



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

Thursday, 26 October, 2023

1. The House met at 11.36 a.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 Wednesday, 25 October, 2023.

*The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.*

4. **Announcement**  
**Bereavement:**

Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Murphy Osaro Omoruyi (*Egor/Ikpoba/Okha Federal Constituency*), informing the House of the demise of a former Member, Hon. Ifaluyi Isibor (*Egor/Ikpoba/Okha Federal Constituency, 2007 - 2011*), on Monday, 23 October, 2023 after a brief illness.

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

5. **Mr Speaker's Remark**

Honorable Members will recall that we promised on resumption to deliver on our promise to constitute the various committees under the Statutory and Non-Statutory headings. We equally committed ourselves to populating the Parliamentary Friendship Groups and Parliamentary Delegations of the ECOWAS. The Statutory Committees had since been constituted through the instrumentality of the Selection Committee. Some of them are already inaugurated.

I am happy this morning to inform you that we have succeeded in constituting these committees and Friendship Groups but for want of time we cannot go through these 116 Committees and about, 70 Friendship Groups individually. However, same will be communicated to the various Chairmen after today's plenary.

If any Member has any issues which he honestly believes the leadership can intervene please be free to make your observation for a redress. This assignment was done honestly to kickstart parliamentary business in earnest.

I thank you all for the usual cooperation and patience.

**6. Petition**

A petition from Throneroom Attorneys (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Juliet Eseoghene, on non-compliance with the House Resolution on 6 June, 2023 by the Federal Civil Service Commission and Head of Service of the Federation, was presented and laid by Hon. Nnamdi Ezechi (*Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*)

*Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.*

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

**(i) Recognition of Persons With Disabilities in Poverty Alleviation Programme:**

Hon. Bashiru Ayinla Dawodu (*Oshodi/Isolo I 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.*

**Recognition of Persons with Disabilities in Poverty Alleviation Programme:**

The House:

*Notes* that Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities Act 2018 was assented into law by former President Muhammed Buhari in 2019;

*Also notes* that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu signed the instrument of Ratification of the protocol to the African charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disability in Africa on 19 October, 2023;

*Further notes* that the Federal Executive Council has approved the creation of a Humanitarian and Poverty Alleviation Trust Fund of \$5 billion annually;

*Disturbed* that the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, recently launched "Renewal Hope Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT)" without set aside for Persons with Disability violates the Disability Act 2018. This programme involves the transfer of ₦1 trillion at ₦25,000 to 15 million households;

*Also disturbed* that most poverty alleviation carried out by most State Governments excluded the peoples with Disabilities;

*Further disturbed* that failures to involve PWDs in the Poverty Alleviation programmes leads to persistent poverty and further widening the Socio-economic inequality in Nigeria;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) call on the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation to:
  - (a) create a stand-alone status for Persons with Disabilities in every programme of the Ministry,
  - (b) review the National Social Register to accommodate Persons with Disability;
- (ii) also call on all the State Governments and Local Governments in Nigeria to include Persons with Disabilities in every programme of the State (*Hon. Bashiru Ayinla Dawodu — Oshodi/Isolo I Federal Consistency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities Act 2018 was assented into law by former President Muhammed Buhari in 2019;

*Also noted* that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu signed the instrument of Ratification of the protocol to the African charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disability in Africa on 19 October, 2023;

*Further noted* that the Federal Executive Council has approved the creation of a Humanitarian and Poverty Alleviation Trust Fund of \$5 billion annually;

*Disturbed* that the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, recently launched "Renewal Hope Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT)" without set aside for Persons with Disability violates the Disability Act 2018. This programme involves the transfer of ₦1 trillion at ₦25,000 to 15 million households;

*Also disturbed* that most poverty alleviation carried out by most State Governments excluded the peoples with Disabilities;

*Further disturbed* that failures to involve PWDs in the Poverty Alleviation programmes leads to persistent poverty and further widening the Socio-economic inequality in Nigeria;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) call on the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation to:
    - (a) create a stand-alone status for Persons with Disabilities in every programme of the Ministry,
    - (b) review the National Social Register to accommodate Persons with Disability;
  - (ii) also call on all the State Governments and Local Governments in Nigeria to include Persons with Disabilities in every programme of the State (**HR. 289/10/2023**).
- (ii) ***The Demise of Mallam Adamu Fika, CFR:***  
Hon. Muhammed Buba Jajere (*Fika/Fune 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.*

**The Demise of Mallam Adamu Fika, CFR:**

The House:

*Notes* with shock the demise of Mallam Adamu Fika, CFR (Wazirin former Head of Civil Service of the Federation and Secretary Government of the Federation on Wednesday, 25th October, 2023 at the age of 90 years;

*Also notes* that the late elder statesman was born in 1933 in Fika in the old Borno Province. He attended Kaduna Government College (now Barewa College, Zaria, from 1948-1951 as well as the Nigerian College of Arts Science and Technology, Zaria (now Ahmadu Bello University) where he was one of the pioneer students;

*Further notes* that the late Mallam Adamu Fika began his civil career as a Mathematics and Physics teacher at Barewa College, Zaria in 1956. He held different posts in the civil service until his appointment as Commissioner of Finance in the North Eastern State in 1972;

*Aware* that he moved to the Federal Civil Service in 1975 after swerving as a Commissioner for three (3) years. He was appointed in various times as the Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs, Commerce, Communications and as Permanent Secretary in the Public Service Department, Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation. He was also the Chief Executive Officer, Federal Capital Development Authority in 1984;

*Also aware* that Mallam Adamu Fika was appointed Head of the Civil Service of the Federation in January 1986, where he served until his retirement from the Federal Civil Service in April 1988;

*Informed* that his service to the nation was sought even after retirement which made him to become the Chairman, National commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE) in 1989, the first Chairman, Salaries and Wages Commission in 1992, the first Chairman, Federal Character Commission in 1995 among other national appointments;

*Regrets* that his demise is a great loss to his family, the people of Yobe State and Nigeria in general;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of Late Mallam Adamu Fika;
- (ii) send a delegation to commiserate with his family, HRH Emir of Fika and the people of Yobe State; and
- (iii) urge the Executive Arm of Government to immortalize his name on one of its Institutions (*Hon. Muhammed Buba Jajere — Fika/Fune Federal Constituency*)

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* with shock the demise of Mallam Adamu Fika, CFR (Wazirin former Head of Civil Service of the Federation and Secretary Government of the Federation on Wednesday, 25th October, 2023 at the age of 90 years;

*Also noted* that the late elder statesman was born in 1933 in Fika in the old Borno Province. He attended Kaduna Government College (now Barewa College, Zaria, from 1948-1951 as well as the Nigerian College of Arts Science and Technology, Zaria (now Ahmadu Bello University) where he was one of the pioneer students;

*Further noted* that the late Mallam Adamu Fika began his civil career as a Mathematics and Physics teacher at Barewa College, Zaria in 1956. He held different posts in the civil service until his appointment as Commissioner of Finance in the North Eastern State in 1972;

*Aware* that he moved to the Federal Civil Service in 1975 after swerving as a Commissioner for three (3) years. He was appointed in various times as the Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs, Commerce, Communications and as Permanent Secretary in the Public Service Department, Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation. He was also the Chief Executive Officer, Federal Capital Development Authority in 1984;

*Also aware* that Mallam Adamu Fika was appointed Head of the Civil Service of the Federation in January 1986, where he served until his retirement from the Federal Civil Service in April 1988;

*Informed* that his service to the nation was sought even after retirement which made him to become the Chairman, National commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE) in 1989, the first Chairman, Salaries and Wages Commission in 1992, the first Chairman, Federal Character Commission in 1995 among other national appointments;

*Regretted* that his demise is a great loss to his family, the people of Yobe State and Nigeria in general;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of Late Mallam Adamu Fika;
- (ii) send a delegation to commiserate with his family, HRH Emir of Fika and the people of Yobe State; and
- (iii) urge the Executive Arm of Government to immortalize his name on one of its Institutions (**HR. 290/10/2023**).

