-Kauran Namoda rail line is currently not functional;

*Also concerned* about the inefficient management of the Nigerian Railway Corporation's infrastructure, as well as the high number of about 2,187 road accidents in Third Quarter of 2023, as reported by the Federal Road Safety Corps;

*Cognizant* that Rehabilitating the Zaria-Funtua-Gusau-Kauran Namoda rail line would reduce fatalities, boost commercial activities, and reduce transportation costs for commuters, travelers, traders, farmers, and artisans;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Transportation to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Finance to make adequate budgetary provisions for the rehabilitation of the Zaria-Funtua -Gusau - Kauran Namoda rail lines in the 2025 budget estimates;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Land Transport to invite the Management Board of the Nigerian Railway Corporation to address the deplorable state of railway infrastructure and inadequate management processes in the Zaria-Funtua-Gusau-Kauran Namoda Rail line; and
- (iii) also mandate the Committees on Land Transport, National Planning and Economic Development, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 140/10/2024**).

**19. Need to Establish Climate Change Desk in all Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs)**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that Climate Change poses a threat to the environment, economy, and the well-being of the people of Nigeria. Thus, there is need for sustaining collective efforts and fostering cross-sector collaboration to effectively address the complex challenges posed by climate change in Nigeria. One of such efforts in Nigeria is the enactment of the Climate Change Act (CCA) 2021;

*Aware* Section 22 (1) of the Climate Change Act obligates Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to establish climate change desks to ensure integration of climate change activities into the core mandate of MDAs;

*Also aware* that Climate change is causing rise in temperatures, deforestation, desertification, loss of life, property, displacement, food and water insecurity, and economic development threats, thus requires collaborative efforts;

*Also notes* the Climate Change Act provides that the Ministries responsible for Finance and Budget and National planning shall ensure that all budget proposals submitted by MDAs are properly vetted and costed for climate change considerations, and that adequate allocation is provided under appropriate sub-heads in the annual budget, the implication is that, any MDA that fails to allocate proper funding for climate change consideration within its budget will not have its budget passed. MDAs are also obligated to adhere to the annual carbon emission reduction targets, in line with the Action Plan and carbon budget made under this Act. However, two years after there is no action plan;

*Aware* that the lack of a carbon budget limits Green House Gas (GHG) target enforcement, implementing Climate Change Desks in Municipal Development Authorities (MDAs) will improve coordination and accountability in addressing climate change issues;

*Cognizant* that implementing climate change considerations in MDAs' operations and long-term plans is crucial for aligning policies with national and international goals. Coordinating stakeholders is vital for realizing obligations under the Climate Change Act and countries like Kenya, Rwanda, and Ghana have climate desks for coordinated approach;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Head of Service to implement the establishment of Climate Change Desk in all Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies;
- (ii) also urge all the Ministers to implement the obligations of their Ministries under the Climate Change Act, 2021;
- (iii) further urge the National Council on climate Change Secretariat to implement setting the carbon budget and action plan direct the Federal Ministry of Finance to require MDAs to include Climate Change considerations in their 2025 budgets; and
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Public Service Matters to ensure compliance and report within four (4) (*Hon. Osi Kama Nkemkanma — Ivo/Ohaozara/Onicha Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that Climate Change poses a threat to the environment, economy, and the well-being of the people of Nigeria. Thus, there is need for sustaining collective efforts and fostering cross-sector collaboration to effectively address the complex challenges posed by climate change in Nigeria. One of such efforts in Nigeria is the enactment of the Climate Change Act (CCA) 2021;

*Aware* Section 22 (1) of the Climate Change Act obligates Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to establish climate change desks to ensure integration of climate change activities into the core mandate of MDAs;

*Also aware* that Climate change is causing rise in temperatures, deforestation, desertification, loss of life, property, displacement, food and water insecurity, and economic development threats, thus requires collaborative efforts.

*Also noted* the Climate Change Act provides that the Ministries responsible for Finance and Budget and National planning shall ensure that all budget proposals submitted by MDAs are properly vetted and costed for climate change considerations, and that adequate allocation is provided under appropriate sub-heads in the annual budget, the implication is that, any MDA that fails to allocate proper funding for climate change consideration within its budget will not have its budget passed. MDAs are also obligated to adhere to the annual carbon emission reduction targets, in line with the Action Plan and carbon budget made under this Act. However, two years after there is no action plan;

*Aware* that the lack of a carbon budget limits Green House Gas (GHG) target enforcement, implementing Climate Change Desks in Municipal Development Authorities (MDAs) will improve coordination and accountability in addressing climate change issues;

*Cognizant* that implementing climate change considerations in MDAs' operations and long-term plans is crucial for aligning policies with national and international goals. Coordinating stakeholders is vital for realizing obligations under the Climate Change Act and countries like Kenya, Rwanda, and Ghana have climate desks for coordinated approach;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Head of Service to implement the establishment of Climate Change Desk in all Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies;
- (ii) also urge all the Ministers to implement the obligations of their Ministries under the Climate Change Act 2021;
- (iii) further urge the National Council on Climate Change Secretariat to implement setting the carbon budget and action plan direct the Federal Ministry of Finance to require MDAs to include Climate Change considerations in their 2025 budgets; and
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Public Service Matters to ensure compliance and report within four (4) (HR. 141/10/2024).

