



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 5 October, 2023

1. The House met at 11.15 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, 4 October, 2023.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Remarks by the Deputy Speaker**
Esteemed colleagues, as we have noted today, it is evident that our Order Paper is filled with motions and requests for federal road rehabilitation and construction projects. While these requests are essential for the development and connectivity of our nation, the truth we must confront is that there is a stark financial challenge before us.

According to data provided by the Minister of Works, Engineer Dave Umahi, we currently face a backlog of 269 projects requiring immediate attention, with a staggering cost of ₦217 billion. To put this into perspective, it would take a monumental sum of Seven Trillion Naira to address all the federal road issues in the South-East alone. Our current budgetary allocations for ongoing capital projects in the 2023 budget amount to ₦530 billion, with ₦61 billion earmarked for road rehabilitation and ₦185 billion for road construction.

Clearly, we have a unique financing problem on our hands, one that demands innovative solutions. Nigeria's vision for transportation infrastructure development, as outlined in the 2021 National Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan, recognizes the need to galvanize private capital for the overhaul of our ailing infrastructure. The plan estimates that we need at least \$575 billion over the next 22 years to meet the demands of our growing economy and population.

Already, in our previous sessions, the House took the initiative to pass the Federal Road Fund Bill, which introduces innovative funding mechanisms for addressing the broader issue of deteriorating road infrastructure across the country.

In response to this challenge, the federal government has embarked on promising initiatives, including the Private-Public Partnership fund, InfraCo, which boasts an initial public-private capital fund of \$1.6 billion, backed by institutions like the Africa Finance Corporation (AFC), the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA), and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

I implore all esteemed colleagues to consider this direction seriously. Instead of merely advocating for more government financing, let us focus our efforts on catalyzing innovative private-sector financing models for road rehabilitation and construction projects. By embracing these new approaches, we can work together to address the pressing infrastructure needs of our nation effectively.

In addition, as a House, we should also strive to dedicate a day where we can extensively deliberate on improving legislation similar to the Federal Road Fund Bill in the 9th Assembly that unlocks a flurry of financing alternatives for road infrastructure upgrades in the country.

Thank you.

5. 2023 World Teachers' Day Celebration

Mr Deputy Speaker drew the attention of the House to the Annual World Teachers' Day celebration, which holds 5th October every year. He noted the prime place of teachers in the formative life of a child, as invaluable. He extolled the virtues of teachers all over the world and invited Members to speak on the place of Nigeria teachers in the society in commemoration of World Teachers' Day. Members took their turn and saluted the courage, perseverance, patience and compassion of the Nigerian Teachers, describing them as indispensable in the socio-economic and political development of a nation.

6. Constitution of Committees Membership

Mr Deputy Speaker announced the constitution of the membership of the following Committees and urge Members to check their Committees at the Office of the Clerk, House of Representatives:

- (1) Committee on Appropriations
- (2) Committee on Public Accounts
- (3) Committee on House Services
- (4) Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission
- (5) Committee on North East Development Commission
- (6) Committee on Public Petitions
- (7) Committee on Federal Capital Territory
- (8) Committee on Federal Character
- (9) Committee on Constituency Outreach
- (10) Committee on Ecological Fund
- (11) Committee on Constitution Review
- (12) Committee on Works
- (13) Committee on Local Content

- (14) Committee on National Security and Intelligence
- (15) Committee on Finance
- (16) Committee on Banking Regulations
- (17) Committee on Defence
- (18) Committee on Agricultural Production and Services
- (19) Committee on Petroleum Resources Training Funds
- (20) Committee on States and Local Governments
- (21) Committee on Traditional Institutions

7. Petitions

- (i) Hon. Fatoba Olusola (*Ado/Irepodun/Ifelodun Federal Constituency*) presented and laid a petition from Concern Retirees of Federal Mortgage Finance Limited, on the alleged non-payment of their gratuity and pension by the Federal Ministry of Finance and Pension Transitional Arrangement Directorate;
- (ii) Hon. Ojuawo Rufus Adeniyi (*Ekiti South West/Ikere/Ise Orun Federal Constituency*) presented and laid a petition from Policy Thrust Ventures Limited, on the alleged refusal to honour the payment for executed contract obligation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- (iii) Hon. Nwogu Matthew (*Abo-Mbaise/Ngor Okpala Federal Constituency*) presented and laid a petition from K. E. Okoro & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of the National Integrated Power Project (NIPP), on the alleged refusal of the Nigeria Customs Service to indemnify the NIPP on the conversion and sale of its containers.

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

- (i) ***Need to Address the Unfortunate Death of Miss Greatness Olorunfemi by One Chance Syndicate in Abuja:***
Hon. Lukman Alani Mudashiru (*Ayedire/Iwo/Ola-Oluwa 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.

Need to Address the Unfortunate Death of Miss Greatness Olorunfemi by One Chance Syndicate in Abuja:

The House:

Notes that Sections 33 and 41 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that every person has the right to life and no one shall be deprived

intentionally of his or her life and that every Nigerian citizen is entitled to move freely throughout Nigeria, and to reside in any part therein respectively;

Also notes that the right to life, safety and security of a person which are crucial fundamental human rights, which any reasonable government must uphold are being threatened as residents of Abuja are living in constant fear and vulnerability due to the growing cases of insecurity and can no longer go about their businesses peacefully;

Aware that in recent times, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) has become a hotbed of insecurity characterized by frequent robbery, kidnapping and killing of motorists and commuters;

Concerned about the different tactics and daring manner used by these criminals/thieves who disguise as taxi operators (one chance) to carry out their devilish intentions by deceiving unsuspecting commuters by leaving one seat for them;

Also concerned that this deteriorating situation of insecurity and incessant attacks in the "Seat of power" has made motorists and commuters to become fearful and vulnerable to indiscriminate robberies and kidnapping consuming the once peaceful atmosphere in Abuja and its environs;

Cognizant of the recent unfortunate death of Miss Greatness Olorunfemi who was the latest victim of one chance operation in Abuja, a vibrant young lady who passed away on 26 September, 2023 after she was allegedly pushed off a moving vehicle by a suspected one chance syndicate along the Maitama- Kubwa road;

Also cognizant that on 20 September, 2023 an elderly woman was abducted and dispossessed of all her valuables including money and jewelries after she boarded a commercial vehicle in Zone 3 area of FCT and unknown to her was occupied by one chance syndicate, her abductors also demanded for the sum of ₦500,000.00 from the family members as narrated by her daughter @bigTems via her X social media handle;