***Motion made and Question proposed***, “That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (4) to enable it take more than two matters of urgent public importance” (*Hon. Murphy Osaro Omoruyi — Egor/Ikpoba/Okha Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

(iii) ***Deplorable Living Conditions of Officers of the Nigeria Police Force:***

Hon. Murphy Osaro Omoruyi (*Egor/Ikpoba/Okha 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.*

**The Deplorable Living Conditions of Officers of the Nigeria Police Force:**

The House:

*Notes* that in September 2020, the Nigerian National Assembly passed the Police Reform Bill 2020, which was signed into law by the former Nigerian President, Muhammadu Buhari on September 16, 2020 and one of its core issues was to address the living conditions of our nation's gallant police officers;

*Also notes* that the problem of adequate and dignified accommodation for police officers persists and has so far outlived all previous measures. Between 2019 - 2022, over 5 billion Naira was spent by the Federal Government on barracks renovations and despite all efforts, barracks continue to fail to meet basic needs in their current state of disrepair and lack of maintenance;

*Aware* that there has been robust national debate and calls for more community oriented policing strategies and having officers of the Nigeria Police Force living amongst the general population, rather than in their secluded barracks will significantly satisfy these calls and enhance public safety;

*Also aware* that the barracks method of housing for police and local law enforcement officers is a relic colonial practice that has since been abandoned by the same colonialists in their home countries.

*Worried* that Police officers and their families live in squalor quarters characterized by large cracks on the wall, bat-infested houses, leaking roofs and dilapidated structures for barracks across the country;

*Also worried* that our police officers have been tagged as corrupt and this is not far-fetched from lack of welfare services for them;

*Disturbed* that the public had lost confidence and respect in the gallant officers due to their poor condition of service;

*Also disturbed* that the deplorable living condition of the police officers has dampen their morale and productivity;

*Cognizant* that if this issue is not urgently addressed, the welfare of our gallant officers will continue to deteriorates;

*Also cognizant* that the abolishment of the barracks model and replacement with an enhanced "Housing Allowance" determined by rank, existing police salary structure and location will be highly beneficial to the officers' welfare, morale, productivity as well as the good of the general public;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Ministries of Interior and Police Affairs to liaise with the Bureau of Public Enterprise to immediately assess the value of all federal owned barracks across the country and announce a public offering for same;
- (ii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to produce a comprehensive *addendum* to the Police Reform Bill with input from all relevant stakeholders and to report within four ( 4) weeks;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Appropriation to ensure a redeployment of the funds meant for the maintenance of barracks across the country and provide annual budgetary allocation for the construction of befitting "Housing Allowance" for serving police officers;
- (iv) also mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to ensure compliance (*Hon. Murphy Osaro Omoruyi — Egor/Ikpoba Okha Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendments Proposed:**

- (i) In Prayer (ii), *leave out* the words “Constitute an *Ad-hoc* Committee”, and *insert* the words “mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, and Governmental Affairs” (*Hon. Chris Nkwonta — Ukwu East/Ukwu West Federal Constituency*).

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

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (v), as follows:  
“mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to ensure that Federal Mortgage Bank provide housing for Police Officers through their contribution” (*Hon. Eze Nwachukwu Eze — Ebonyi/Ohuakwu Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.*

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

The House:

*Noted* that in September 2020, the Nigerian National Assembly passed the Police Reform Bill 2020, which was signed into law by the former Nigerian President, Muhammadu Buhari on September 16, 2020 and one of its core issues was to address the living conditions of our nation's gallant police officers;

*Also noted* that the problem of adequate and dignified accommodation for police officers persists and has so far outlived all previous measures. Between 2019 - 2022, over 5 billion Naira was spent by the Federal Government on barracks renovations and despite all efforts, barracks continue to fail to meet basic needs in their current state of disrepair and lack of maintenance;

*Aware* that there has been robust national debate and calls for more community oriented policing strategies and having officers of the Nigeria Police Force living amongst the general population, rather than in their secluded barracks will significantly satisfy these calls and enhance public safety;

*Also aware* that the barracks method of housing for police and local law enforcement officers is a relic colonial practice that has since been abandoned by the same colonialists in their home countries.

*Worried* that Police officers and their families live in squalor quarters characterized by large cracks on the wall, bat-infested houses, leaking roofs and dilapidated structures for barracks across the country;

*Also worried* that our police officers have been tagged as corrupt and this is not far-fetched from lack of welfare services for them;

*Disturbed* that the public had lost confidence and respect in the gallant officers due to their poor condition of service;

*Also disturbed* that the deplorable living condition of the police officers has dampen their morale and productivity;

*Cognizant* that if this issue is not urgently addressed, the welfare of our gallant officers will continue to deteriorates;

*Also cognizant* that the abolishment of the barracks model and replacement with an enhanced "Housing Allowance" determined by rank, existing police salary structure and location will be highly beneficial to the officers' welfare, morale, productivity as well as the good of the general public;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Ministries of Interior and Police Affairs to liaise with the Bureau of Public Enterprise to immediately assess the value of all federal owned barracks across the country and announce a public offering for same;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, and Governmental Affairs to produce a comprehensive *addendum* to the Police Reform Bill with input from all relevant stakeholders and to report within four ( 4) weeks;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Appropriation to ensure a redeployment of the funds meant for the maintenance of barracks across the country and provide annual budgetary allocation for the construction of befitting "Housing Allowance" for serving police officers;
- (iv) also mandate the Committee on Police Affairs to ensure compliance (**HR. 291/10/2023**).

**8. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap. F17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2010 to Establish Federal Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurship, Bungudu, Zamfara State to provide Qualitative Education in Sciences, Skills, Arts and other Technical Knowledge and for Related Matters (HB. 479) — *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, 2010 to Establish Federal Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurship, Bungudu, Zamfara State to provide Qualitative Education in Sciences, Skills, Arts and other Technical Knowledge and for Related Matters (HB. 479) be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Abdulmalik Zubairu — Bungudu/Maru 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 Polytechnics and Higher Technical Education.*



**9. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act and Establish Federal Medical Centre Osogbo, Osun State and for Related Matters (HB. 478) — *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 Osogbo, Osun State and for Related Matters (HB. 478) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Adewale Moruf Adebayo — Irepodun/Orolu/Olorunda/Osogbo 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.*

**10. A Bill for an Act to Provide Adequate Funding for the Study, Prevention, Water Remediation and Compensation of Victims of Flooding and for Related Matters (HB. 292) — *Second Reading***

*Order read; deferred by leave of the House.*

**11. Reconsideration of Outstanding Bills from Preceding Assembly**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that pursuant to Order Twelve, Rule 16 of the Standing Orders of the House, Bills passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the Senate for concurrence for which no concurrence was made or negatived or passed by the Senate and forwarded to the House for which no concurrence was made or negatived or which were passed by the National Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but for which assent or withholding thereof was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the Assembly, the House may resolve that such Bill, upon being re-gazetted or clean copies circulated, be re-considered in the Committee of the Whole without being commenced *de-novo*;

*Also notes* that the underlisted Bills were passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but for which assent or withholding thereof was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the last Assembly:

- (i) Association of National Accountants of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.712),
- (ii) Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act, (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2023 (HB.627),
- (iii) Federal University of Agriculture and Entrepreneurship, Saki, Oyo State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 628),
- (iv) Nigeria Correctional Service Trust Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.686),
- (v) Chartered Institute of Loan and Risk Management of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.629),
- (vi) Federal Colleges of Education Act (Amendment) Bill 2023 (HB. 630),
- (vii) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 644),
- (viii) Federal Colleges of Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 645),
- (ix) Nigerian Institute of Agriculturists (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 653),

