



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 6 February, 2025

1. The House met at 11.15 a.m. Mr Deputy Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House sang the National Anthem and recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Wednesday, 5 February, 2025.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcement**
 - (i) **Visitors in the Gallery:**
Mr Deputy Speaker announced the presence of members of the Pharmaceutical Association of Nigerian Students (PANS), Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Bingham University, Karu, Nasarawa State.
 - (ii) **Bereavement:**
Mr Deputy Speaker read the following communications from:
 - (i) Hon. Olamijuwonlo Ayodeji Alao Akala (*Ogbomoso North/Ogbomoso South/Orire Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of a former Member, Hon. Temilola Segun Adibi (*Ogbomoso North/Ogbomoso South/Orire Federal Constituency*, 1999 - 2003);
 - (ii) Hon. Vincent Venman Bulus (*Langtang North/Langtang South Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of a former Senator, Sen. Jeremiah Useni (*Plateau South Senatorial District*, 2015 - 2019).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

5. **Guideline for Constitution Amendment on Creation of States and Local Governments:**
Mr Deputy Speaker read a communication on the guidelines for constitutional amendment on creation of States and Local Governments. He noted that most legislative proposals to the Committee on Constitution Review on creation of States and Local Governments were not in

compliance with the provision of Section 8 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended). He therefore urged all advocates who had submitted proposals for the creation of States and Local Governments to resubmit their proposals in strict adherence to stipulation of the Constitution on or before Wednesday, 5 March, 2025.

6. Petitions

- (i) A petition from Olomu A. Hawkins and 1 other, on behalf of Obetim Uno Community, on alleged environmental devastation and health hazard on their community by Sterling Energy Exploration Production Company Limited (SEEPCO), was presented and laid by Hon. Abdullahi El-Raheed (*Dukku/Nafada Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) A petition from Ibrahim Barde Azi, on his removal from office by the Nigerian Correctional Service, was presented and laid by Hon. Donatus Matthew Kuzalio (*Kaura Federal Constituency*);
- (iii) A petition from Enobong Tom Odungide, on stoppage of his salary by Kainji Lake National Park, was presented and laid by Hon. Okpolupm Etteh Ikpong (*Eket/Esit Eket/Ibeno/Onna Federal Constituency*);
- (iv) A petition from Enetimi Law Firm (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Ogboinbiri Community, on alleged devastation of their land through oil spillage by OANDO Energy Resources Limited, was presented and laid by Hon. Rodney Ebikebina Ambaiowei (*Southern Ijaw Federal Constituency*);
- (v) A petition from Matthew Oludare Fashuyi, on his dismissal from Civil Defense, Correctional, Fire and Immigration Services Boards, was presented and laid by Hon. Murphy Osaro Omoruyi (*Egor/Ikpoba/Okha Federal Constituency*);
- (vi) A petition from Mike Ibeneme Solicitor & Advocate (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Sunny Ibeneme, on his dismissal from service by the Management of State House Clinic, Abuja, was presented and laid by Hon. Obinna Aguocha (*Umuahia North/Umuahia South/Ikwuano Federal Constituency*);
- (vii) A petition from Award Winning Consult Limited, on behalf of Ukagwu family (Owa-Alidinma Community, Ika North East Local Government Area, Delta State, on alleged gross marginalization, fraud and economic sabotage by Pan Ocean Oil Corporation Limited, was presented and laid by Hon. Jajere Muhammed Buba (*Fika/Fune Federal Constituency*);
- (viii) A petition from Citizens Whistleblowers Coalition (CWC), on alleged delay in delivery of the shipments and unfair practices by Mediterranean Shipping Company, was presented and laid by Hon. Mathew Nwogu (*Abo-Mbaise/Ngor Okpala Federal Constituency*);
- (ix) A petition from AI. M. Iliyasu & Co., on behalf of Ladiba Mohammed, on alleged assault, detention and subsequent disappearance of ICPL Mohammed Ishaka: P/No. 13NA/170/7139 by the Nigerian Army, was presented and laid by Hon. Jesse Okey-Joe Onuakalusi (*Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

- (i) ***Need to Protect Environmental Integrity, Community Welfare, and Regulatory Independence in the Niger Delta by Halting Divestments of International Oil Companies (IOCs), Including Shell and Total Energies:***
Hon. Kingsley Chinda (*Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency and One Other*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Need to Protect Environmental Integrity, Community Welfare, and Regulatory Independence in the Niger Delta by Halting Divestments of International Oil Companies (IOCs), Including Shell and Total Energies:

The House:

Notes that the Nigerian Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) vests the Nigeria Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) with the responsibility to regulate the upstream petroleum sector in line with national interest and global best practices;

Also notes that independent assessments, including those by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Bayelsa State Oil and Environment Commission (BSOEC), have documented the catastrophic environmental and health impacts of oil exploration in the Niger Delta, including contaminated water sources, soil infertility, loss of biodiversity, and public health emergencies;

Aware that recently, the NUPRC has rejected Shell's divestment application, citing failure to address environmental liabilities and concerns about the capacity of the Renaissance Consortium to manage the assets effectively;

Also aware that past divestments by IOCs, such as Shell's sale of assets in Nembe to Aiteo, ExxonMobil's transfers, and ENI/AGIP's sales to Oando, have left communities with unresolved pollution, worsened environmental degradation, and increased social unrest;

Further notes that the Nigerian Government has a duty to protect the rights and welfare of its citizens, particularly those in the Niger Delta, who have borne the brunt of environmental and social harm from oil extraction;

Concerned that approving Shell's or TotalEnergies' divestment requests without addressing these historical and ongoing liabilities risks undermining Nigeria's regulatory independence, transferring corporate responsibilities to the Nigerian state, and signaling impunity for environmental crimes;

Also concerned that allowing IOCs to divest without accountability would jeopardize the future of the Niger Delta, undermine Nigeria's sovereignty, and burden the Nigerian people with the economic and environmental costs of cleanup;

Believes that a comprehensive and transparent review process, including full disclosure of environmental liabilities and enforceable commitments for cleanup and reparations, must precede any approval of IOC divestments;