Further cognizant of the fact that some weeks ago, a Legislative Aide while returning from work unknowingly boarded a one chance vehicle wherein her mobile phone was collected and a large sum of money was transferred from her bank account via a PoS machine, and also the case of the wife of a journalist who was kidnapped in front of NNPC Tower and taken to an unknown destination where she was dispossessed of her phone, other belongings and push out of the vehicle;

Also aware that some of the red flags spots according to multiple reports which are identified to be plied by these criminals/one chance syndicate in Abuja include Area 1 Berger, Area 1- Area 10, Area 1- Lugbe, Apo Mechanic Village Axis, Kubwa expressway and along, Jabi axis, City Gate, Area 1 under bridge and across, Area 2 plaza behind VIO Office area, Zone 2 and Zone 3 among others;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of Miss Greatness Olorunfemi and other victims of insecurity and one chance operations;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government, the Nigeria Police force, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Vehicle Inspection Officers (VIO) and other relevant security agencies to:
 - (a) work together for a comprehensive review of the security measures within the FCT so as to develop a working strategy to resolve the cases of robbery,

kidnapping and other criminal activities, to prevent further harm on the citizens,

- (b) ensure that the culprits involved in one chance operations within the FCT are brought to book;
- (iii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to ensure the installation of close circuit cameras in various and strategic locations across the FCT;
- (iv) further urge the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) to ban commercial vehicles with tinted glasses, mandate commercial drivers to have commercial plate numbers and mandate that commercial vehicles to be painted in the colour of the State in which they operate, e.g., Abuja- Green and White colour, as well as insists on the installation of cameras in all approved taxi and commercial vehicles;
- (v) still urge FCTA to deal with private cars being used for commercial purposes and also conduct proper stop and search on all tinted vehicles at all check points and create an awareness and sensitization on the dangers of boarding vehicles with tinted glasses;
- (vi) again urge the Executive Armed of Government, Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) and other relevant agencies to ensure that the Transport Services in Abuja should be streamlined and properly regulated to reduce the rampant cases of one chance criminals;
- (vii) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, and Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Lukman Alani Mudashiru — Ayedire/Iwo/Ola-Oluwa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (viii), as follows:
“mandate the Committee on FCT to investigate CCTV Cameras installed in last 15 years and to invite the FCDA and all the relevant FCT Authorities in strategic location involved in the installation” (*Hon. Olumide Babatunde Osoba — Abeokuta North/Obafemi Owode/Odeda Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayer (ii) (a), immediately after the words “FCT”, *insert* the words “and other parts of the country” (*Hon. Mohammed Jamilu — Faskari/Kankara/Sabuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) In Prayer (iv), immediately after the word “FCT”, *insert* the words “and National Security and Intelligence” (*Hon. Dachung Bagos Musa — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Sections 33 and 41 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999

(as amended) provides that every person has the right to life and no one shall be deprived intentionally of his or her life and that every Nigerian citizen is entitled to move freely throughout Nigeria, and to reside in any part therein respectively;

Also noted that the right to life, safety and security of a person which are crucial fundamental human rights, which any reasonable government must uphold are being threatened as residents of Abuja are living in constant fear and vulnerability due to the growing cases of insecurity and can no longer go about their businesses peacefully;

Aware that in recent times, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) has become a hotbed of insecurity characterized by frequent robbery, kidnapping and killing of motorists and commuters;

Concerned about the different tactics and daring manner used by these criminals/thieves who disguise as taxi operators (one chance) to carry out their devilish intentions by deceiving unsuspecting commuters by leaving one seat for them;

Also concerned that this deteriorating situation of insecurity and incessant attacks in the "Seat of power" has made motorists and commuters to become fearful and vulnerable to indiscriminate robberies and kidnapping consuming the once peaceful atmosphere in Abuja and its environs;

Cognizant of the recent unfortunate death of Miss Greatness Olorunfemi who was the latest victim of one chance operation in Abuja, a vibrant young lady who passed away on 26 September, 2023 after she was allegedly pushed off a moving vehicle by a suspected one chance syndicate along the Maitama- Kubwa road;

Also cognizant that on 20 September, 2023 an elderly woman was abducted and dispossessed of all her valuables including money and jewelries after she boarded a commercial vehicle in Zone 3 area of FCT and unknown to her was occupied by one chance syndicate, her abductors also demanded for the sum of ₦500,000.00 from the family members as narrated by her daughter @bigTems via her X social media handle;

Further cognizant of the fact that some weeks ago, a Legislative Aide while returning from work unknowingly boarded a one chance vehicle wherein her mobile phone was collected and a large sum of money was transferred from her bank account via a PoS machine, and also the case of the wife of a journalist who was kidnapped in front of NNPC Tower and taken to an unknown destination where she was dispossessed of her phone, other belongings and push out of the vehicle;

Also aware that some of the red flags spots according to multiple reports which are identified to be plied by these criminals/one chance syndicate in Abuja include Area 1 Berger, Area 1- Area 10, Area 1- Lugbe, Apo Mechanic Village Axis, Kubwa expressway and along, Jabi axis, City Gate, Area 1 under bridge and across, Area 2 plaza behind VIO Office area, Zone 2 and Zone 3 among others;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of Miss Greatness Olorunfemi and other victims of insecurity and one chance operations;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government, the Nigeria Police force, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Vehicle Inspection Officers (VIO) and other relevant security agencies to:
 - (a) work together for a comprehensive review of the security measures within the FCT, and other parts of the country, so as to develop a working strategy

to resolve the cases of robbery, kidnapping and other criminal activities, to prevent further harm on the citizens,

- (b) ensure that the culprits involved in one chance operations within the FCT are brought to book;
 - (iii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to ensure the installation of close circuit cameras in various and strategic locations across the FCT;
 - (iv) further urge the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), and National Security and Intelligence to ban commercial vehicles with tinted glasses, mandate commercial drivers to have commercial plate numbers and mandate that commercial vehicles to be painted in the colour of the State in which they operate, e.g., Abuja-Green and White colour, as well as insists on the installation of cameras in all approved taxi and commercial vehicles;
 - (v) still urge FCTA to deal with private cars being used for commercial purposes and also conduct proper stop and search on all tinted vehicles at all check points and create an awareness and sensitization on the dangers of boarding vehicles with tinted glasses;
 - (vi) again urge the Executive Armed of Government, Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) and other relevant agencies to ensure that the Transport Services in Abuja should be streamlined and properly regulated to reduce the rampant cases of one chance criminals;
 - (vii) mandate the Committee on FCT to investigate CCTV Cameras installed in last 15 years;
 - (viii) also mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, and Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to ensure compliance (**HR. 210/10/2023**).
- (ii) ***Need to Intervene in the Recent Flooding in Some Parts of Gombe State:***
Hon. Inuwa Garba (*Yamaltu/Deba Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 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.