- (x) Federal College of Agriculture, Abi Cross River State (Establishment) Bill (HB.330),
- (xi) National Institute of Agricultural Research Oria, Edo State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 523),
- (xii) Federal University of Agriculture, Ugbawka (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 669),
- (xiii) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 670),
- (xiv) Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission (Repeal and Enactment) Act, 2023. (HB. 471 & HB. 581), and
- (xv) Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Obuoffia, Awkunanaw, Enugu State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 671);

*Aware* that the Bills were read for the first time as HB. 712, HB. 627, HB. 628, HB. 686, HB. 629, HB. 630, HB. 644, HB. 645, HB. 653, HB. 330, HB. 523, HB. 669, HB. 670, HB. 471, HB. 581 and HB. 671 respectively;

*Resolves to:*

Commit the Bills to the Committee of the Whole for consideration (*Hon. Francis Ejiroghene Waive — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

## **12. Curbing Food Poisoning in Nigeria**

*Order read; deferred by leave of the House.*

## **13. Construction of Feeder Roads in Isuikwuato/Umunneochi, Abia State**

*Order read; deferred by leave of the House.*

## **14. Need to Reconstruct Oke Owa-Ilese-Ijebu Imushin-Ijebu Ife Itele Ijebu-Gbere-Imobi Road In Ogun East Local Government Area Of Ogun State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that Oke Owa-Ilese-Ijebu Imushin-Ijebu Ife-Itele-Ogbere-Imobi Road is the major road that connects several communities of Ijebu-Ode and Ijebu-East local governments to Ogun Waterside and borders Lagos Lagoon;

*Also notes* that the road is in a seriously deplorable condition and calls for urgent government intervention as the yearly heavy rain in the area worsens the condition of the road;

*Disturbed* that the people of the area, who are predominantly cash crop farmers have been grossly affected by the condition of the road, which has hindered transportation of farm produce to market;

*Also disturbed* is that the Ijebu East Local Government, which has the largest bitumen deposits in Nigeria, which are crucial raw materials used in road construction, is experiencing such hardship on the road.

*Concerned* that if necessary action is not put in place to reconstruct the road and correct the negative

effects of this dilapidated road, the efforts and contributions of the people of affected communities to food security and the economic development of the nation will be jeopardised;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works to evaluate and make provisions for the reconstruction of the Ijebu Imushin-Ijebu Ife-Itele Ijebu-Ogbere-Imobi road in Ogun Waterside in the 2024 budget estimates;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to, in the meantime, provide support to the road to ease movement and transportation; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Works, and Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Joseph Folorunsho Adegbesan — Ijebu North/Ijebu East/Ogun Waterside Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**(HR. 292/10/2023).**

*Motion referred to the Committees on Works, and Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).*

**15. Need to Investigate the 39 Billion Naira Settlement Loan granted to Ziglaks by the Defunct Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to Supply Prepaid Meters to DISCOs**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that in July 2018, the Federal Ministry of Power, Works, and Housing, by Presidential approval, converted the ₦119 billion judgment debt against the Federal Government into an ₦39 billion loan, which was granted to Ziglaks Company to supply prepaid metres;

*Also notes* that the loan was for a term of about seven (7) years, and Ziglaks was to repay the entire ₦39 billion, which will lapse in 2025;

*Aware* that the Ministry of Power directed the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) to issue a regulation that facilitated the signing of metre supply agreements between the Federal Ministry of Power, Works, and Housing with Ziglaks and other metre asset providers;

*Concerned* that update, there has been no evidence of supply of metres by Ziglaks Nigeria Limited, since 2018, when the agreement was signed and payment of ₦39 billion made;

*Also concerned* that apart from Ziglaks Nigeria Limited, the Central Bank of Nigeria also intervened in the funding of metre manufacturers to provide metres and ameliorate the suffering of the people's underestimated billings, but this action is yet to be felt by the people;

*Disturbed* that the World Bank is currently supporting Nigeria with a loan to supply 1.2 million metres, which is expected to kick-start the programme the Federal Government wants to use to reduce the metering gap;

*Disturbed* that the World Bank is currently supporting Nigeria with a loan to supply 1.2 million prepaid metres to kick-start the Federal Government programme aimed at reducing the metering gap;

*Worried* that despite the huge sums of money provided to close the metering gap, Nigerians are still complaining about lack of prepaid metres and receive crazy estimated bills from the DISCOs;

*Also worried* that DISCOs have failed to meet post-privatisation conditions of closing the metering gap, thus, making millions of consumers receive estimated billing despite a potentially pending contract agreement;

*Regret* that the new Electricity Act, 2023 which is aimed at protecting Nigeria's interests by ensuring accurate charges for electricity, may be undermined if the N39 billion contract for Ziglaks Company and Central Bank of Nigeria funds is not investigated.

*Resolves to:*

Mandate the Committees on Finance, and Power to investigate and determine the performance of the loan and the utilisation of funds disbursed by the Central Bank of Nigeria for metering purposes (*Hon. Abubakar Makki Yalleman — Mallam Madori/Kaugama Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

In the Prayer, immediately after the word “Power”, *insert* the words “Public Accounts, and Aids Loans and Debt Management” (*Hon. Chris Nkwonta — Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.*

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

The House:

*Noted* that in July 2018, the Federal Ministry of Power, Works, and Housing, by Presidential approval, converted the ₦119 billion judgment debt against the Federal Government into an ₦39 billion loan, which was granted to Ziglaks Company to supply prepaid metres;

*Also noted* that the loan was for a term of about seven (7) years, and Ziglaks was to repay the entire ₦39 billion, which will lapse in 2025;

*Aware* that the Ministry of Power directed the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) to issue a regulation that facilitated the signing of metre supply agreements between the Federal Ministry of Power, Works, and Housing with Ziglaks and other metre asset providers;

*Concerned* that update, there has been no evidence of supply of metres by Ziglaks Nigeria Limited, since 2018, when the agreement was signed and payment of ₦39 billion made;

*Also concerned* that apart from Ziglaks Nigeria Limited, the Central Bank of Nigeria also intervened in the funding of metre manufacturers to provide metres and ameliorate the suffering of the people's underestimated billings, but this action is yet to be felt by the people;

*Disturbed* that the World Bank is currently supporting Nigeria with a loan to supply 1.2 million prepaid metres, which is expected to kick-start the programme the Federal Government wants to use to reduce the metering gap

*Disturbed* that the World Bank is currently supporting Nigeria with a loan to supply 1.2 million prepaid meters to kick-start the Federal Government programme aimed at reducing the metering gap;

*Worried* that despite the huge sums of money provided to close the metering gap, Nigerians are still complaining about lack of prepaid metres and receive crazy estimated bills from the DISCOs;

*Also worried* that DISCOs have failed to meet post-privatisation conditions of closing the metering

gap, thus, making millions of consumers receive estimated billing despite a potentially pending contract agreement;

*Regretted* that the new Electricity Act, 2023 which is aimed at protecting Nigeria's interests by ensuring accurate charges for electricity, may be undermined if the ₦39 billion contract for Ziglaks Company and Central Bank of Nigeria funds is not investigated.

*Resolved to:*

Mandate the Committees on Finance, and Power to investigate and determine the performance of the loan and the utilisation of funds disbursed by the Central Bank of Nigeria for metering purposes (**HR. 293/10/2023**).