Worried that if regulatory independence is not safeguarded to uphold the rule of law and protect national interests against undue corporate and political interference, the sovereignty of the country will be threatened and citizens' trust in the government would further diminish;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to immediately halt all divestment processes by Shell, TotalEnergies, and other IOCs until their historical environmental and social liabilities are addressed, and ensure that no divestment proceeds without transparent consultations with Niger Delta communities and State Governments;
- (ii) also urge the Nigeria Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) to enforce compliance with the PIA and reject divestment applications that fail to meet the highest standards of corporate accountability and conduct detailed assessments of new operators' financial, technical, and environmental capacities before granting approval;
- (iii) call for the establishment of an Environmental Restoration Fund, financed by IOCs, to comprehensively address the UNEP and BSOEC's estimated \$100 billion in damages across the Niger Delta and introduce Community profit-sharing mechanisms to ensure that host communities benefit directly from oil and gas revenues;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Host Communities, Environment, Petroleum Resource (Upstream), and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance with the resolutions and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Kingsley Ogundu Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.**Agreed to.*

The House:

Noted that the Nigerian Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) vests the Nigeria Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) with the responsibility to regulate the upstream petroleum sector in line with national interest and global best practices;

Also noted that independent assessments, including those by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Bayelsa State Oil and Environment Commission (BSOEC), have documented the catastrophic environmental and health impacts of oil exploration in the Niger Delta, including contaminated water sources, soil infertility, loss of biodiversity, and public health emergencies;

Aware that recently, the NUPRC has rejected Shell's divestment application, citing failure to address environmental liabilities and concerns about the capacity of the Renaissance Consortium to manage the assets effectively;

Also aware that past divestments by IOCs, such as Shell's sale of assets in Nembe to Aiteo, ExxonMobil's transfers, and ENI/AGIP's sales to Oando, have left communities with unresolved pollution, worsened environmental degradation, and increased social unrest;

Further noted that the Nigerian Government has a duty to protect the rights and welfare of its citizens, particularly those in the Niger Delta, who have borne the brunt of environmental and social harm from oil extraction;

Concerned that approving Shell's or TotalEnergies' divestment requests without addressing these historical and ongoing liabilities risks undermining Nigeria's regulatory independence, transferring corporate responsibilities to the Nigerian state, and signaling impunity for environmental crimes;

Also concerned that allowing IOCs to divest without accountability would jeopardize the future of the Niger Delta, undermine Nigeria's sovereignty, and burden the Nigerian people with the economic and environmental costs of cleanup;

Believed that a comprehensive and transparent review process, including full disclosure of environmental liabilities and enforceable commitments for cleanup and reparations, must precede any approval of IOC divestments;

Worried that if regulatory independence is not safeguarded to uphold the rule of law and protect national interests against undue corporate and political interference, the sovereignty of the country will be threatened and citizens' trust in the government would further diminish;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to immediately halt all divestment processes by Shell, TotalEnergies, and other IOCs until their historical environmental and social liabilities are addressed, and ensure that no divestment proceeds without transparent consultations with Niger Delta communities and State Governments;
 - (ii) also urge the Nigeria Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) to enforce compliance with the PIA and reject divestment applications that fail to meet the highest standards of corporate accountability and conduct detailed assessments of new operators' financial, technical, and environmental capacities before granting approval;
 - (iii) call for the establishment of an Environmental Restoration Fund, financed by IOCs, to comprehensively address the UNEP and BSOEC's estimated \$100 billion in damages across the Niger Delta and introduce Community profit-sharing mechanisms to ensure that host communities benefit directly from oil and gas revenues;
 - (iv) mandate the Committees on Host Communities, Environment, Petroleum Resource (Upstream), and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance with the resolutions and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 12/02/2025**).
- (ii) ***Need for Intervention in the Fire Outbreak/Disaster in Obi Local Government Area, Benue State:***
Hon. David Agada Ogewu (*Oju/Obi Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

Need for Intervention in the Fire Outbreak/Disaster in Obi Local Government Areas of Benue State:

The House:

Notes that Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as

amended) provides that the security, safety and welfare of the people of Nigeria shall be the primary purpose of government;

Also notes that the National Assembly is saddled with the responsibility of making laws for the peace, order and good governance of the Federation or any part thereof (including Oju/Obi Federal Constituency) as enshrined in Section 4 (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);

Worried that on Sunday, 2 February, 2025, at about 1.00 a.m., a devastating inferno/fire outbreak occurred in Obarike Ito, Obi Local Government Area of Benue State. The fire outbreak which lasted for about 4-hours razed down uncountable numbers of Shops, Business Centres, offices and goods worth billions of Naira and the victims are in deep pains at the moment;

Concerned that the fire outbreak has caused untold hardship on the victims who are passing through a lot without shelter and means of livelihood, leading to numerous people dying of starvation and hardship;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to assist in providing the people with relief materials to cushion the effect of the fire disaster hence people will start dying of starvation;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Fire Service in conjunction with the Benue State Fire Service to establish a Fire Service Station within Oju/Obi Federal Constituency, in order to curtail and forestall any incidence of fire outbreak in the future (*Hon. David Agada Ogewu — Oju/Obi Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

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

Also noted that the National Assembly is saddled with the responsibility of making laws for the peace, order and good governance of the Federation or any part thereof (including Oju/Obi Federal Constituency) as enshrined in Section 4 (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);

Worried that on Sunday, 2 February, 2025, at about 1.00 a.m., a devastating inferno/fire outbreak occurred in Obarike Ito, Obi Local Government Area of Benue State. The fire outbreak which lasted for about 4-hours razed down uncountable numbers of Shops, Business Centres, offices and goods worth billions of Naira and the victims are in deep pains at the moment;

Concerned that the fire outbreak has caused untold hardship on the victims who are passing through a lot without shelter and means of livelihood, leading to numerous people dying of starvation and hardship;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to assist in providing the people with relief materials to cushion the effect of the fire disaster hence people will start dying of starvation;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Fire Service in conjunction with the Benue State Fire Service to establish a Fire Service Station within Oju/Obi Federal Constituency, in order to curtail and forestall any incidence of fire outbreak in the future **(HR. 13/02/2025)**.
- (iii) ***Fuel Tanker Explosion at Diko Junction Gurara Local Government in Niger State, Resulting in the Lost of Lives and Properties:***
Hon. Aminu Tanko (*Gurara/Suleja/Tafa Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
 - (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