Recent Devastating Flood Disaster in Parts of Gombe State:

The House:

Notes the recent devastating flood disaster on Sunday, 1 October, 2023, leading to lose of lives, farmlands and property worth millions of Naira;

Also notes the flood which occurred on the 63rd independent anniversary of our nation;

Worried that the level of sufferings and economic woes experienced by the inhabitants are exposed to is unprecedented as the livelihood of citizens are stopped;

Aware that victims of the disaster have relocated to neighbouring States for safety and succor;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), North East Development Commission (NEDC) and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources to provide emergency relief packages to the affected people;
- (ii) also urge the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation for intervention on Ecological issues to the affected areas;
- (iii) mandate the relevant committees for legislative compliance (*Hon. Inuwa Garba —Yamaltu/Deba Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iv), as follows:

“observe a minute silence in honour of the departed soul” (*Hon. Abdullahi El-Raheed — Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the recent devastating flood disaster on Sunday, 1 October, 2023, leading to lose of lives, farmlands and property worth millions of Naira;

Also noted the flood which occurred on the 63rd independent anniversary of our nation;

Worried that the level of sufferings and economic woes experienced by the inhabitants are exposed to is unprecedented as the livelihood of citizens are stopped;

Aware that victims of the disaster have relocated to neighbouring States for safety and succor;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the departed soul
- (ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), North East Development Commission (NEDC) and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources to provide emergency relief packages to the affected people;
- (iii) also urge the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation for intervention on Ecological issues to the affected areas;
- (iv) mandate the relevant committees for legislative compliance (**HR. 211/10/2023**).

9. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Nigerian Real Estate Exchange (NREX) (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.525).
- (2) Copyright Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 526).

- (3) Nigerian Police Academy Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.527).
- (4) National Ethnic and Values Compliance Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.528).
- (5) Harmonized Retirement Age for Staff of National Assembly Service of Nigeria Bill, 2023 (HB.529).
- (6) Federal University of Agriculture, Ako-Nike, Enugu State (HB.530).
- (7) Petroleum Industry Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.531).
- (8) Central Bank of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.532).
- (9) National Health Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.533).
- (10) Nigerian Railway Corporation Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 534).
- (11) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (HB.535).
- (12) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (HB.536).
- (13) Nigerian Military Academy (Establishment), Obeagu-Uno/Amodu Akwunnawa, Enugu State Bill, 2023 (HB.537).
- (14) Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skills Acquisition (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.538).
- (15) Federal Medical Centre, Ode-Irele, Ondo State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.539).
- (16) Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skill Acquisition, Olomoro, Delta State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.540).
- (17) Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Owhelegbo, Delta State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 541).
- (18) Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skill Acquisition, Mbaitoli, Imo State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.542).
- (19) Nigerian Institute of Centre for Vocational Training and Certification (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.543).
- (20) Federal Medical Centre, Damasak, Borno State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.544).
- (21) Federal College of Agriculture, Kukawa, Borno State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.545).
- (22) National Commission for Colleges of Agriculture (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.546).
- (23) National Youth Service Corps Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.547).
- (24) Venture Capital and Start Up Investment Bill, 2023 (HB.515).
- (25) Federal University of Medical and Health Sciences, Ondo, Ondo State (HB.548).

10. Presentation of Report

Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate incidence of Aviation Fuel Contamination, Associated Safety Risks and Non-Adherence to International Standards and Industry Best practices in Fuel supply and

Distribution in the Aviation Oil Industry:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee to Investigate incidence of Aviation Fuel Contamination, Associated Safety Risks and Non-Adherence to International Standards and Industry Best practices in Fuel supply and Distribution in the Aviation Oil Industry (**HR. 119/07/2023**)” (*Hon. Aliyu Sani Madaki — Dala Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

11. A Bill for an Act to the Amend Federal Medical Centres Act to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Rano, Kano State and for Related Matters (HB.91) — Third Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to the Amend Federal Medical Centres Act to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Rano, Kano State and for Related Matters (HB.91) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

12. A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Education, Bende to Provide full-time Courses, Teaching, Instruction and Training in Technology, Applied Sciences, Commerce, Arts, Social Sciences, Humanities and Management and to carry out Research in the Development and Adaptation of Techniques; and also make Provision for the Appointment of a Provost and the Officials of the College to carry out the Administration and the Discipline of Students of the College and for Related Matters (HB. 125) — Third Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Education, Bende to Provide full-time Courses, Teaching, Instruction and Training in Technology, Applied Sciences, Commerce, Arts, Social Sciences, Humanities and Management and to carry out Research in the Development and Adaptation of Techniques; and also make Provision for the Appointment of a Provost and the Officials of the College to carry out the Administration and the Discipline of Students of the College and for Related Matters (HB. 125) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

13. A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Oaths Act, Cap. O1, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Oaths Bill, 2023 to take cognizance of Technological Advancements and make provisions for Digital and Electronic means of Administering Oaths and Affirmations in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB.122) — Third Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Oaths Act, Cap. O1, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Oaths Bill, 2023 to take cognizance of Technological Advancements and make provisions for Digital and Electronic means of Administering Oaths and Affirmations in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB.122) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

14. A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Chartered Institute of Cooperatives and Social Enterprise Management to Regulate, Control and Determine the Standards of knowledge to be attained by Persons seeking to become Chartered Cooperators and Social Entrepreneurs and

for Related Matters (HB. 09) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of Chartered Institute of Cooperatives and Social Enterprise Management to Regulate, Control and Determine the Standards of knowledge to be attained by Persons seeking to become Chartered Cooperators and Social Entrepreneurs and for Related Matters (HB. 09) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Akinolu Moshood Kayode — Lagos Mainland Federal Constituency and Six 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 Commerce.

15. Privilege (Order Six, Rule 2)

Hon. Sada Soli (*Jibia/Kaita Federal Constituency*), drew the attention of the House to the continued closure of the National Assembly main gate despite completion of its construction. He noted the need for the National Assembly Management to liaise with the relevant Agencies to officially open the gate to allow the Members, Staff and general public access into the National Assembly premises.