**16. Need to Investigate the Incessant Loss of Firearms and Ammunition in the Nigeria Police Armament from 2012 - 2022**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the primary responsibility of the Government is to safeguard lives and properties, as outlined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) through law enforcement agencies, with the police being the primary point of contact;

*Also notes* that the Nigeria Police Force is a crucial part of any country's security architecture responsible for maintaining law and order and being the frontline in public security provision. The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 and the Police Act, 2020, explicitly provide the primary functions and duties of the Police Force;

*Aware* that on 1 January, 2022, the Nigerian Punch Newspaper reported that the office of the Auditor General for the Federation (OAUGF) referenced AuGF/AR.2019/02 disclosed about 178,459 missing arms and ammunition from Nigeria Police Armament in December 2018, with unaccounted 3,907 assorted rifles as of January 2020 without any trace or formal report;

*Disturbed* that the Nigeria Police have lost sufficient firearms to arm four full-size infantry divisions which were not reported, thus, violating paragraph 2603 of the Financial Regulations, 2009, which requires officers to report store losses to the head of department or unit within three days if the loss occurs away from headquarters;

*Also disturbed* that the report has it that Nigeria host over 70% of the illicit arms in West Africa. A UK-based Conflict Armament Research carried out in January 2020 alleged that most of the weapons recovered from bandits in some States, with most recovered weapons belonging to Nigeria's security forces;

*Worried* that the under performance of the Nigeria Police Force may be due to the constant loss of firearms and ammunition in the police Armament which requires urgent legislative intervention to ensure the safety of officers;

*Concerned* that, aside from the established reality of illegal importation of arms, it is horrifying to realise that the guns and bullets deployed by terrorists, armed robbers and thugs against Nigerians may have been stolen weapons from the armoury that were bought with taxpayers' money;

*Resolves to:*

Mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, National Security and Intelligence, and Public Account to investigate the persistent firearm loss, the failure of the Police Force to comply with the Financial Regulations Act, and recommend appropriate punitive measures (*Hon. Salman Idris — Ijumu/Kabba Bunu Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

- (i) In the Prayer, immediately after the words “Regulations Act”, *leave out* all other words” (*Hon. Kingsley Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

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

- (ii) In the Prayer, immediately after the words “Regulations Act”, *insert* the words “and report within thirty (30) days” (*Hon. Billy Osawaru — Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode Federal Constituency*).

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

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

The House:

*Noted* that the primary responsibility of the Government is to safeguard lives and properties, as outlined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) through law enforcement agencies, with the police being the primary point of contact;

*Also noted* that the Nigeria Police Force is a crucial part of any country's security architecture responsible for maintaining law and order and being the frontline in public security provision. The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 and the Police Act, 2020, explicitly provide the primary functions and duties of the Police Force;

*Aware* that on 1 January, 2022, the Nigerian Punch Newspaper reported that the office of the Auditor General for the Federation (OAUGF) referenced AuGF/AR.2019/02 disclosed about 178,459 missing arms and ammunition from Nigeria Police Armament in December 2018, with unaccounted 3,907 assorted rifles as of January 2020 without any trace or formal report;

*Disturbed* that the Nigeria Police have lost sufficient firearms to arm four full-size infantry divisions which were not reported, thus, violating paragraph 2603 of the Financial Regulations, 2009, which requires officers to report store losses to the head of department or unit within three days if the loss occurs away from headquarters;

*Also disturbed* that the report has it that Nigeria host over 70% of the illicit arms in West Africa. A UK-based Conflict Armament Research carried out in January 2020 alleged that most of the weapons recovered from bandits in some States, with most recovered weapons belonging to Nigeria's security forces;

*Worried* that the under performance of the Nigeria Police Force may be due to the constant loss of firearms and ammunition in the police Armament which requires urgent legislative intervention to ensure the safety of officers;

*Concerned* that, aside from the established reality of illegal importation of arms, it is horrifying to realise that the guns and bullets deployed by terrorists, armed robbers and thugs against Nigerians may have been stolen weapons from the armoury that were bought with taxpayers' money;

*Resolved to:*

Mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, National Security and Intelligence, and Public Account to investigate the persistent firearm loss, the failure of the Police Force to comply with the Financial Regulations Act, and report within thirty (30) days (**HR. 294/10/2023**).

**17. Need to create safety and Health Units in Government Offices**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that Nigeria's civil service offices are crucial for the effective functioning of the government and providing essential services to citizens. Employees implement policies, deliver services, and ensure accountability and transparency in governance;

*Also notes* that the services must be efficient, effective, and coordinated by human beings, with proper health and safety management and employee well-being being crucial for a motivated and productive workforce;

*Recognises* that health and safety units, staffed by health officers and situated in government offices, will reduce the death rate of staff, improve health, and ensure safety through regular inspections, training, and identification of potential health risks;

*Aware* that in the United Kingdom, United States, and China, government offices provide facilities for workers' health and safety, including regular tests for body temperature, blood pressure, mental capacity, heartbeat regulation, malaria, and typhoid;

*Worried* that Nigeria's government offices lack facilities, leading to workers collapsing and potentially causing death, official delays in annual leave for family upkeep impact economic development and human capacity building due to harsh economic realities.

*Disturbed* that Workers' deaths due to inadequate health and safety facilities pose a threat to their well-being, productivity, and economic growth, while inadequate medical facilities in government offices hinder public service delivery efficiency;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health to establish Health and Safety Units in government departments and provide essential Health Services for Staff in Federal Ministries and Parastatals to combat health issues, prevent deaths, and ensure employee well-being;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to ensure compliance (*Hon. Blessing Chigeru Amadi — Port Harcourt II Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that Nigeria's civil service offices are crucial for the effective functioning of the government and providing essential services to citizens. Employees implement policies, deliver services, and ensure accountability and transparency in governance;

*Also noted* that the services must be efficient, effective, and coordinated by human beings, with proper health and safety management and employee well-being being crucial for a motivated and productive workforce;

*Recognised* that health and safety units, staffed by health officers and situated in government offices, will reduce the death rate of staff, improve health, and ensure safety through regular inspections, training, and identification of potential health risks;

*Aware* that in the United Kingdom, United States, and China, government offices provide facilities for workers' health and safety, including regular tests for body temperature, blood pressure, mental capacity, heartbeat regulation, malaria, and typhoid;

*Worried* that Nigeria's government offices lack facilities, leading to workers collapsing and potentially causing death, official delays in annual leave for family upkeep impact economic development and human capacity building due to harsh economic realities.

*Disturbed* that Workers' deaths due to inadequate health and safety facilities pose a threat to their well-being, productivity, and economic growth, while inadequate medical facilities in government offices hinder public service delivery efficiency;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health to establish Health and Safety Units in government departments and provide essential Health Services for Staff in Federal Ministries and Parastatals to combat health issues, prevent deaths, and ensure employee well-being;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to ensure compliance (**HR. 295/10/2023**).

**18. Posting and Transfer of Procurement Officers in the Procurement Department of the National Youth Service Scheme**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) has a Department of Procurement to ensure transparency, accountability, and efficiency in its procurement processes;

*Also notes* that procurement functions in federal government institutions in Nigeria are restricted to staff employed as procurement officers or converted to such cadres, ensuring professionalism in procurement;

*Concerned* that the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) is reportedly ignoring the 2007 Public Procurement Act, Public Service Regulation No. 020506 item (11), and Circular from the Office of the Secretary General of the Federation with Reference Number 59780/S.I/T.1/117, dated June 14, 2017, regarding posting and transferring of staff outside the professional cadre, particularly in the procurement department;

*Also Concerned* that the National Youth Service Corps has been using middle-ranking officers in the tenders board, particularly officers on grade 10 or 12 to serve as the Secretary of the Tenders Board, despite having management-ranking officers such as Assistant Directors and Deputy Directors in the procurement department. In some cases, the most senior director is replaced with another from a different department;

*Worried* that this situation will undermine the purpose of the Public Procurement Act, 2007, aimed at ensuring transparency, accountability, value for money, and efficiency in procurement in ministries, departments, and agencies, if not addressed;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Director-General of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to ensure that the procurement department of the institution is allowed to function appropriately as enshrined in the administrative laws;
- (ii) also urge the Director-General of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to ensure that



the position of Secretary, Tenders Board, is filled by the Director, Procurement, and in the director's absence, the most senior officer in management cadre in the procurement department; and

- (iii) mandate the Committees on Youth Development, Public Procurement, and Public Service Matters to investigate the Posting and Transfer of Procurement Officers in the Procurement Department of the National Youth Service Scheme and report within six (6) weeks (*Hon. Adebayo Balogun — Ibeju Lekki Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) has a Department of Procurement to ensure transparency, accountability, and efficiency in its procurement processes;