Fuel Tanker Explosion at Diko Junction Gurara Local Government in Niger State, Resulting in the Lost of Lives and Properties;

The House:

Notes the unfortunate loss of over one hundred lives including women, children and men on Sunday, 18 January, 2025, when a tanker laden with Petroleum Motor Spirit (PMS) lost control at Dikko Junction in Gurara Local Government Area of Niger State;

Aware that numerous lives were lost and many others sustained different degrees of injuries, with countless properties destroyed including vehicles, buildings and shops;

Worried that the incident hindered normal, social and economic activities of the people and led to untold hardship in the Local Government;

Disturbed that dangerous and arbitrary parking by truck drivers has over time limit the free flow of vehicular movement on the highway leading to the frequent loss of lives on the road;

Concerned by the recurrence of these horrible incidents across the country especially in view of the inadequate expertise on the part of the tanker drivers to efficiently handle those inflammable content in a safe and professional manner.

Appreciates the Niger State Government under the leadership of His Excellency, Governor Umar Mohammad Bago for the prompt attention given to the victims during and after the incidence;

Also appreciates the Executive Arm of Government for the strategic intervention during the unfortunate accident;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased;

- (ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development to immediately broaden the distribution of relief materials to all affected victims including increase attention to the injured;
- (iii) set-up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the cause of the incident with a view of proffering solutions and preventing recurrence in other parts of the country and report within four (4) weeks;
- (iv) mandate the Nigeria Police Force the Federal Road Safety Corps to take more proactive measures in protecting the Nigerian highways against arbitrary roadside parking's by trucks drivers (*Hon. Adamu Tanko — Suleja/Tafa/Gurara Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (iii), *leave out* the words “Set up an Ad-hoc Committee” and insert the words “mandate the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness” (*Hon. Ghali Tijjani Mustapha — Alabsu/Gaya/Ajingi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayer (iii) as amended, immediately after the words “Emergency and Disaster Preparedness”, *insert* the words “Safety Standards and Regulations, and Federal Road Safety Commission” (*Hon. Najimdeen Oyeshina Oyedeji — Iseyin/Itesiwaju/Kajola/Iwajowa Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the unfortunate loss of over one hundred lives including women, children and men on Sunday, 18 January, 2025, when a tanker laden with Petroleum Motor Spirit (PMS) lost control at Dikko Junction in Gurara Local Government Area of Niger State;

Aware that numerous lives were lost and many others sustained different degrees of injuries, with countless properties destroyed including vehicles, buildings and shops;

Worried that the incident hindered normal, social and economic activities of the people and led to untold hardship in the Local Government;

Disturbed that dangerous and arbitrary parking by truck drivers has over time limit the free flow of vehicular movement on the highway leading to the frequent loss of lives on the road;

Concerned by the recurrence of these horrible incidents across the country especially in view of the inadequate expertise on the part of the tanker drivers to efficiently handle those inflammable content in a safe and professional manner.

Appreciated the Niger State Government under the leadership of His Excellency, Governor Umar Mohammad Bago for the prompt attention given to the victims during and after the incidence;

Also appreciated the Executive Arm of Government for the strategic intervention during the unfortunate accident;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development to immediately broaden the distribution of relief materials to all affected victims including increase attention to the injured;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Safety Standards and Regulations, and Federal Road Safety Commission to investigate the cause of the incident with a view of proffering solutions and preventing recurrence in other parts of the country and report within four (4) weeks;
- (iv) mandate the Nigeria Police Force the Federal Road Safety Corps to take more proactive measures in protecting the Nigerian highways against arbitrary roadside parking's by trucks drivers (**HR. 14/02/2025**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (4) to enable it take more than 3 matters of urgent public importance” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

- (iv) ***Need to Declare a State of Emergency on the Proliferation of Fake and Substandard Goods, Drugs and Food in Nigeria:***

Hon. Muktar Tolani Shagaya (*Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Need to Declare a State of Emergency on the Proliferation of Fake and Substandard Goods, Drugs and Food in Nigeria:

The House:

Notes the alarming increase in the production, importation and distribution of fake and substandard goods, drugs, food and beverages across Nigeria, which poses significant threats to public health, national security and economic stability;

Also notes that the World Health Organization (WHO) and the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) have repeatedly warned that Nigeria is one of the most affected countries in the world by counterfeit medicines, leading to thousands of avoidable deaths annually;

Aware that the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) recently seized counterfeit food and pharmaceutical products worth over ₦5 billion in a raid at the Cemetery Market in Aba, Abia State, highlighting the widespread nature of this menace;

Concerned that Nigeria suffers economic losses of approximately ₦15 trillion annually due to counterfeit and substandard goods, as reported by the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON);

Also concerned that unchecked proliferation of fake products not only jeopardizes consumer safety but also discourages genuine investment in food and pharmaceutical industries;

Also concerned that despite existing regulations, weak enforcement mechanisms, corruption, and the absence of stringent penalties for offenders have emboldened perpetrators to continue endangering public health;

Recognizes that the current legal framework does not provide sufficient deterrence, as offenders often return to the illicit trade due to lenient fines and bailable sentences, allowing them to operate with impunity;

Believes that a national state of emergency is necessary to intensify enforcement efforts, strengthen regulatory Institutions, and impose stricter sanctions on perpetrators as a deterrent to these nefarious activities;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to —
 - (a) strengthen the capacity of regulatory agencies, particularly NAFDAC and Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON) and the Nigerian Customs Service by providing adequate funding, modern equipment and advanced technology for effective surveillance, detection and enforcement,
 - (b) establish a special task force comprising Security Agencies, Regulatory bodies, and the judiciary to fast-track investigations and prosecution of individuals and businesses involved in counterfeiting;
- (ii) also urge the Attorney-General of the Federation to propose amendments to existing laws with a view to imposing stricter penalties, including life imprisonment for those involved in the production and importation of fake drugs and significant fines for businesses found guilty of dealing in counterfeit goods;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, Commerce, and Customs and Excise to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the prevalence of counterfeit products and propose legislative measures to address regulatory gaps;
- (iv) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Muktar Tolani Shagaya — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the alarming increase in the production, importation and distribution of fake and

substandard goods, drugs, food and beverages across Nigeria, which poses significant threats to public health, national security and economic stability;