**20. Need to Construct Police Secondary School in Odanbon in Surulere and Ogo Oluwa Local Government Areas, Oyo State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that by virtue of Section 14(2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), the welfare of citizens shall be the basic responsibility of the Government;

*Also notes* that Police Secondary School in Odanbon, Surulere Local Government was sited in 2014 by the late Inspector General of Police, Chief Sunday Adewusi, with about forty acres of land allocated by the community for the construction of the said secondary school;

*Aware* that the site had been fenced off with no construction around the site about a decade ago;

*Worried* that the area in question was a habitat for wildlife, ultimately posing a security threat to community residents;

*Convinced* that constructing a Police Secondary School in the community would be beneficial socially, educationally, and economically to the community;

*Also convinced* that the establishment of the Police Secondary School will definitely enhance the educational development of students across the country;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Police Affairs to ensure the inclusion of the construction of a Police Secondary School in the 2025 budget estimates;
- (ii) also mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Ojo Sunday Makanjuola — Ogo-Oluwa/Surulere Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**(HR. 142/10/2024).**

*Motion referred to the Committees on Police Affairs, and Legislative Compliance, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 10 (5).*

**21. Need to Investigate delay in completion of Baro Sea Port in Niger State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the Baro Inland Port in Niger State was constructed by a Chinese firm, CGCC Global Project Limited, at the cost of over \$16 million and equipped with a quarry length of 150-meter, 7,000-square-meter cargo stacking yard, 3,600-square-meter transit, and the capacity to hold 5,000 twenty-foot equivalent units at once;

*Also notes* that the Baro Port, a multi-billion naira project, can benefit the North-Central States and the entire country by creating jobs, lowering freight costs, reducing traffic accidents, and increasing government revenue;

*Further notes* that the non-availability of accessible roads to the port is discouraging potential investors in the port as the Baro Port project was designed to enhance intermodal transportation connectivity in Nigeria similarly it is intended to reduce the pressure of big trucks on the Federal roads, poised to create huge business possibilities for Nigerians and assist with decongesting similar ports;

*Worried* that the multi-billion naira project, inaugurated by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2019, is nearly abandoned and yet to commence operation five years after its inauguration;

*Aware* that in the last thirteen years the contract for the 53-kilometre Agai-Katcha-Baro road, which is considered the key route to the port, was awarded, but no fund was released to execute the project;

*Also worried* that the \$16 million port project, which was commissioned five years ago, has been abandoned and largely surrounded by weeds;

*Cognizant* that the completion of Niger State's Baro Port is essential for the country's economic development, job creation, freight cost savings of over 100 billion Naira, decongestion of Lagos port, and reduce the hardship of wasting hours to clear goods;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Transport to recall the contractors, CGCC Global Project Nig. Limited, to site and ensure the completion of the port within a specified timeframe;

- (ii) also urge the Nigerian Ports Authority to supervise the project to ensure the port is completed in line with best practices;
- (iii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the contract and determine why the contract was abandoned by the contractors and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Tijani Kayode Ismail — Ifelodun/Offa/Oyun Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendments Proposed:**

- (i) *Leave out* Prayer (i), and (ii) (*Hon. Hart Cyril Godwin — Degema/Bonny Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.*

- (ii) In Prayer (iii), *leave out* the words “set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee”, and *insert* the words “mandate the Committee on Ports and Harbours” (*Hon. Alex Egbonna — Abi/Yakurr Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.*

- (iii) In Prayer (iii) as amended, immediately after the words “Ports and Harbours”, *insert* the words “Land Transport, Works, and Inland Water Ways” (*Hon. Mamudu Abdullahi — Agaie/Lapai Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.*

*Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the Baro Inland Port in Niger State was constructed by a Chinese firm, CGCC Global Project Limited, at the cost of over \$16 million and equipped with a quarry length of 150-meter, 7,000-square-meter cargo stacking yard, 3,600-square-meter transit, and the capacity to hold 5,000 twenty-foot equivalent units at once;

*Also noted* that the Baro Port, a multi-billion naira project, can benefit the North-Central States and the entire country by creating jobs, lowering freight costs, reducing traffic accidents, and increasing government revenue;