*Also noted* that procurement functions in federal government institutions in Nigeria are restricted to staff employed as procurement officers or converted to such cadres, ensuring professionalism in procurement;

*Concerned* that the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) is reportedly ignoring the 2007 Public Procurement Act, Public Service Regulation No. 020506 item (11), and Circular from the Office of the Secretary General of the Federation with Reference Number 59780/S.I/T.1/117, dated June 14, 2017, regarding posting and transferring of staff outside the professional cadre, particularly in the procurement department;

*Also Concerned* that the National Youth Service Corps has been using middle-ranking officers in the tenders board, particularly officers on grade 10 or 12 to serve as the Secretary of the Tenders Board, despite having management-ranking officers such as Assistant Directors and Deputy Directors in the procurement department. In some cases, the most senior director is replaced with another from a different department;

*Worried* that this situation will undermine the purpose of the Public Procurement Act, 2007, aimed at ensuring transparency, accountability, value for money, and efficiency in procurement in ministries, departments, and agencies, if not addressed;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Director-General of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to ensure that the procurement department of the institution is allowed to function appropriately as enshrined in the administrative laws;
- (ii) also urge the Director-General of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to ensure that the position of Secretary, Tenders Board, is filled by the Director, Procurement, and in the director's absence, the most senior officer in management cadre in the procurement department; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Youth Development, Public Procurement, and Public Service Matters to investigate the Posting and Transfer of Procurement Officers in the Procurement Department of the National Youth Service Scheme and report within six (6) weeks (**HR. 296/10/2023**).

**19. Allegation of Failure of Judgement Debtors and Debtors from Regulatory Audits**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the Federal Government of Nigeria faces numerous cases and litigations worldwide, primarily based on monetary claims against counterparties and vice versa;

*Also notes* that the Federal Government had frequently suffered losses and paid substantial sums in local and foreign currencies to judgment creditors both within and outside Nigeria;

*Aware* that the Federal Government's inability to meet judgment debts has negatively impacted the country's reputation and investment attractiveness, as sensationalized media coverage often sensationalizes these issues;

*Also Aware* that judgment debtors often owe the Federal Government more money, which is often kept under wraps, never enforced, and not reported in the news, allowing debtors to continue their normal business;

*Further notes* that Regulatory audits have determined significant amounts based on assessments and letters of intent, but no further steps have been taken by regulatory bodies, resulting in unpaid sums and audits unclosed;

*Alarmed* that the issue stems from inadequate supervision, lack of tracking, neglect by stakeholders within the Civil and Public service, collusion, and corruption, particularly in the tax, pension, and contractual sectors;

*Worried* that the alleged situation could lead to unaccounted assets in the federal government, compromising financial stability and hindering the government's ability to address pressing needs if not investigated;

*Observes* that the recovered sums will aid the country in addressing liquidity and revenue challenges as interest and penalties on debt have grown significantly, becoming huge assets for the Federal Government;

*Resolves to:*

Mandate the Committees on Judiciary and Finance to investigate the Failure of Judgement Debtors and Debtors from Regulatory Audits to Pay the Federal Government Judgement Sums, Audit Assessments, Tax and Pension Debts and report within six (6) weeks (*Hon. Philp Agbese — Ado/Ogbadigbo/Okpokwu Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendments Proposed:**

- (i) In the Prayer, immediately after the words “Committees on”, *leave out* the word “Judiciary” and *insert* the word “Justice” (*Hon. Ugonna Ozurigbo — Isu/Njaba/Nkwere/Nwangele Federal Constituency*).

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

- (ii) In the Prayer as amended, immediately after the words “Finance”, *insert* the word “Public Accounts” (*Hon. Ojema Ojotu — Apa/Agatu Federal Constituency*).

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

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

The House:

*Noted* that the Federal Government of Nigeria faces numerous cases and litigations worldwide, primarily based on monetary claims against counterparties and vice versa;

*Also noted* that the Federal Government had frequently suffered losses and paid substantial sums in local and foreign currencies to judgment creditors both within and outside Nigeria;

*Aware* that the Federal Government's inability to meet judgment debts has negatively impacted the country's reputation and investment attractiveness, as sensationalized media coverage often sensationalizes these issues;

*Also Aware* that judgment debtors often owe the Federal Government more money, which is often kept under wraps, never enforced, and not reported in the news, allowing debtors to continue their normal business;

*Further noted* that Regulatory audits have determined significant amounts based on assessments and letters of intent, but no further steps have been taken by regulatory bodies, resulting in unpaid sums and audits unclosed;

*Alarmed* that the issue stems from inadequate supervision, lack of tracking, neglect by stakeholders within the Civil and Public service, collusion, and corruption, particularly in the tax, pension, and contractual sectors;

*Worried* that the alleged situation could lead to unaccounted assets in the federal government, compromising financial stability and hindering the government's ability to address pressing needs if not investigated;

*Observed* that the recovered sums will aid the country in addressing liquidity and revenue challenges as interest and penalties on debt have grown significantly, becoming huge assets for the Federal Government;

*Resolved to:*

Mandate the Committees on Justice, Finance, and Public Accounts to investigate the Failure of Judgement Debtors and Debtors from Regulatory Audits to Pay the Federal Government Judgement Sums, Audit Assessments, Tax and Pension Debts and report within six (6) weeks (**HR. 297/10/2023**).

**20. Desertification in Gabasawa Local Government Area of Kano State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that rural livelihood in Gabasawa Local Government is highly dependent on subsistent agriculture including farming and animal husbandry with which the majority of the people eke out a living;

*Also notes* that Gabasawa Local Government Area is located in the Sahel region of Nigeria which is gradually transforming from habitable land to desert thus disrupting economic activities and livelihood;

*Aware* that climate change, deforestation, over-cultivation, bush burning and over-grazing among others have been identified as some of the major causes of desertification in the Gabasawa local government area;

*Also aware* that the heavy dependence of rural dwellers of Gabasawa on fuel wood for both commercial and domestic uses further depletes the scanty vegetation cover of the semi-arid land;

*Disturbed* that desertification in Gabasawa has continuously resulted in crop failure, loss of farmlands, loss of vegetation cover, depletion of economic trees, shortage of food for live stocks and low income from farm produce;

*Also disturbed* that soil desiccation which makes soil very difficult to till, extinction of flora and fauna species and increased incidence of coastal flooding and storm surge have also been identified as some of the negative impacts of desertification in the Gabasawa local government area;

*Worried* that desert encroachment which is displacing livelihood and creating food and environmental insecurity in Gabasawa hurts political stability and the general well-being of the people;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the federal government to implement sustainable policies that give ordinary Nigerians unrestricted access to clean and renewable energy to prevent the frequent felling of trees for fuel wood;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Environment and the National Agency for Great Green Wall to step up community sensitization on the negative consequences of desertification in Gabasawa;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Environment and the National Agency for Great Green Wall to embark on a mass afforestation programme in Gabasawa which includes the planting of economic trees, development of shelter belts and woodlots to enhance soil conservation, improvement of biodiversity and increase fuel wood;
- (iv) again urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to provide improved seed varieties and farm inputs that are resistant to drought; and
- (v) mandate the Committees on Environment, Rural Development and Agricultural Production and Services to ensure compliance (*Hon. Chiroma Mohammed Garba — Gezawa/Gabasawa Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that rural livelihood in Gabasawa Local Government is highly dependent on subsistent agriculture including farming and animal husbandry with which the majority of the people eke out a living;

*Also noted* that Gabasawa Local Government Area is located in the Sahel region of Nigeria which is gradually transforming from habitable land to desert thus disrupting economic activities and livelihood;

*Aware* that climate change, deforestation, over-cultivation, bush burning and over-grazing among others have been identified as some of the major causes of desertification in the Gabasawa local government area;