Also noted that the World Health Organization (WHO) and the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) have repeatedly warned that Nigeria is one of the most affected countries in the world by counterfeit medicines, leading to thousands of avoidable deaths annually;

Aware that the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) recently seized counterfeit food and pharmaceutical products worth over ₦5 billion in a raid at the Cemetery Market in Aba, Abia State, highlighting the widespread nature of this menace;

Concerned that Nigeria suffers economic losses of approximately ₦15 trillion annually due to counterfeit and substandard goods, as reported by the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON);

Also concerned that unchecked proliferation of fake products not only jeopardizes consumer safety but also discourages genuine investment in food and pharmaceutical industries;

Also concerned that despite existing regulations, weak enforcement mechanisms, corruption, and the absence of stringent penalties for offenders have emboldened perpetrators to continue endangering public health;

Recognized that the current legal framework does not provide sufficient deterrence, as offenders often return to the illicit trade due to lenient fines and bailable sentences, allowing them to operate with impunity;

Believed that a national state of emergency is necessary to intensify enforcement efforts, strengthen regulatory Institutions, and impose stricter sanctions on perpetrators as a deterrent to these nefarious activities;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to —
 - (a) strengthen the capacity of regulatory agencies, particularly NAFDAC and Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON) and the Nigerian Customs Service by providing adequate funding, modern equipment and advanced technology for effective surveillance, detection and enforcement,
 - (b) establish a special task force comprising Security Agencies, Regulatory bodies, and the judiciary to fast-track investigations and prosecution of individuals and businesses involved in counterfeiting;
- (ii) also urge the Attorney General of the Federation to propose amendments to existing laws with a view to imposing stricter penalties, including life imprisonment for those involved in the production and importation of fake drugs and significant fines for businesses found guilty of dealing in counterfeit goods;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Health, Commerce, and Customs and Excise to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the prevalence of counterfeit products and propose legislative measures to address regulatory gaps;
- (iv) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 15/02/2025**).

(v) ***Need for Government Intervention to Stem the Tide of Incessant Gas Explosions in Nigeria:***

Hon. Aderemi Oseni (*Ibarapa East/Ido Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Need for Government Intervention to Stem the Tide of Incessant Gas Explosions in Nigeria:

The House:

Notes that it is the responsibility of government to protect the lives of the citizens and to as much as practicable regulate the affairs of the citizens through laws and guidelines;

Also notes that the ugly incidence of gas explosion in various cities of the country with the attendant loss of lives, injuries to persons and loss of properties have continued unabated despite calls for urgent actions;

Worried that experts have attributed the causes of the explosions to factors like, Expired Gas Cylinder, importation and use of Substandard cylinders, tanks and kits, the use of improperly locally fabricated cylinders with inferior materials;

Also worried that aside cooking gas (LPG), CNG converted vehicles has also joined the explosion queue because it has been reported that some of CNG powered vehicles that exploded was attributed to substandard and locally fabricated cylinders by welder without the requisite professional know-how;

Alarmed that in 2024 alone, the number of casualties recorded in several gas explosion incidences in Nigeria is over 100 persons; the most recent being that of Port Harcourt on Tuesday, 7 January, 2025, with 17 victims sustaining different degrees of injuries;

Concerned that there is need for a stiffer regulations and supervision by the regulatory agencies, and enlightenment on the expiration date and lifetime of cylinders, while there is need for the Standard Organization of Nigeria to ensure that only quality and standard Gas cylinder and kits are imported and are available for sale to the public in Nigerian market;

Observes that there is need to urgently curb the ugly menace, and proffer immediate solutions to forestall future occurrences;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON) and Nigeria Customs Services to ensure that only standard, Unexpired and quality gas cylinders, tanks and Trucks and kits are allowed to be imported into the country;
- (ii) also call on National Orientation Agency (NOA) in collaboration with SON to embark on massive sensitization and enlightenment to the populace on how to identify expired cylinders and the danger associated with the use of substandard cylinder, gas tanks and kits;

- (iii) further call on the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority to ensure that all Gas plants and retailing facilities are constructed with quality and standard tanks and kits;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Gas to conduct a thorough investigation to ascertain the causes of the incessant gas explosion in Nigeria and proffer lasting solutions to curb the menace;
- (v) also mandate the Committee on Legislative compliance to ensure compliance and report within six (6) weeks (*Hon. Aderemi Oseni — Ibarapa East/Ido Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (iv), immediately after the word “Gas”, *insert* the words “and Safety Standards and Regulations” (*Hon. Donald Ojogo Kimikanboh — Ese-Odo/Ilaje Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that it is the responsibility of government to protect the lives of the citizens and to as much as practicable regulate the affairs of the citizens through laws and guidelines;

Also noted that the ugly incidence of gas explosion in various cities of the country with the attendant loss of lives, injuries to persons and loss of properties have continued unabated despite calls for urgent actions;

Worried that experts have attributed the causes of the explosions to factors like, Expired Gas Cylinder, importation and use of Substandard cylinders, tanks and kits, the use of improperly locally fabricated cylinders with inferior materials;

Also worried that aside cooking gas (LPG), CNG converted vehicles has also joined the explosion queue because it has been reported that some of CNG powered vehicles that exploded was attributed to substandard and locally fabricated cylinders by welder without the requisite professional know-how;

Alarmed that in 2024 alone, the number of casualties recorded in several gas explosion incidences in Nigeria is over 100 persons; the most recent being that of Port Harcourt on Tuesday, 7 January, 2025, with 17 victims sustaining different degrees of injuries;

Concerned that there is need for a stiffer regulations and supervision by the regulatory agencies, and enlightenment on the expiration date and lifetime of cylinders, while there is need for the Standard Organization of Nigeria to ensure that only quality and standard Gas cylinder and kits are imported and are available for sale to the public in Nigerian market;

Observed that there is need to urgently curb the ugly menace, and proffer immediate solutions to forestall future occurrences;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON) and Nigeria Customs Services to ensure that only standard, Unexpired and quality gas cylinders, tanks and Trucks and kits are allowed to be imported into the country;