Ordered: Mr Deputy Speaker ordered a meeting of House Leadership, and National Assembly Management on Friday, 6 October, 2023 to address the matter.

16. Need to Investigate the Fraudulent Deforestation by Unregistered Foreign Forest Timber Loggers

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

17. Immediate Commencement of Academic Activities at the Air Force University, Tafawa Balewa
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that in June 2019, former president Muhammadu Buhari approved the renaming of the former Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Centre, Dass, to Air Force University, Tafawa Balewa;

Also notes that the Airforce University, was established to promote education and to foster wide-range research geared towards combatting new and unknown security challenges that the 21st century present;

Recalls that the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) made full compensations on the Abubakar Tafawa University Centre and handed the Centre over to the Nigerian Air Force to be converted to Air Force University, Tafawa Balewa;

Aware that in addition to boosting tertiary education, the Air Force University is intends to cushion the effect of insecurity in the area through the Special Forces Unit to be established, therein;

Worried that since its approval, the Air Force University is yet to commence academic activities; and

Also worried that economic and commercial activities across communities in Dass/Bogoro/Tafawa Balewa Federal Constituency, which ought should receive a boost as a result of a fully functional Airforce University, has been stalled as its structures left to rot;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Education and the Tertiary Education Trust Fund to brief the Committee on University Education on the reason for the delay in the commencement of academic activities in the Air Force University, Tafawa Balewa;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Education and the Nigerian Airforce to set out modalities for the commencement of academic activities at the Air Force University; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on University Education, Air Force, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Jafai'aru Gambo Leko — Bogoro/Dass/Tafawa Balewa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that in June 2019, former president Muhammadu Buhari approved the renaming of the former Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Centre, Dass, to Air Force University, Tafawa Balewa;

Also noted that the Airforce University, was established to promote education and to foster wide-range research geared towards combatting new and unknown security challenges that the 21st century present;

Recalled that the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) made full compensations on the Abubakar Tafawa University Centre and handed the Centre over to the Nigerian Air Force to be converted to Air Force University, Tafawa Balewa;

Aware that in addition to boosting tertiary education, the Air Force University is intends to cushion the effect of insecurity in the area through the Special Forces Unit to be established, therein;

Worried that since its approval, the Air Force University is yet to commence academic activities; and

Also worried that economic and commercial activities across communities in Dass/Bogoro/Tafawa Balewa Federal Constituency, which ought should receive a boost as a result of a fully functional Air Force University, has been stalled as its structures left to rot;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Education and the Tertiary Education Trust Fund to brief the Committee on University Education on the reason for the delay in the commencement of academic activities in the Air Force University, Tafawa Balewa;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Education and the Nigerian Air Force to set out modalities for the commencement of academic activities at the Air Force University; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on University Education, Air Force, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 212/10/2023**).

18. Need to Checkmate the State of Insecurity in Wamba, Akwanga and Nasarawa Eggon, Nasarawa State

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

19. Rehabilitation of Mubi - Maiha, Mubi - Gella and Mubi - Sahuda Road

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Mubi North and Mubi South Local Governments constitute significant pillars of trade, commerce and agricultural activities that contribute economic development of Adamawa State and the Nigeria in general;

Aware that the strategic locations of Mubi-North and South neighbouring the Republic of Cameroon create a flourishing opportunities to maximize the prospects of the presidential Economic Diversification Initiative (PEDI), aimed at improving the welfare, security and economic prosperity of Nigerian citizens;

Worried that the deteriorating condition of Mubi-Maiha, Mubi-Gella and Mubi-Sahuda roads will constitute an impediment in realizing the anticipated socio-economic opportunities;

Concerned that the condition of the roads resulted in frequent accidents and a massive decline in economic activities and loss of lives;

Regrets that the primary purpose of government may be completely lost if urgent action is not taken to address the dilapidated existing road infrastructure connecting Mubi-North and Mubi-South to the neighbouring Local Governments in order to sustain the traditional established socio-economic activities in the affected areas;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works to include the road rehabilitation project of Mubi-Maiha, Mubi-Gella and Mubi-Sahuda in the 2024 budget estimates; and
- (ii) mandate Committee on Works to ensure compliance (*Hon. Jingi Rufai — Maiha/Mubi North/Mubi South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 213/10/2023).

Motion referred to the Committee on Works, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

20. Investigation of the Nation's Galloping Non-Debt Recurrent Expenditure

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Government personnel expenses, pensions and other non-debt recurrent expenditures increased by 241% in 13 years from ₦2.4 trillion in 2011 to ₦8,27 trillion in 2023;

Also notes that the total non-debt expenditure from 2011 to 2023 is ₦51.97 trillion while ₦42.24 trillion expended from 2015 till date represents 81.8% of the total expenditures of the period under review;

Aware that the country's revenue within the period received massive hits from debt servicing obligations, the government have little or nothing left for the recurrent expenditures and has resorted to borrowing;

Also aware that the Debt servicing obligations gulped 97 per cent of the total revenue of the ₦3.42 trillion generated in 2011, Nigeria expended ₦3.34 trillion on debt servicing, meaning all Federal Government's salaries, overhead and Capital Expenditure was financed with loans and Central Bank of Nigerian support;

Informed that the country's revenues of ₦3.42 trillion in 2020, ₦4.39 trillion in 2021 and ₦7 trillion in 2022 could hardly fund the wage bill of ₦5.7 trillion, ₦5.76 trillion and ₦7.1 trillion in 2020, 2021 and 2022 respectively;

Worried that the Federal Government wage bill, pension obligations and other non-debt recurrent expenditures continue to grow significantly, despite the marginal increases in revenues and apparent increases in debt servicing pressure;

Also worried that the sharp difference in the wage bill from ₦2.4 trillion in 2011 and ₦8.7 trillion in 2023 in a country of 113 million people living in multidimensional poverty is alarming and unjustifiable;

Concerned that despite the present administration economic restructuring policies, revenues cannot continue to pay salaries and other recurrent expenditures when there are still humongous debt servicing obligations to be taken care of;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government through the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation to carry out a forensic audit of its staff to address the problem of ghost workers to save money and reduce the increasing wage bill; and
- (ii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to embark on cost-cutting measures to reduce other non-debt recurrent expenditures;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Finance to investigate the matter and report;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Ademorin Aliu Kuye — Shomolu Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (v), as follows:

“mandate the Committee on Finance to investigate the position of the contributory pension, particularly the percentage contributed by the employers and employees” (*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 personnel expenses, pensions and other non-debt recurrent expenditures increased by 241% in 13 years from ₦2.4 trillion in 2011 to ₦8,27 trillion in 2023;

Also noted that the total non-debt expenditure from 2011 to 2023 is ₦51.97 trillion while ₦42.24 trillion expended from 2015 till date represents 81.8% of the total expenditures of the period under review;

Aware that the country's revenue within the period received massive hits from debt servicing obligations, the government have little or nothing left for the recurrent expenditures and has resorted to borrowing;

Also aware that the Debt servicing obligations gulped 97 per cent of the total revenue of the ₦3.42

trillion generated in 2011, Nigeria expended ₦3.34 trillion on debt servicing, meaning all Federal Government's salaries, overhead and Capital Expenditure was financed with loans and Central Bank of Nigerian support;

Informed that the country's revenues of ₦3.42 trillion in 2020, ₦4.39 trillion in 2021 and ₦7 trillion in 2022 could hardly fund the wage bill of ₦5.7 trillion, ₦5.76 trillion and ₦7.1 trillion in 2020, 2021 and 2022 respectively;

Worried that the Federal Government wage bill, pension obligations and other non-debt recurrent expenditures continue to grow significantly, despite the marginal increases in revenues and apparent increases in debt servicing pressure;

Also worried that the sharp difference in the wage bill from ₦2.4 trillion in 2011 and ₦8.7 trillion in 2023 in a country of 113 million people living in multidimensional poverty is alarming and unjustifiable;

Concerned that despite the present administration economic restructuring policies, revenues cannot continue to pay salaries and other recurrent expenditures when there are still humongous debt servicing obligations to be taken care of;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government through the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation to carry out a forensic audit of its staff to address the problem of ghost workers to save money and reduce the increasing wage bill; and
- (ii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to embark on cost-cutting measures to reduce other non-debt recurrent expenditures;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Finance to investigate the matter and report;
- (iv) also mandate the Committee on Finance to investigate the position of the contributory pension, particularly the percentage contributed by the employer and employee
- (v) further mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 214/10/2023**).

21. Deplorable state of Akonike Junction-Ugwuomu-Emene NNPC Depot-Abakaliki/Ogoja Gateway in Enugu State to Reduce the High Rate of Accidents in the Area

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Akonike Road Junction-Ugwuomu-Emene -NNPC Depot/Abakaliki/Ogoja gateway road approximately 24.1 km is a major highway linking the Southeast and parts of south-south to the Northern region of the country;

Also notes that the socio-economic development of the constituency bordering the road has been stalled due to the deplorable state of the roads which adversely affected the free flow of traffic and occasioned a high rate of accidents and deaths;

Further notes that the road sections from Ako-Nike junction along Enugu/Ugwogo/ OPI Nsukka road harbours major economic concerns such as the NNPC Depot, Federal Ministry of Works, a private University and a Nigeria Army Estate, when stimulate high volume of human and vehicular traffic estimated to be about 4,231,980 for the daily movement of essential goods, services and passengers in and out of the southeast and northern parts of the country;

Disturbed that the month-long gas flaring from an OPL gas well in the area could not be accessed for weeks due to limited road access;

Also disturbed that the deplorable and impassable state of the roads is a source of worry for over 10 million people who transverse the roads, thus becoming a haven for kidnappers, armed robbers and urchins for nefarious activities on innocent citizens unhindered;

Worried that as at December 2022, the Federal Road Safety Commission, recorded a total of 9,383 incidents, with 2,587 being fatal and 5,121 people killed across the country within the period, while the two Local Government Areas account for 516 crashes and 197 deaths;

Aware of the social-economic importance of the road to the people of the South East and South South zone it will create room for employment, and contribute to infrastructure development;

Cognizant that if urgent action is not taken to construct the Akonike Junction-Ugwuomu-Emene Nnpc Depot-Abakaliki/Ogoja Gateway in Enugu State to forestall further accidents and loss of lives and properties it will lead to economic devastation to the nation;

Resolves to:

- (i) mandate the Committee on Works to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Works, and the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to come up with a workable modality that will ensure the speedy construction of the Akonike Junction-Ugwuomu-Emene NNPC Depot -Abakaliki/Ogoja road;
- (ii) also mandate the Committees on Works and Appropriations to include Construction of the Road in the 2024 budget estimates (*Hon. Paul Sunday Nnamchi — Enugu East/Isi-Uzo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 215/10/2023).

Motion referred to the Committees on Works and Appropriations, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

22. Rising Cases of Environmental Degradation in Etsako Federal Constituency, Edo State.

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the increasing rate of environmental degradation in Etsako Federal Constituency, Edo State, due to rainstorm disasters and gully erosion destroying lives and properties, including farms lands and agricultural produce in the area and rendering some places inaccessible;

Aware of the recent rainstorm disaster that affected Okpella in Etsako East Local Government Area, washing away the bridge connecting Iddo-Okugbe with Awuyemi leading to the Federal Highway, electricity poles and communication facilities connecting parts of the State in the country;

Also aware that in Etsako West Local Government Area, there are several cases of gully erosion sites of different magnitudes posing significant danger to lives and properties in the communities in those areas rendering vehicular movement from the Northern to Southern parts of the country through the route impassable;

Cognizant of the need to stem this ugly trend of environmental degradation in Etsako Federal Constituency, Edo State;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Rural Electrification Agency to replace the damaged electricity poles, wires and to reconnect the affected communities to the national grid;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to urgently intervene and reconstruct the bridge linking Iddo-Okugbe Communities with Awuyemi Community and Ayogwiri-Ogbona axis of the Auchi to Agenebode Federal Highway to allow immediate access by vehicles and commuters to other parts of the country;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Works to compel the Contractors handling the road project to resume work without delay;
- (iv) again urge the Federal Ministry of Environment and the Office of Ecological Fund to declare a state of emergency on Auchi and its environment to provide holistic remediation to safeguard lives and properties in Etsako Federal Constituency, Edo State;
- (v) still urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to affected Communities across Etsako Federal Constituency, Edo State; and
- (vi) mandate the Committees on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency, National Emergency Management Agency, Ecological Fund, and National Rural Electrification to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Anamero Sunday Dekeri — Etsako Central/Etsako East/Etsako West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 216/10/2023).