*Also aware* that the heavy dependence of rural dwellers of Gabasawa on fuel wood for both commercial and domestic uses further depletes the scanty vegetation cover of the semi-arid land;

*Disturbed* that desertification in Gabasawa has continuously resulted in crop failure, loss of farmlands, loss of vegetation cover, depletion of economic trees, shortage of food for live stocks and low income from farm produce;

*Also disturbed* that soil desiccation which makes soil very difficult to till, extinction of flora and fauna species and increased incidence of coastal flooding and storm surge have also been identified as some of the negative impacts of desertification in the Gabasawa local government area;

*Worried* that desert encroachment which is displacing livelihood and creating food and environmental insecurity in Gabasawa hurts political stability and the general well-being of the people;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the federal government to implement sustainable policies that give ordinary Nigerians unrestricted access to clean and renewable energy to prevent the frequent felling of trees for fuel wood;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Environment and the National Agency for Great Green Wall to step up community sensitization on the negative consequences of desertification in Gabasawa;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Environment and the National Agency for Great Green Wall to embark on a mass afforestation programme in Gabasawa which includes the planting of economic trees, development of shelter belts and woodlots to enhance soil conservation, improvement of biodiversity and increase fuel wood;
- (iv) again urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to provide improved seed varieties and farm inputs that are resistant to drought; and
- (v) mandate the Committees on Environment, Rural Development and Agricultural Production and Services to ensure compliance (**HR. 298/10/2023**).

**21. Expansion and Connection of Railway Lines in Onitsha and the entire South East to the Standard Gauge Railway**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the railway system is a vital hub in the transport sector, contributing to economic growth and social development due to its capacity, safety, and affordability for long-distance travel;

*Also notes* that Railroads in developed countries have significantly enhanced land transport technology, facilitating the movement of heights and passengers;

*Further notes* that Nigeria's railway system collapse led to huge revenue loss, but the Buhari-led administration introduced a modernized standard gauge system for high-speed train operations;

*Aware* that the Standard Gauge Modernization Project has commenced in different zones of the country, including Abuja-Kaduna, Lagos-Ibadan, Lagos-Kano and Abuja-Kaduna, among others;

*Also aware* that the Southeast plays a critical role in the development of Nigeria's Gross Domestic Products as a major area engaged in a wide variety of trades which contributes significantly to Nigeria's (GDP) through its resourcefulness and diverse trade. Onitsha, the largest market in Africa;

*Further aware* that Onitsha located at a crossroads between Nigeria's eastern and western regions, serves as a logistics hub for the southeast region and beyond, offering easy transport links to other parts of Nigeria and West America;

*Concerned* that the lack of safe and cost-effective transportation infrastructure in the South East has hampered development and economic growth in the zone and the country due to road mishaps experienced in the transportation of logistics to other commercial hubs such as Kano and Lagos, among others;

*Also concerned* that while the Standard Gauge Railway Project has been going on in other zones, the South East is yet to benefit;

*Cognizant* that the extension of railway lines to the commercial city of Onitsha and the South East will not only reduce congestion on the roads but will integrate markets and enhance the facilitation of trade between the South East and other parts of the country, thus attracting economic development and social progress;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Transportation to commence the expansion and connection of the rail lines in Onitsha and the entire South East to the Standard Gauge Railway; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Land Transport to ensure compliance (*Hon. Nnaji Nnolin John — Nkanu East/Nkanu West Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

*Leave out* all the words in Prayer (i), and *insert* as follows:

“urge the Ministries of Transportation, and Finance, Budget and National Planning to make provisions for the expansion and connection of rail lines in Onitsha and the entire South East to Standard Gauge Railway in the 2024 budget estimates” (*Hon. Abdullahi Balarabe Dabai — Bakori/Danja Federal Constituency*).

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

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

The House:

*Noted* that the railway system is a vital hub in the transport sector, contributing to economic growth and social development due to its capacity, safety, and affordability for long-distance travel;

*Also noted* that Railroads in developed countries have significantly enhanced land transport technology, facilitating the movement of heights and passengers;

*Further noted* that Nigeria's railway system collapse led to huge revenue loss, but the Buhari-led administration introduced a modernized standard gauge system for high-speed train operations;

*Aware* that the Standard Gauge Modernization Project has commenced in different zones of the country, including Abuja-Kaduna, Lagos-Ibadan, Lagos-Kano and Abuja-Kaduna, among others;

*Also aware* that the Southeast plays a critical role in the development of Nigeria's Gross Domestic Products as a major area engaged in a wide variety of trades which contributes significantly to Nigeria's (GDP) through its resourcefulness and diverse trade. Onitsha, the largest market in Africa;

*Further aware* that Onitsha located at a crossroads between Nigeria's eastern and western regions, serves as a logistics hub for the southeast region and beyond, offering easy transport links to other parts of Nigeria and West America;

*Concerned* that the lack of safe and cost-effective transportation infrastructure in the South East has hampered development and economic growth in the zone and the country due to road mishaps experienced in the transportation of logistics to other commercial hubs such as Kano and Lagos, among others;

*Also concerned* that while the Standard Gauge Railway Project has been going on in other zones, the South East is yet to benefit;

*Cognizant* that the extension of railway lines to the commercial city of Onitsha and the South East will not only reduce congestion on the roads but will integrate markets and enhance the facilitation of trade between the South East and other parts of the country, thus attracting economic development and social progress;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Ministries of Transportation, and Finance, Budget and National Planning to make provisions for the expansion and connection of rail lines in Onitsha and the entire South East to Standard Gauge Railway in the 2024 budget estimates; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Land Transport to ensure compliance (**HR. 299/10/2023**).

**22. Need to Address the Hardships Experienced by the Academic Staff Union of Universities(ASUU)**  
*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that University lecturers play a crucial role in the education system, providing knowledge, guidance, and mentorship to future leaders, ensuring a stable and motivated academic workforce for educational institution development;

*Also notes* that the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) is a recognized body of academic professionals in Nigeria, committed to the advancement of education and research within the Federal University System;

*Recalls* that in 2022, ASUU members went on an eight-month strike due to the Federal Government's failure to honour past agreements with the union;

*Regrets* that the Strike actions in the Federal University System, aimed at addressing systemic issues, have unintentionally led to financial consequences for dedicated lecturers who participated in these strikes;

*Cognizant* that Section 17 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that the State Social order is founded on ideals of freedom, equality and justice and in furtherance of the social order, government actions shall be humane;

*Disturbed* that Federal University lecturers are facing financial hardships and distress due to eight months' salary owed as a result of the ASUU strike, with adverse consequences on students' educational experiences and overall well-being;

*Worried* that Unpaid salaries can negatively affect lecturers' morale, job satisfaction, and teaching effectiveness, thereby affecting the quality of education provided to students; the educational success and prospects of students are intricately linked to the financial security and dedication of teachers;

*Cognizant* that resolving this issue is crucial for the stability and excellence of universities, the welfare of educators, and the nation's economy;

*Resolves to:*

Mandate the Committees on University Education, Finance, Appropriations, Labour and Productivity, and Legislative Compliance to interface with ASUU and the Federal Government to resolve the Eight-months outstanding salary (no work no pay) of the lecturer and report within two (2) weeks (*Hon. Paul Sunday Nnamchi — Enugu East/Isi-Uzo Federal Constituency and Three Others*).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

In the Prayer, immediately after the words “report within”, *leave out* the word and figure “two (2)”, and *insert* the word and figure “four (4)” (*Hon. Mathew Nwogu — Aboh Mbaise/Ngor Okpala Federal Constituency*).

*Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.*

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

The House:

*Noted* that University lecturers play a crucial role in the education system, providing knowledge, guidance, and mentorship to future leaders, ensuring a stable and motivated academic workforce for educational institution development;

*Also noted* that the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) is a recognized body of academic professionals in Nigeria, committed to the advancement of education and research within the Federal University System;

*Recalled* that in 2022, ASUU members went on an eight-month strike due to the Federal Government's failure to honour past agreements with the union;

*Regretted* that the Strike actions in the Federal University System, aimed at addressing systemic issues, have unintentionally led to financial consequences for dedicated lecturers who participated in these strikes;

*Cognizant* that Section 17 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that the State Social order is founded on ideals of freedom, equality and justice and in furtherance of the social order, government actions shall be humane;

*Disturbed* that Federal University lecturers are facing financial hardships and distress due to eight months' salary owed as a result of the ASUU strike, with adverse consequences on students' educational experiences and overall well-being;

*Worried* that Unpaid salaries can negatively affect lecturers' morale, job satisfaction, and teaching effectiveness, thereby affecting the quality of education provided to students; the educational success and prospects of students are intricately linked to the financial security and dedication of teachers;

*Cognizant* that resolving this issue is crucial for the stability and excellence of universities, the welfare of educators, and the nation's economy;

*Resolved to:*

Mandate the Committees on University Education, Finance, Appropriations, Labour and Productivity, and Legislative Compliance to interface with ASUU and the Federal Government to resolve the Eight-months outstanding salary (no work no pay) of the lecturer and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 300/10./2023**).



**23. Call to Complete the Construction of the Koko-Ogheye road Warri North Local Government Area of Delta State**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the Koko-Ogheye road which spans 170 kilometres from Koko in Warri North Local Government Area, Delta State to Epe in Lagos State was first conceived in 1955 by the defunct Niger Delta Development Board (NDDB);

*Also notes* that the project remained at the conception stage until 2009 when the federal government through the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) awarded the first phase of the contract spanning 15 kilometres to Levant Construction Company Limited;

*Concerned* that completion of the project has suffered several setbacks due to inadequate funding by the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC);

*Cognizant* that the project when completed will open up avenues of employment for the teeming jobless youths in the surrounding areas as it would open a major network of interconnected communities in the riverine areas and enhance the agro fishery market as well as positively impact the socio-economic situation of the people and Nigeria as whole;

*Also cognizant* that completion of the road will reduce the travelling distance between Delta State and Lagos State from over 7 hours to about 1 hour, and 30 minutes thereby enhancing commercial and economic relations and general development to the surrounding areas;

*Disturbed* that despite the economic importance of Warri which is a major hub of oil and gas activities in Nigeria, the Koko-Ogheye road project has not been given the priority attention it deserves;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to make provisions for the completion of the Koko-Ogheye road project in its 2024 budget estimates;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Thomas Ereyitomi — Warri North/Worri South/Warri South West Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

**(HR. 301/10/2023).**

*Motion referred to the Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).*

**24. Need to Investigate the Abandoned New Abeokuta- Igbo-Ora/Lanlate/Igangan 132/33 KV Double Circuit Transmission Line**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the Federal Government of Nigeria awarded a contract in 2009 to Laga Cepower Limited for a 132/33 KV Double Circuit Transmission Line project in Abeokuta, Igbo-Ora, Lanlate, and Igangan, aiming to permanently eradicate darkness and promote socio-economic development;

*Also notes* that the projects were sited in 3 towns of Igbo-Ora, Lanlate and Igangan towns, spanning three Local Government Areas of Ibarapa Central, North and East respectively.

*Further notes* that the above transmission lines projects with three substations in the three Local Government Areas mentioned above were part of the 12 Power Projects in the country with 6,000 megawatts in view and a construction value of ₦4.637 trillion awarded by the Federal Government in 2009;

*Aware* that the Power projects were awarded at the cost of ₦1,934,129,421.02 (One billion, nine hundred and thirty-four million, one hundred and twenty-one thousand, four hundred and twenty one Naira, two Kobo) out of which ₦930,454,145.95 (Nine hundred and thirty million, four hundred and fifty-four thousand, one hundred and forty-five Naira, ninety-five Kobo) had been disbursed to the contractor leaving a balance of ₦73,221,133.21 (Seventy-three million, two hundred and twenty-one thousand, one hundred and thirty-three Naira, twenty Kobo) with an incorrect claim of 83 % contract completion; whereas in reality, and on-sites, the projects had only been executed to about 40 % level.

*Also aware* that disbursement of the sum of ₦89,746,500.00 (Eighty-nine million, seven hundred and forty-six thousand, five hundred Naira) only, was paid to Messrs New World Power Limited/Rhuoga Energy Limited with payment receipt No. 1001071268-5023102000 in June 2023, raising strong suspicion of the contract has been varied.

*Recalls* that the House Resolution on the construction of 33/11 KVA Injection Sub-Station in Igbo-Ora and Igangan, in the 9th Assembly, failed to highlight the mishandling and abuse of these projects, thus, misleading the Assembly;

*Conscious* that the three projects listed in the "Ongoing Projects" under Transmission Company of Nigeria's current Managing Director, Engr Sule Ahmed Abdulaziz may have been abandoned or forgotten despite significant financial outlays;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Rural Electrification Agency to probe the abandon projects, the disbursements, the completion stage and why the project had not been delivered beyond the June 2021 completion date and ensure the successful and timely delivery of the project in the Ibarapa Central, North, and East Constituencies of Oyo State;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Power to investigate the award and execution of the contracts and report within eight weeks (8) (*Hon. Anthony Adebayo Adepaju — Ibarapa Central/Ibarapa North Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the Federal Government of Nigeria awarded a contract in 2009 to Laga Cepower Limited for a 132/33 KV Double Circuit Transmission Line project in Abeokuta, Igbo-Ora, Lanlate, and Igangan, aiming to permanently eradicate darkness and promote socio-economic development;

*Also noted* that the projects were sited in 3 towns of Igbo-Ora, Lanlate and Igangan towns, spanning three Local Government Areas of Ibarapa Central, North and East respectively.

*Further noted* that the above transmission lines projects with three substations in the three Local Government Areas mentioned above were part of the 12 Power Projects in the country with 6,000

megawatts in view and a construction value of ₦4.637 trillion awarded by the Federal Government in 2009;

*Aware* that the Power projects were awarded at the cost of ₦1,934,129,421.02 (One billion, nine hundred and thirty-four million, one hundred and twenty-one thousand, four hundred and twenty one Naira, two Kobo) out of which ₦930,454,145.95 (Nine hundred and thirty million, four hundred and fifty-four thousand, one hundred and forty-five Naira, ninety-five Kobo) had been disbursed to the contractor leaving a balance of ₦73,221,133.21 (Seventy-three million, two hundred and twenty-one thousand, one hundred and thirty-three Naira, twenty Kobo) with an incorrect claim of 83 % contract completion; whereas in reality, and on-sites, the projects had only been executed to about 40 % level.

*Also aware* that disbursement of the sum of ₦89,746,500.00 (Eighty-nine million, seven hundred and forty-six thousand, five hundred Naira) only was paid to Messrs New World Power Limited/Rhuoga Energy Limited with payment receipt No. 1001071268-5023102000 in June 2023, raising strong suspicion of the contract has been varied.

*Recalled* that the House Resolution on the construction of 33/11 KVA Injection Sub-Station in Igbo-ora and Igangan, in the 9th Assembly, failed to highlight the mishandling and abuse of these projects, thus, misleading the Assembly;

*Conscious* that the three projects listed in the "Ongoing Projects" under Transmission Company of Nigeria's current Managing Director, Engr Sule Ahmed Abdulaziz may have been abandoned or forgotten despite significant financial outlays;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Rural Electrification Agency to probe the abandon projects, the disbursements, the completion stage and why the project had not been delivered beyond the June 2021 completion date and ensure the successful and timely delivery of the project in the Ibarapa Central, North, and East Constituencies of Oyo State;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Power to investigate the award and execution of the contracts and report within eight (8) weeks (**HR. 302/10/2023**).