- (ii) also call on National Orientation Agency (NOA) in collaboration with SON to embark on massive sensitization and enlightenment to the populace on how to identify expired cylinders and the danger associated with the use of substandard cylinder, gas tanks and kits;
 - (iii) further call on the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority to ensure that all Gas plants and retailing facilities are constructed with quality and standard tanks and kits;
 - (iv) mandate the Committees on Gas Resources, and Safety Standards and Regulations to conduct a thorough investigation to ascertain the causes of the incessant gas explosion in Nigeria and proffer lasting solutions to curb the menace;
 - (v) also mandate the Committee on Legislative compliance to ensure compliance and report within six (6) weeks (**HR. 16/02/2025**).
- (vi) ***Need to Investigate the Bombing of Two Communities in Silame Local Government Area of Sokoto State by a Fighter Jet:***
Hon. Mani Maishinko (*Binji, Silame Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

Need to Investigate the Bombing of Two Communities in Silame Local Government Area of Sokoto State by a Fighter Jet:

The House:

Notes that on Wednesday, 25 December, 2024, over 10 persons were reportedly killed as a result of the bomb released in two communities of Silame Local Government Area in Sokoto State, the bomb which was launched by a fighter jet was meant to attack the Lakurawa terrorist in the area but landed in Gidan Sama and Rutawa Communities;

Also notes that this tragic occurrence has resulted in the loss of lives, property, source of livelihoods, displacement of person's and disrupted economic activities, causing significant losses for businesses and individuals;

Aware that the air-strike mistakenly carried out by the military fighter jet during an operation against Lakurawa terrorist who lived in their neighbourhood about two months ago and were flushed out as a result of joint operation of Kebbi and Sokoto state military operation in Binji, Silame and Augie Local Government Areas;

Worried that the entire families of affected areas have been plunged into mourning, while the survivors of the unfortunate incidence including women and children are struggling to rebuild their lives and cope with the trauma caused by the incidence;

Also worried that the ground forces erroneously fired at rescuers who were trying to help the victims of bomb attack, compounding the situation and further endangering lives;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence for the victims of the unfortunate incidence;
- (ii) urge the Executive Arm of Government to provide immediate relief materials and financial assistance to Binji/Silame Areas, Sokoto State, to support the rebuilding and rehabilitation of the affected communities including provisions of food, shelter and medical care to the displaced persons;
- (iii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government through the Ministry of Defence to carry out a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding this tragic incidence in Silame Local Government Area of Sokoto State;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Defence, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to visit the affected areas, assess the damage, and recommend measures to prevent future occurrences and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Mani Maishinko — Binji/Silame Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on Wednesday, 25 December, 2024, over 10 persons were reportedly killed as a result of the bomb released in two communities of Silame Local Government Area in Sokoto State, the bomb which was launched by a fighter jet was meant to attack the Lakurawa terrorist in the area but landed in Gidan Sama and Rutawa Communities;

Also noted that this tragic occurrence has resulted in the loss of lives, property, source of livelihoods, displacement of person's and disrupted economic activities, causing significant losses for businesses and individuals;

Aware that the air-strike mistakenly carried out by the military fighter jet during an operation against Lakurawa terrorist who lived in their neighbourhood about two months ago and were flushed out as a result of joint operation of Kebbi and Sokoto state military operation in Binji, Silame and Augie Local Government Areas;

Worried that the entire families of affected areas have been plunged into mourning, while the survivors of the unfortunate incidence including women and children are struggling to rebuild their lives and cope with the trauma caused by the incidence;

Also worried that the ground forces erroneously fired at rescuers who were trying to help the victims of bomb attack, compounding the situation and further endangering lives;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence for the victims of the unfortunate incidence;
- (ii) urge the Executive Arm of Government to provide immediate relief materials and financial assistance to Binji/Silame Areas, Sokoto State, to support the rebuilding and rehabilitation of the affected communities including provisions of food, shelter and medical care to the displaced persons;
- (iii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government through the Ministry of Defence to carry out a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding this tragic incidence in Silame Local Government Area of Sokoto State;

- (iv) mandate the Committees on Defence, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to visit the affected areas, assess the damage, and recommend measures to prevent future occurrences and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 17/02/2025**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

- (vii) ***Invasion of Agom Ibami, Agoi Ekpo, and Ekom Agoi Communities of Yakurr by Armed Foreigners from the Sahel Region of West Africa Suspected to be Illegal Miners and the Need to Protect Lives and Legitimate Mining Activities:***

Hon. Alex Egbona (*Abi/Yakurr Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Invasion of Agom Ibami, Agoi Ekpo, and Ekom Agoi Communities of Yakurr by Armed Foreigners from the Sahel Region of West Africa Suspected to be Illegal Miners and the Need to Protect Lives and Legitimate Mining Activities:

The House:

Notes with deep concern the invasion of Agom Ibami, Agoi Ekpo and Ekom Agoi communities in Yakurr Local Government Area of Cross River State by armed foreigners suspected to be illegal miners from the Sahel region of West Africa;

Aware that these invaders have reportedly encroached on the land and natural resources of communities without the consent or approval of the rightful owners or local authorities;

Disturbed by the threats posed by these invaders to the lives, safety and livelihoods of the indigenous people of these communities including reports of violent confrontations, destruction of property and displacement of residents;

Recognizes the potential environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity and depletion of natural resources caused by illegal mining activities which can have long term consequences for the affected communities;

Concerned that the presence of these armed foreigners constitutes a breach of Nigeria's territorial integrity, violates the rights of the local people and undermines the rule of law;

Observes that mining when conducted lawfully contributes significantly to the local and national economy, provide jobs and foster development thus making it crucial to encourage officially recognized miners to carry out their legitimate business without undue interference;

Acknowledges the need for urgent and decisive action by relevant authorities to address these invasions, protect the lives and properties of affected communities and safeguard Nigeria's natural resources;

Resolves to:

- (i) condemn in strong terms the invasion of Agom Ibami, Agoi Ekpo, and Ekom Agoi communities by armed foreigners suspected to be illegal miners;
- (ii) call on the Nigeria Army, Nigeria Police Force, the Department of State Services (DSS) and other relevant security agencies to urgently investigate the presence of these armed foreigners, apprehend the perpetrators and ensure the safety and security of the affected communities;
- (iii) urge the Federal and State Governments to provide adequate security in Yakurr Local Government Area to prevent further incursions and protect lives and property;
- (iv) also urge the Ministry of Solid Minerals Development and other relevant authorities to ensure that mining activities in the area are carried out strictly by licensed and recognized operators in accordance with the law;
- (vi) mandate the Committees on Army, Police Affairs, National Security and Intelligence, and Solid Minerals to investigate the circumstances surrounding the invasion and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Alex Egbona — Abi/Yakurr Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.**Agreed to.**The House:*

Noted with deep concern the invasion of Agom Ibami, Agoi Ekpo and Ekom Agoi communities in Yakurr Local Government Area of Cross River State by armed foreigners suspected to be illegal miners from the Sahel region of West Africa;

Aware that these invaders have reportedly encroached on the land and natural resources of communities without the consent or approval of the rightful owners or local authorities;

Disturbed by the threats posed by these invaders to the lives, safety and livelihoods of the indigenous people of these communities including reports of violent confrontations, destruction of property and displacement of residents;

Recognized the potential environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity and depletion of natural resources caused by illegal mining activities which can have long term consequences for the affected communities;

Concerned that the presence of these armed foreigners constitutes a breach of Nigeria's territorial integrity, violates the rights of the local people and undermines the rule of law;

Observed that mining when conducted lawfully contributes significantly to the local and national economy, provide jobs and foster development thus making it crucial to encourage officially recognized miners to carry out their legitimate business without undue interference;

Acknowledged the need for urgent and decisive action by relevant authorities to address these invasions, protect the lives and properties of affected communities and safeguard Nigeria's natural resources;

Resolved to:

- (i) condemn in strong terms the invasion of Agom Ibami, Agoi Ekpo, and Ekom Agoi communities by armed foreigners suspected to be illegal miners;
 - (ii) call on the Nigeria Army, Nigeria Police Force, the Department of State Services (DSS) and other relevant security agencies to urgently investigate the presence of these armed foreigners, apprehend the perpetrators and ensure the safety and security of the affected communities;
 - (iii) urge the Federal and State Governments to provide adequate security in Yakurr Local Government Area to prevent further incursions and protect lives and property;
 - (iv) also urge the Ministry of Solid Minerals Development and other relevant authorities to ensure that mining activities in the area are carried out strictly by licensed and recognized operators in accordance with the law;
 - (vi) mandate the Committees on Army, Police Affairs, National Security and Intelligence, and Solid Minerals to investigate the circumstances surrounding the invasion and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 18/02/2025**).
- (viii) ***Insecurity and Kidnappings in Ikara Local Government Area of Kaduna State:***
Hon. Aliyu Mustapha Abdullahi (*Ikara/Kabau Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

Insecurity and Kidnappings in Ikara Local Government Area of Kaduna State:

The House:

Notes that on Sunday, 15 December, 2024, a group of armed men stormed into Ikara ward in Ikara Local Government Area of Kaduna State and abducted up to 10 people including a pregnant woman;

Also notes that 12 days after the first incident, on Friday, 27 December, 2024, the same suspected group invaded the same community in Ikara ward, kidnapping 5 people;

Aware that these 2 cases of kidnapping are the first of their kind after exactly a year when bandits killed a vigilante leader and six worshipers during a mosque attack at Saya Saya ward of Ikara Local Government Area;

Also aware that Ikara ward and Saya Saya ward, along with two (2) other wards in Ikara LGA, share a boundary with a large forest, which boundaries Kaduna State and Tudun Wada ward of Kano State;

Concerned that the criminals are suspected to have camps in their large numbers in the forest, where they operate and keep abductees;

Also concerned that the criminals operate daily on the Ikara to Saya Saya road, a major road leading to Kano State, where a number of casualties have been recorded, and the road is now becoming inaccessible;

Worried that residents are now living in fear and if measures are not taken, these criminal activities will spread across communities, causing loss of lives and properties and rising insecurity in this region;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Army, and Nigeria Police Force to set up patrol teams within the affected communities in Ikara Local Government Area;
- (ii) also urge the Nigerian Army to set up a checkpoint on the Ikara - Saya Saya Road;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Army, Police Affairs and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Aliyu Mustapha Abdullahi — Ikara/Kabau Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on Sunday, 15 December, 2024, a group of armed men stormed into Ikara ward in Ikara Local Government Area of Kaduna State and abducted up to 10 people including a pregnant woman;

Also noted that 12 days after the first incident, on Friday, 27 December, 2024, the same suspected group invaded the same community in Ikara ward, kidnapping 5 people;

Aware that these 2 cases of kidnapping are the first of their kind after exactly a year when bandits killed a vigilante leader and six worshipers during a mosque attack at Saya Saya ward of Ikara Local Government Area;

Also aware that Ikara ward and Saya Saya ward, along with two (2) other wards in Ikara LGA, share a boundary with a large forest, which boundaries Kaduna State and Tudun Wada ward of Kano State;

Concerned that the criminals are suspected to have camps in their large numbers in the forest, where they operate and keep abductees;

Also concerned that the criminals operate daily on the Ikara to Saya Saya road, a major road leading to Kano State, where a number of casualties have been recorded, and the road is now becoming inaccessible;

Worried that residents are now living in fear and if measures are not taken, these criminal activities will spread across communities, causing loss of lives and properties and rising insecurity in this region;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Army, and Nigeria Police Force to set up patrol teams within the affected communities in Ikara Local Government Area;

- (ii) also urge the Nigerian Army to set up a checkpoint on the Ikara - Saya Saya Road;
 - (iii) mandate the Committees on Army, Police Affairs and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 19/02/2025**).
- (ix) ***The Abrupt Opening and Release of Water from the Kainji and Jebba Dams Leading to the Flooding of about 5,000 Hectares of Rice Plantation in Edu, Moro and Pategi Local Government Areas, Kwara State:***
Hon. Ahmed Adamu Saba (*Edu/Moro/Pategi Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

The Abrupt Opening and Release of Water from the Kainji and Jebba Dams Leading to the Flooding of about 5,000 Hectares of Rice Plantation in Edu, Moro and Pategi Local Government Areas, Kwara State:

The House:

Notes that dry season farming is a major part of Nigeria's food production chain as it adds to the agricultural output of the Nation especially staple food crops like rice, wheat, maize, vegetables, etc. and Kwara State is a major player in dry season farming;

Also notes that despite rainy and dry season farming cycles in Nigeria, there is still a huge gap in attaining food security because agricultural production is still very low when compared to the nation's potentials;

Informed of the recent unfortunate flooding of about 5,000 hectares of rice plantation in Edu, Moro and Pategi LGAs, Kwara State leading to the loss of over ₦11.5 billion worth of rice. The said flooding which occurred on Friday, 24 January, 2025, following the opening of the Kainji and Jebba Dams in Niger State without any notification to the rice farmers;

Worried that despite the declaration of a state of emergency on Food Security by His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR in line with the Renewed Hope target to increase food production and attain food security, this kind of avoidable disaster was carelessly allowed to occur;

Alarmed that the impact of this flood will be so huge on the nation's rice output as the nation continues to battle progressive food inflation due to low production and high cost of farm inputs, a situation which if not checked can lead to food shortages in Nigeria.

Cognizant that flooding is a major food security risk particularly avoidable flooding like was experienced in parts of Kwara State;

Concerned that the act of opening the Dams without recourse to the impact of that action on such huge agricultural investment is symptomatic of a lack of synergy between government agencies who should know the impact of their inter-dependence on each other, an ugly situation which needs to be checked for the holistic development of Nigeria;

Believes that there is an urgent need to investigate the circumstances surrounding the opening of the Kainji and Jebba Dams in Niger State which led to the flooding of about 5,000 hectares of rice plantation;

Also believes that there is also a need to provide relief farm inputs for the affected farmers to enable them return to farm and be able to sustain their investments destroyed by the flood;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief farm inputs to the affected farmers to enable them return to the farm in the interest of Nigeria's food security drive;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Hydrological Services, Water Resources, and Agricultural Production and Services to investigate the circumstance surrounding the opening of the Kainji and Jebba Dams in Niger State which led to the flooding of about 5,000 hectares of rice plantation in Edu, Moro and Pategi LGAs, Kwara State with an estimated loss of over ₦11.5 billion worth;
- (iii) also mandate the Committees on Hydrological Services, Water Resources and Agricultural Production and Services to ensure compliance (*Hon. Saba Ahmed Adamu — Edi/Moro/Pategi Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that dry season farming is a major part of Nigeria's food production chain as it adds to the agricultural output of the Nation especially staple food crops like rice, wheat, maize, vegetables, etc. and Kwara State is a major player in dry season farming;

Also noted that despite rainy and dry season farming cycles in Nigeria, there is still a huge gap in attaining food security because agricultural production is still very low when compared to the nation's potentials;

Informed of the recent unfortunate flooding of about 5,000 hectares of rice plantation in Edu, Moro and Pategi LGAs, Kwara State leading to the loss of over ₦11.5 billion worth of rice. The said flooding which occurred on Friday, 24 January, 2025, following the opening of the Kainji and Jebba Dams in Niger State without any notification to the rice farmers;

Worried that despite the declaration of a state of emergency on Food Security by His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR in line with the Renewed Hope target to increase food production and attain food security, this kind of avoidable disaster was carelessly allowed to occur;

Alarmed that the impact of this flood will be so huge on the nation's rice output as the nation continues to battle progressive food inflation due to low production and high cost of farm inputs, a situation which if not checked can lead to food shortages in Nigeria.

Cognizant that flooding is a major food security risk particularly avoidable flooding like was experienced in parts of Kwara State;

Concerned that the act of opening the Dams without recourse to the impact of that action on such huge agricultural investment is symptomatic of a lack of synergy between government

agencies who should know the impact of their inter-dependence on each other, an ugly situation which needs to be checked for the holistic development of Nigeria;

Believed that there is an urgent need to investigate the circumstances surrounding the opening of the Kainji and Jebba Dams in Niger State which led to the flooding of about 5,000 hectares of rice plantation;

Also believed that there is also a need to provide relief farm inputs for the affected farmers to enable them return to farm and be able to sustain their investments destroyed by the flood;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief farm inputs to the affected farmers to enable them return to the farm in the interest of Nigeria's food security drive;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Hydrological Services, Water Resources, and Agricultural Production and Services to investigate the circumstance surrounding the opening of the Kainji and Jebba Dams in Niger State which led to the flooding of about 5,000 hectares of rice plantation in Edu, Moro and Pategi LGAs, Kwara State with an estimated loss of over ₦11.5 billion worth;
- (iii) also mandate the Committees on Hydrological Services, Water Resources and Agricultural Production and Services to ensure compliance (**HR. 20/02/2025**).

8. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) (Indigene Status by Birth) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2057).
- (2) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) (Population Census) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2058).
- (3) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2025 (Citizenship by Investment) (HB. 2059).
- (4) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2025 (Inclusion of Tourism and Tourism-Related Matters in the Concurrent Legislative List) (HB. 2060).
- (5) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2025 (Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation) (HB. 2061).
- (6) Central Gaming Bill, 2025 (HB. 2062).
- (7) Artificial Intelligence Management and Finance Institute (AIMFIN) (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2063).
- (8) Federal University of Agriculture and Solid Minerals, Jalingo, Taraba State (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (HB.2064).
- (9) Federal Colleges of Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2025).
- (10) Child's Right Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2049).
- (11) Dangerous Drugs Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2050).

- (12) Bebeji Entrepreneur University, Kano (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2051).
- (13) National Sugar Development Council Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2030).
- (14) Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2035).
- (15) Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB.2040).
- (16) Legal Practitioners Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB.2041).
- (17) Advance Fee Fraud and other Fraud Related Offences Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB.2042).
- (18) National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB.2043).
- (19) Administration of Criminal Justice Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB.2044).
- (20) Bank Employee Etc. (Declaration of Assets) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB.2045).
- (21) Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB.2046).
- (22) Tertiary Education Trust Fund Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB.2047).
- (23) Federal Universities of Agriculture Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1787).
- (24) Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (SB. 297).