Motion referred to the Committees on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency, National Emergency Management Agency, Ecological Fund, and National Rural Electrification, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

23. Rehabilitation of the Otuocho Anam Nzam-Innoma Iheaka-Ibaji Ajegwu Federal Road in Anambra East and West Federal Constituency of Anambra State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Otuocho-Anam-Nzam-Inoma-Iheaka-Ibaji-Odulu-Ajegwu Federal road is a strategic road linking Anambra and Kogi States through Anambra West Local Government, connecting Ibaji Local Government as well as other Northern States from the South-East;

Also notes that the road is about 88 kilometres to Lokoja and the shortest route from South-East to Abuja, as well as other Northern States;

Worried that the rehabilitation of the road was abandoned due to lack of funds, leaving it in the worst deplorable condition, with robbery attacks and kidnappings, activities endangering the lives of commuters and other users within the axis;

Aware that the Federal road cut across over twenty-five agrarian communities in Anambra and Kogi States, however the deplorable road nature of those poses great threat to the socio-economic life of the people;

Worried that about 80% of agricultural produce come from Anambra and Kogi States, as the food

baskets of the nation contributing about 4096 to the nation's Agricultural sector;

Also worried that people no longer ply this road, during rainy season as, harvesting farm produce is difficult, thereby translating into huge wastes and losses;

Cognizant of current harsh economic reality in the country, and the need for the Otuocha-Anam-Nzam-Innoma-Iheaka-Ibaji-Odulu-Ajegwu Federal Road in Anambra East and West Federal Constituency of Anambra State to be rehabilitated in order to reduce the escalating bad economic conditions of the people;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to interface with the Federal Ministry of Works and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to commence the rehabilitation on the road;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Peter Aniekwe — Anambra East/Anambra West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 217/10/2023).

Motion referred to the Committees on FERMA, Legislative Compliance, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

24. Increased Banditry, Kidnappings, Killings and Displacement of Indigene of Anka, Talata-Mafara, Bukkuyum, Maradun and Bungudu Local Government Areas of Zamfara State
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that recently there has been increased banditry, kidnappings for ransom, killings and displacement of indigenes in Anka, Talata-Mafara, Bukkuyum, Maradun and Bungudu Local Government Areas of Zamfara State;

Also notes that the infiltration of illegal and artisanal miners contribute to the increasing insecurity in the areas;

Aware that the nature of illegal miners with the absence of accurate data is making monitoring and regulating their activities a herculean task;

Also aware that the attacks on the people have generated public outcry, thus necessitating the need for special military presence in communities Zamfara State;

Worried that the continuous attacks on Anka, Talata-Mafara, Bukkuyum, Maradun, and Bungudu Local Government Areas of Zamfara State have led to the loss of lives, properties and liberty of the people;

Cognizant that the Chief of Army Staff recently launched "Operation Hakorin Damisa" in Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State to deal with security upsurge in the state;

Also cognizant that if the action of the Chief of Army Staffs is replicated in Zamfara State it will go a long way in curbing insecurity in the State;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Chief Army Staff to launch a special operation in the affected areas of Zamfara State to deal with the issue holistically and ensure air surveillance in Zamfara State to identify hideouts of bandits and crush them entirely;
- (ii) also urge the State Security Services (SSS) to increase security information gathering across Zamfara State to identify bandits or informants or protectors of the bandits in the communities and deal with them according to the law of Terrorism of the country;
- (iii) further urge the Inspector General of Police ("IGP") and other security operatives manning the roads of the affected areas of Zamfara State to increase surveillance of those roads to protect people plying the roads and filtering bandits that may test the efficacy of the security on those roads;
- (iv) again urge the Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals Development, the Mining Cadaster Office and other relevant agencies of the mining sector to devise strategic mechanisms of enumerating illegal or artisanal miners to regulate and monitor their activities to enhance the security of the affected areas; and
- (v) mandate the Committees on Army, and Police Affairs to ensure compliance (*Hon Isa Mohammed Anka — Anka/Talata Marafa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (vi), as follows:
“urge the IGP, Chief Army Staff, COAS, National Security Adviser to visit Zamfara, Sokoto, Katsina and Kaduna States for an on-the -spot assessment with the view to launching a special regional operation to end banditry in the affected areas” (*Hon. Mansur Manu Soro — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (i) and *insert* as follows:
“urge the Chief Defence Staff to launch a regional operation involving all the Northwest States to ensure a unified approach in the fight against banditry in the Northwest” (*Hon. Suleiman Abubakar Gumi — Gunmi/Bukkuyum Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) *Insert* a new Prayer (vi) as follows:
“urge the Chief Army Staff to create more Forward Operating Bases in all the areas being liberated from bandits, to ensure lasting peace in those areas” (*Hon. Suleiman Abubakar Gumi — Gunmi/Bukkuyum Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that recently there has been increased banditry, kidnappings for ransom, killings and displacement of indigenes in Anka, Talata-Mafara, Bukkyum, Maradun and Bungudu Local Government Areas of Zamfara State;

Also noted that the infiltration of illegal and artisanal miners contribute to the increasing insecurity in the areas;

Aware that the nature of illegal miners with the absence of accurate data is making monitoring and regulating their activities a herculean task;

Also aware that the attacks on the people have generated public outcry, thus necessitating the need for special military presence in communities Zamfara State;

Worried that the continuous attacks on Anka, Talata-Mafara, Bukkuyum, Maradun, and Bungudu Local Government Areas of Zamfara State have led to the loss of lives, properties and liberty of the people;

Cognizant that the Chief of Army Staff recently launched "Operation Hakorin Damisa" in Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State to deal with security upsurge in the state;

Also cognizant that if the action of the Chief of Army Staffs if replicated in Zamfara State it will go a long way in curbing insecurity in the State;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Chief Defence Staff to launch a regional operation involving all the Northwest States to ensure a unified approach in the fight against banditry in the Northwest;
- (ii) also urge the State Security Services (SSS) to increase security information gathering across Zamfara State to identify bandits or informants or protectors of the bandits in the communities and deal with them according to the law of Terrorism of the country;
- (iii) further urge the Inspector General of Police ("IGP") and other security operatives manning the roads of the affected areas of Zamfara State to increase surveillance of those roads to protect people plying the roads and filtering bandits that may test the efficacy of the security on those roads;
- (iv) again urge the Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals Development, the Mining Cadaster Office and other relevant agencies of the mining sector to devise strategic mechanisms of enumerating illegal or artisanal miners to regulate and monitor their activities to enhance the security of the affected areas;
- (v) urge the IGP, Chief Army Staff, COAS, National Security Adviser to visit Zamfara, Sokoto, Katsina and Kaduna States for an on-the-spot assessment with the view to launching a special regional operation to end banditry in the affected areas;
- (vi) urge the Chief Army Staff to create more Forward Operating Bases in all the areas being liberated from bandits, to ensure lasting peace in those areas; and
- (vii) mandate the Committees on Army, and Police Affairs to ensure compliance (**HR. 218/10/2023**).