## **25. Need to Curtail Exorbitant Airfares by International Airlines in Nigeria**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) reported that as of 2022, sixteen (16) international airlines were operating in Nigeria;

*Also notes* that in 2023, international passenger traffic has grown massively from the 3,503,692 that was recorded in 2022, and has continued to grow rapidly, especially with outbound international travellers;

*Concerned* that international airlines are taking undue advantage of the surge in international passenger traffic to charge exorbitantly for flights and cashing out on Nigeria;

*Also concerned* that compared to that of other West African countries like Ghana, Benin Republic, and Niger Republic, the rates set by international airlines operating in Nigeria are outrageous despite poor service delivery and use of old aircraft by the airlines as against what is obtainable in other countries;

*Disturbed* that Turkish Airlines charges as much as \$3,538 (₦2.7million), with the lowest advertised fare being \$1,432 (1.1 million) for a Lagos- London flight, whereas the same Airline charges between \$475 (₦368,837) and \$601 (₦466,676) for a London bound flight from Cotonou, which is a huge and unfair contrast to what people are forced to pay in Nigeria;

*Also disturbed* that other international airlines operating in Nigeria are guilty of this unfair hike in flight fares for inbound and outbound international flights, which puts Nigeria at a disadvantage economically;

*Worried* that if strict measures are not put in place to stop the flagrant hike in flight fares by international airlines, Nigerians may no longer be able to afford international travel and even the nation's economy would be negatively affected by such unwholesome practices;

*Resolves to:*

Mandate the Committee on Aviation to investigate the hike in international flight fares and poor service delivery by International airlines operating in Nigeria to curb unwholesome practices by airlines and ensure that flight fares are at par with that of neighbouring countries (*Hon. Moshood Olarewaju Oshun — Lagos Mainland Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendments Proposed:**

- (i) In the Prayer, immediately after the words “hike in”, *insert* the words “domestic and” (*Hon. Bello Isah Ambarura — Ilela/Gwadabawa Federal Constituency*).

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

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (ii) as follows:  
“mandate the Committee on Aviation to investigate the supervisory role of Federal Ministry of Aviation and the poor regulatory functions of Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA)” (*Hon. Oyediji Najimdeen Oyeshima — Iseyin/Itesiwaju/Kajola/Iwajowa Federal Constituency*).

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

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

The House:

*Notes* that the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) reported that as of 2022, sixteen (16) international airlines were operating in Nigeria;

*Also notes* that in 2023, international passenger traffic has grown massively from the 3,503,692 that was recorded in 2022, and has continued to grow rapidly, especially with outbound international travellers;

*Concerned* that international airlines are taking undue advantage of the surge in international passenger traffic to charge exorbitantly for flights and cashing out on Nigeria;

*Also concerned* that compared to that of other West African countries like Ghana, Benin Republic, and Niger Republic, the rates set by international airlines operating in Nigeria are outrageous despite poor service delivery and use of old aircraft by the airlines as against what is obtainable in other countries;

*Disturbed* that Turkish Airlines charges as much as \$3,538 (~~₦~~2.7million), with the lowest advertised fare being \$1,432 (~~₦~~1.1 million) for a Lagos- London flight, whereas the same Airline charges between \$475 (~~₦~~368,837) and \$601 (~~₦~~466,676) for a London bound flight from Cotonou, which is a huge and unfair contrast to what people are forced to pay in Nigeria;

*Also disturbed* that other international airlines operating in Nigeria are guilty of this unfair hike in flight fares for inbound and outbound international flights, which puts Nigeria at a disadvantage economically;

*Worried* that if strict measures are not put in place to stop the flagrant hike in flight fares by international airlines, Nigerians may no longer be able to afford international travel and even the nation's economy would be negatively affected by such unwholesome practices;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) mandate the Committee on Aviation to investigate the hike in, domestic and international flight fares and poor service delivery by International airlines operating in Nigeria to curb unwholesome practices by airlines and ensure that flight fares are at par with that of neighbouring countries; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Aviation to investigate the supervisory role of Federal Ministry of Aviation and the poor regulatory functions of Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) (**HR. 303/10/2023**).

**26. Need to Concession the Railway Services to include Operation and Management of the Railway System in Nigeria**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the importance of rail services play a pivotal role in the transportation sector of the country with an endless value chain which makes a difference in job creation, efficiency for services, infrastructure and economic growth;

*Aware* of, until recently, the unsuccessful efforts by successive administrations to develop an efficient and functional rail system in Nigeria;

*Also notes* that the performance of the Nigerian Railway Corporation has been on a slow pace compared to contemporaries in the sector despite the huge investment to revive the rail transportation system;

*Concerned* that the retrogression of the railway system has negatively impacted the lifespan of Nigerian roads, thus putting pressure on the roads with attendant loss of lives and property due to the failure of the railway system;

*Observes* that despite efforts to revive rail transport, poor management and complacency among railway system managers have led to the government exploring alternatives through the private sector;

*Cognizant* that the government has opted for concession of the operation and management of the nation's railway system, a development that received the blessings of many Nigerians;

*Also aware* that concessioning the operations and management of the nation's rail transportation services has become a global option;

*Also cognizant* that for the country's rail services to be efficient, corruption and guarantee job creation, Nigeria must adopt the option of concessioning the rail services to achieve value for money;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Government to commence the concession of the rail services to competent private investors;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Land Transport to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Transport to explore a framework for concessioning the rail services in Nigeria and report within two (2) weeks (*Hon. Sada Soli — Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendments Proposed:**

- (i) In Prayer (ii), immediately after the words “Land Transport”, *insert* the word “Justice” (*Hon. Isa Muhammed Anka — Anka/Tarata Marafa Federal Constituency*).

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

- (ii) In Prayer (ii) as amended, immediately after the word “Justice”, *insert* the words “and Privatization and Commercialization” (*Hon. Babajimi Benson — Ikorodu Federal Constituency*).

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

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

The House:

*Noted* that the importance of rail services play a pivotal role in the transportation sector of the country with an endless value chain which makes a difference in job creation, efficiency for services, infrastructure and economic growth;

*Aware of*, until recently, the unsuccessful efforts by successive administrations to develop an efficient and functional rail system in Nigeria;

*Also noted* that the performance of the Nigerian Railway Corporation has been on a slow pace compared to contemporaries in the sector despite the huge investment to revive the rail transportation system;

*Concerned* that the retrogression of the railway system has negatively impacted the lifespan of Nigerian roads, thus putting pressure on the roads with attendant loss of lives and property due to the failure of the railway system;

*Observed* that despite efforts to revive rail transport, poor management and complacency among railway system managers have led to the government exploring alternatives through the private sector;

*Cognizant* that the government has opted for concession of the operation and management of the nation's railway system, a development that received the blessings of many Nigerians;

*Also aware* that concessioning the operations and management of the nation's rail transportation services has become a global option;

*Also cognizant* that for the country's rail services to be efficient, corruption and guarantee job creation, Nigeria must adopt the option of concessioning the rail services to achieve value for money;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Federal Government to commence the concession of the rail services to competent private investors;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Land Transport, Justice, and Privatization and Commercialization to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Transport to explore a framework for concessioning the rail services in Nigeria and report within two (2) weeks (**HR. 304/10/2023**).

**27. Order of the Day**

*Motion made and Question proposed:* “That the House do set down Items 20 - 21 on the Order Paper to the next legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (3)” (*Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

**28. Adjournment**

*That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 31 October, 2023 at 11.00 a.m.* (*Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader*).

*The House adjourned accordingly at 2.57 p.m.*

**Abbas Tajudeen**  
*Speaker*

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**CORRIGENDUM**

In the *Votes and Proceedings* of Wednesday, 25 October, 2023:

- (i) page 1083, item 11, on Prayer (ii), immediately after the word “Power”, *insert* the word “Finance, and Civil Society and Development Partners”;
- (ii) page 1089, item 12, on the amendment (ii), *leave out* the Constituency “Ikara/Kabau”, and *insert* the Constituency “Wurno/Rabbah”

**Abbas Tajudeen**  
*Speaker*