*Further noted* that the non-availability of accessible roads to the port is discouraging potential investors in the port as the Baro Port project was designed to enhance intermodal transportation connectivity in Nigeria similarly it is intended to reduce the pressure of big trucks on the Federal roads, poised to create huge business possibilities for Nigerians and assist with decongesting similar ports;

*Worried* that the multi-billion naira project, inaugurated by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2019, is nearly abandoned and yet to commence operation five years after its inauguration;

*Aware* that in the last thirteen years the contract for the 53-kilometre Agai-Katcha-Baro road, which is considered the key route to the port, was awarded, but no fund was released to execute the project;

*Also worried* that the \$16 million port project, which was commissioned five years ago, has been abandoned and largely surrounded by weeds;

*Cognizant* that the completion of Niger State's Baro Port is essential for the country's economic

development, job creation, freight cost savings of over 100 billion Naira, decongestion of Lagos port, and reduce the hardship of wasting hours to clear goods;

*Resolved to:*

Mandate the Committees on Ports and Harbours, Land Transport, Works, and Inland Water Ways to investigate the contract and determine why the contract was abandoned by the contractors and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 143/10/2024**).

**22. Need to Safeguard and Secure Transmission Lines and Protect Critical Power Infrastructure from Incessant Vandalization Towards ensuring Uninterrupted Power Supply**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that recently, the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) announced that two towers along its 330KV Shiroro-Kaduna transmission lines 1 and 2 were vandalized, thereby damaging the transmission lines, resulting in blackouts in some parts of Kano and Kaduna States;

*Also notes* that the Transmission Company of Nigeria has reported five transmission line destruction incidents since February due to vandalism, expressing regret for the situation;

*Aware* that in February 2024, several transmission line incidents occurred, including the:

- (a) destruction of Tower 70 along the Gwagwalada-Katampe transmission line on 26 February, 2024,
- (b) vandalisation of towers 377 and 378 along the Gombe-Damaturu 330kV transmission line,
- (c) attack on towers 145 to 149 and 201 to 218 along the Owerri-Ahoda 132kV transmission line,
- (d) vandaiization of Tower number 388 along the Jos-Bauchi 132kV single circuit transmission line and collapsed due to vandalism;

*Also aware* that the vandalism of transmission lines has led to frequent power outages in major regions and states, negatively impacting socio-economic activities, business operations, and overall quality of life, thus imposing financial burden on the government;

*Worried* that the consistent power outage in these regions impacts negatively on critical infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, and security installations, exacerbating insecurity, reducing productivity, and limiting economic growth;

*Also worried* that Nigeria's transmission infrastructure is at risk of vandalism, causing frequent blackouts and threatening reliable electricity supply, potentially derailing plans to expand the national grid, attract foreign investments, and achieve energy sustainability;

*Cognizant* of the need for a coordinated and comprehensive security strategy involving the Office of the National Security Adviser (NSA) and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps, to secure these transmission lines, protect critical energy infrastructure, and ensure uninterrupted power supply in affected areas;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to consider the deployment of technology-driven surveillance systems, such as drones and CCTV cameras, to monitor transmission lines in vulnerable areas;



- (ii) urge the Transmission Company of Nigeria to sensitize local communities along the affected routes the importance of safeguarding public infrastructure and to encourage community participation in protecting transmission lines from further vandalization.
- (iii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Power and the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) to expedite the repair and restoration of the damaged transmission lines along the Shiroro-Kaduna axis to mitigate the ongoing power outages;
- (iv) further urge the National Security Adviser (NSA), in collaboration with the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), the Nigerian Army, and other relevant security agencies, to immediately develop and implement a strategic security plan for safeguarding critical transmission lines across the country;
- (v) mandate the Committees on Power, and National Security and Intelligence to interface with the Federal Ministry of Power, Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), and security agencies to ensure swift compliance and execution of protective measures for the transmission lines (*Hon. Sani Umar Bala — Tsanyawa/Kunchi Federal Constituency*).

***Agreed to.***

**(HR. 144/10/2024).**

*Motion referred to the Committees on Power, National Security and Intelligence, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 10 (5).*

**23. Order of the Day**

*Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do set down items 14 - 22 on the Order Paper till another legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (3)” (*Hon. Ademorin Kuye Aliu — Shomolu Federal Constituency*).*

**24. Adjournment**

*That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 29 October, 2024 at 11.00 a.m. (*Hon. Ademorin Kuye Aliu — Shomolu Federal Constituency*).*

*The House adjourned accordingly at 2.27 p.m.*

**Benjamin Okezie Kalu**  
*Deputy Speaker*