25. Total neglect of Aba Branch-Afor Oru-Ahiara Junction Ahiazu Mbaise-Eke Nguru Aboh Mbaise - Oboama Ezinihitte and Okpala Expressway in Imo State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Aba branch Mbano-Afor Oru-Ahiara junction-Ahiazu Mbaise-Eke Nguru-Aboh Mbaise-Oboama-Ezinihitte-Okpala expressway, which cuts across Ehime-Mbano, Ahiazu- Mbaise,

Ezinihitte-Mbaise, Aboh-Mbaise and Ngor-Okpala Local Government Areas in Imo State is a major link road that connects Imo State to Enugu, Abia, Rivers and other States in the country;

Concerned that due to many years of neglect, the road has broken badly and is in such a deplorable State that it has become impassable, putting commuters at great risks as they try to navigate the route;

Also concerned that as a result of the devastating condition of the road, commuters are forced to create alternative routes by creating pathways through peoples' ancestral homes and compounds, which often results in destruction of farmlands and incessant altercation between the villagers and motorists;

Worried that the inaccessible state of the road has greatly disrupted socio-economic activities in the surrounding areas, even as cases of vehicular gridlock and accidents abound, leading to loss of lives and properties as well as man hours that could have been spent on productive ventures;

Cognizant of the urgent need for reconstruction of the road as to ease the suffering of both the inhabitants and commuters alike;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works to include full-scale reconstruction of Aba branch - Ahiara Junction Ahiazu Mbaise- Eke Nguru Aboh Mbaise - Oboama Ezinihitte - Okpala expressway in the 2024 budget estimates;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Works to ensure compliance (*Hon. Emeka Chinedu Martins — Ahiazu Mbaise/Ezinihitte Federal Constituency*).

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (ii), immediately after the word “Works”, *insert* the words “and Appropriations” (*Hon. Kuye Ademorin Aliu — Shomolu Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Aba branch Mbano-Afor Oru-Ahiara junction-Ahiazu Mbaise-Eke Nguru-Aboh Mbaise-Oboama-Ezinihitte-Okpala expressway, which cuts across Ehime-Mbano, Ahiazu- Mbaise, Ezinihitte-Mbaise, Aboh- Mbaise and Ngor-Okpala Local Government Areas in Imo State is a major link road that connects Imo State to Enugu, Abia, Rivers and other States in the country;

Concerned that due to many years of neglect, the road has broken badly and is in such a deplorable State that it has become impassable, putting commuters at great risks as they try to navigate the route;

Also concerned that as a result of the devastating condition of the road, commuters are forced to create alternative routes by creating pathways through peoples' ancestral homes and compounds, which often results in destruction of farmlands and incessant altercation between the villagers and motorists;

Worried that the inaccessible state of the road has greatly disrupted socio-economic activities in the surrounding areas, even as cases of vehicular gridlock and accidents abound, leading to loss of lives and properties as well as man hours that could have been spent on productive ventures;

Cognizant of the urgent need for reconstruction of the road as to ease the suffering of both the inhabitants and commuters alike;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works to include full-scale reconstruction of Aba branch - Ahiara Junction Ahiazu Mbaise- Eke Nguru Aboh Mbaise - Oboama Ezinihitte - Okpala expressway in the 2024 budget estimates;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Works, and Appropriations to ensure compliance (**HR. 219/10/2023**).

26. Payment of Top Priority Judgment Debt Incurred by Ministries Departments and Agencies through Promissory Notes

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the need to resolve the top priority judgment debt incurred by the Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government through the issuance of promissory notes for USD556,754,584.31 GB398,526.17 and ₦226,281,801,881.64;

Aware that various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of Government have incurred substantial judgment debt totalling the sum of USD556,754/584.81/GB98,526.17 and ₦226,281,801,881.64 which poses a significant financial burden on the nation's finances;

Concerned that the judgment debts are top-priority obligations that require prompt resolution to ensure financial stability and reputation of Government;

Cognizant that it is essential to address these judgment debts in a responsible and transparent manner.

Resolves to:

- (i) acknowledge the existence and magnitude of the judgment debt incurred by the Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government;
- (ii) recognizes the urgency of addressing the judgment debts to safeguard the financial stability of the government;
- (iii) authorise the issuance of a Promissory Note to settle the judgment debts;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management to oversee the process of issuing promissory notes and report (*Hon. Lanre Okunlola — Surulere II Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (iv), immediately after the words “Committee on”, *insert* the word “Finance” (*Hon. Kolawole Davidson Akinlayo — Gbonyin/Ekiti East/Emure Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayer (iv), as amended, immediately after the words “Aids, Loans, and Debt Management”, *insert* the word “Justice” (*Hon. Kuye Aliu Ademorin — Shomolu Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) *Leave out Prayers (i), (ii) and (iii) (Hon. Isiaka Ayokunle Ibrahim — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency).*

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iv) *Leave out all the words in Prayer (iv), and insert as follows:*
“mandate the Committees on Aids, Loans, and Debt Management, and Judiciary to investigate all judgment debts incurred by Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and report within four (4) weeks” *(Hon. Isiaka Ayokunle Ibrahim — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency).*

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the need to resolve the top priority judgment debt incurred by the Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government through the issuance of promissory notes for USD556,754,584.31 GB398,526.17 and ₦226,281,801,881.64;

Aware that various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of Government have incurred substantial judgment debt totalling the sum of USD556,754/584.81/GB98,526.17 and ₦226,281,801,881.64 which poses a significant financial burden on the nation's finances;

Concerned that the judgment debts are top-priority obligations that require prompt resolution to ensure financial stability and reputation of Government;

Cognizant that it is essential to address these judgment debts in a responsible and transparent manner.

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Aids, Loans, and Debt Management, and Judiciary to investigate all judgment debts incurred by Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 220/10/2023**).

27. Proliferation of Sub-standard Steel Production in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the proliferation of substandard steel products, in the construction industry, including houses;

Also notes that the increasing rate of building collapse claiming the lives of Nigerians, is not unconnected to the circulation of substandard steel products;

Aware that the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) has the mandate to ensure standard production across sectors;

Also aware that the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) is mandated by law to promote and protect the interests of consumers over all products and services;

Worried about the high rate of substandard steel products in the markets is alarming;

Disturbed that the production and distribution of sub-standard steel products expose the lives of Nigerian consumers to the threat.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON), Nigerian Customs Service, and Federal Ministry of Commerce to stop the compromising and commence massive enforcement of its mandate to prosecute anyone dealing in substandard steel products to face the law as enshrined in section (4) subsection (l) of the Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) Act, 2015;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) to live up to its core mandate as stipulated in the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Act of 2018 (FCCPA) by eliminating hazardous and substandard products from the market;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Industry, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Aluko Ahmed Yinka — Ilorin East/Ilorin South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (iv), as follows:
“mandate the Committees on Steel, and Appropriations to enhance source of funding for steel industry development for the completion and operation of steel plants in Nigeria” (*Hon. Sani Egidi Abdulraheem — Ajaokuta Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (v), as follows:
“Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the activities of th Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON) concerning the production of substandard steel producing” (*Hon. Sani Egidi Abdulraheem — Ajaokuta Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (i), and *insert* as follows:
“urge the Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) to commence massive enforcement of its mandate to prosecute anyone dealing in substandard steel products to face the law as enshrined in section 4 subsection (l) of the Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) Act,2015” (*Hon. James Shuaibu Barka — Gombi/Hong Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iv) *Insert* a new Prayers (vi), as follows:
“urge the Executive Arm of Government to get its steel plants working to check imported substandard steel products into the country” (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iv) *Insert* a new Prayers (vii), as follows:
“urge the Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) to liaise with Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) for effective inspection of steel products at the Nigerian Ports” (*Hon. Chris Nkwonta — Ukwu East/Ukwu West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the proliferation of substandard steel products, in the construction industry, including houses;

Also noted that the increasing rate of building collapse claiming the lives of Nigerians, is not unconnected to the circulation of substandard steel products;

Aware that the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) has the mandate to ensure standard production across sectors;

Also aware that the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) is mandated by law to promote and protect the interests of consumers over all products and services;

Worried about the high rate of substandard steel products in the markets is alarming;

Disturbed that the production and distribution of sub-standard steel products expose the lives of Nigerian consumers to the threat.

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) to commence massive enforcement of its mandate to prosecute anyone dealing in substandard steel products to face the law as enshrined in section 4 subsection (1) of the Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) Act, 2015;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) to live up to its core mandate as stipulated in the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Act of 2018 (FCCPA) by eliminating hazardous and substandard products from the market;
- (iii) further urge the Executive Arm of Government to get its steel plants working to check imported substandard steel products into the country;
- (iv) again urge the Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) to liaise with Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) for effective inspection of steel products at the Nigerian Ports;
- (v) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the activities of the Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON) concerning the production of substandard steel producing;
- (vi) mandate the Committees on Steel, and Appropriations to enhance source of funding for steel industry development for the completion and operation of steel plants in Nigeria;
- (vii) also mandate the Committees on Industry, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 221/10/2023**).

28. Honouring Pa Taiwo Akinkunmi (Designer of the Nigerian National Flag)

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Nigerian National Flag (Green White Green) designed by Pa Michael Taiwo Akinkunmi at the age of 23, until his demise, was commonly referred to as "Mr Flag Man";

Also notes that the national flag unveiled in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, made history in the Guinness World Records as the largest flag in the world covering 3,275 square metres;

Pained that Pa Michael Taiwo Akinkunmi, a patriotic Nigerian, who was born on 10 May, 1936 and died after a brief illness on 29 August, 2023 at the age of 87;

Aware that he held the National Honour Award of the Order of the Federal Republic (OFR) and Honourary Life Presidential Adviser and the National Flag fly at half-mast as directed by the Federal, State, Local Governments and Area Councils in commemoration of the National Mourning;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in his honour of late Pa Michael Taiwo Akinkunmi;
- (ii) urge the Executive Arm of Government to declare 29 August annually, as Public Holiday (National Flag Day) in commemoration of his death;
- (iii) send a delegation to condole with the family;
- (iv) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to direct that the flags be flown at half-mast in all government institutions on the day of his funeral and give late Pa Michael Taiwo Akinkunmi befitting State Burial;
- (v) transmit the resolutions to the Senate for concurrence (*Hon. Kelechi Nwogu — Etche/Omuma Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (vi), as follows:
“urge the Federal Government to immortalize him by naming a national asset after him” (*Hon. Kabiru Amadui — Gusau/Tsafe Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (ii), and *insert* as follows:
“urge the Executive Arm of Government to declare 29 August as Michael Taiwo Akinkunmi National Flag Day in commemoration of his death” (*Hon. Aliyu Madaki Sani — Dala Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) *Insert* a new Prayer (vii) as follows:
“urge the Executive Arm of Government to give late Pa Michael Taiwo Akinkunmi a befitting state burial” (*Hon. Aliyu Madaki Sani — Dala Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Nigerian National Flag (Green White Green) designed by Pa Michael Taiwo Akinkunmi at the age of 23, until his demise, was commonly referred to "Mr Flag Man";

Also noted that the national flag unveiled in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, made history in the Guinness World Records as the largest flag in the world covering 3,275 square metres;

Pained that Pa Michael Taiwo Akinkunmi, a patriotic Nigerian, was born on 10 May, 1936 and died after a brief illness on the 29 August, 2023 at the age of 87 years;

Aware that he held the National Honour Award of the Order of the Federal Republic (OFR) and Honourary Life Presidential Adviser and the National Flag fly at half-mast as directed by the Federal, State, Local Governments and Area Councils in commemoration of the National Mourning;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in his honour of late Pa Michael Taiwo Akinkunmi;
- (ii) urge the Executive Arm of Government to declare 29 August as Michael Taiwo Akinkunmi National Flag Day in commemoration of his death;
- (iii) send a delegation to condole with the family;
- (iv) also urge the Executive Arm of Government to direct that the flags be flown at half-mast in all government institutions on the day of his funeral and give late Pa Michael Taiwo Akinkunmi befitting State burial;
- (v) further urge the Executive Arm of Government to immortalize him by naming a national asset after him; and
- (vi) still urge the Executive Arm of Government to give late Pa Michael Taiwo Akinkunmi a befitting State Burial;
- (vii) transmit the resolutions to the Senate for concurrence (**HR. 222/10/2023**).

29. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 10 October, 2023 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 3.45 p.m.

Benjamin Okezie Kalu
Deputy Speaker