9. Presentation of Reports

(i) **Committee on Public Procurement:**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Procurement on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Public Procurement Act, 2007, to Provide for Damage against the Contractors on Issues Relating to undue delay in Completion of Contract and for Related Matters (HB. 03)” (*Hon. Unyime Idem Josiah — Ukanafun/Oruk Anam Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) **Committee on Public Procurement:**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Procurement on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply Management of Nigeria Act, 2007 to be in tandem with what obtains in the Procurement Professional Practice across the Globe and for Related Matters (HB.346)” (*Hon. Unyime Idem Josiah — Ukanafun/Oruk Anam Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iii) **Committee on Federal Polytechnics and Higher Technical Education:**

Report of the Committee on Polytechnics and Higher Technical Education on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap. F17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2024 to Establish Federal Institute of Technology and Entrepreneurship, Bungudu, Zamfara State for the purpose of Providing Qualitative Education in Sciences, Skills, Arts and other Technical Knowledge and for Related Matters and for Related Matters (HB. 497)

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

(iv) Committee on Federal Polytechnics and Higher Technical Education:

Report of the Committee on Polytechnics and Higher Technical Education on a Bill for an Act to Establish National Vocational Centre charged with the Responsibility among other things to Provide Vocational Training for Nigerian Citizens for the Purpose of Modern Industrialization, creating Jobs and Improving National Economic Development and for Related Matters (HB.510).

Order deferred by leave of the House.

(v) Committee on Federal Colleges of Education:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Federal Colleges of Education on a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Teachers' Institute Act, Cap. N79 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 for the Institute to Constitute the Membership of the Council and provide Nigeria Certificate in Education, Undergraduate, Post Graduate and Research Programmes in Teachers Education and for Related Matters (HB. 879)” (*Hon. Adamu Tanko — Gurara/Suleja/Tafa Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

10. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap. F17, Laws of the federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Establish Federal Polytechnic, Sabon Birini, Sokoto State and for Related Matters (HB. 1815) — Third Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap. F17, Laws of the federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Establish Federal Polytechnic, Sabon Birini, Sokoto State and for Related Matters (HB. 1815) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

11. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Isa, Sokoto State and for Related Matters (HB. 1818) — Third Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Isa, Sokoto State and for Related Matters (HB. 1818) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

12. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap. F17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Establish Federal Polytechnic, Tombia, Rivers State and for Related Matters (HB.1977) — Third Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Polytechnics Act, Cap. F17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Establish Federal Polytechnic, Tombia, Rivers State and for Related Matters (HB.1977) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

13. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Medical and Health Sciences, Item Bende to make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (HB. 25) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Medical and Health Sciences, Item Bende to make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (HB. 25) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

14. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Agriculture and Entrepreneurship, Bama, Borno State make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (SB. 186) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Federal University of Agriculture and Entrepreneurship, Bama, Borno State make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (SB. 186) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee of the Whole.

15. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Michael Okpara University, Umudike to make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (HB.128) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Michael Okpara University, Umudike to make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (HB.128) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Nwogu Kelechi — Etche/Omuma 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 University Education.

16. **A Bill for an Act to Enact the Veteran Federation of Nigeria to ensure the proper Welfare and Health condition of the Military Veterans, Expand the Operation and Functions of the Veteran Federation for National Development and for Related Matters (HB. 1950) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do resume debate on a Bill for an Act to Enact the Veteran Federation of Nigeria to ensure the proper Welfare and Health condition of the Military Veterans, Expand the Operation and Functions of the Veteran Federation for National Development and for Related Matters (HB. 1950) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Rufus Ojuawo Adeniyi — Ekiti South West/Ikere/Ise Orun Federal Constituency*).

Debate resume.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Defence.

17. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act, Cap. C 15 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2024 to insulate Judicial Officers from Prosecution before being Lawfully removed from Office and for Related Matters (HB. 1178) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do resume debate on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act, Cap. C 15 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2024 to insulate Judicial Officers from Prosecution before being Lawfully removed from Office and for Related Matters (HB. 1178) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Solomon T. Bob — Abua/Odual/Ahoada East Federal Constituency*).

Debate resume.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committees on Anti-Corruption, and Justice.

18. **A Bill for an Act to Alter Section 88 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) to protect the Welfare of Nigerians working in Private Companies/Organizations and ensure Private Companies/Organizations in the Country fulfill their Financial obligations to the Government of the Federation and for Related Matters (HB.1490) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Alter Section 88 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) to protect the Welfare of Nigerians working in Private Companies/Organizations and ensure Private Companies/Organizations in the Country fulfill their Financial obligations to the Government of the Federation and for Related Matters (HB.1490) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Sulaiman Abubakar Gumi — Gummi/Bukkuyum 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 Constitution Review.

19. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (Establishment Etc.) Act, 2011 to include Monotechnic as a Tertiary Institution and for Related Matters (HB. 1991) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (Establishment Etc.) Act, 2011 to include Monotechnic as a Tertiary Institution and for Related Matters (HB. 1991) 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 TETFUND and Other Services.

20. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the University Teaching Hospitals (Reconstitution of Board, Etc.) Act Cap. U15, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Related Matters (HB.1445) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the University Teaching Hospitals (Reconstitution of Board, Etc.) Act Cap. U15, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Related Matters (HB.1445) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Mitema Obodor — Ogbia 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.

21. **Need to Complete the Construction of Uwa Junction/Urua Edet Obo/Nto Edino Road in Essien Udim and Obot Akara Local Government Areas, Akwa Ibom**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Uwa Junction/Urua Edet Obo/to Nto Edino Road is a major road in Akwa Ibom State which runs through Essien Udim and Obot Akara Local Governments Areas, connecting over 40 communities, schools and businesses leading to Abia State;

Also notes that whereas the contract for the construction of the road was awarded sometime in the year 2021 by the Federal Government through the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs, the construction of the road has been abandoned owing to poor funding;

Further notes that the abandonment of the construction of the 18-kilometer road has affected several communities, upended the livelihood of the people, stalled transportation of goods and services, and derailed smooth access to education by schoolchildren thereby bringing upon the people of the community untold hardship;

Aware that the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs has since abandoned the construction of the aforementioned road;

Also aware that the people of the community have been exposed to serious hardship, and the road will remain a death trap;

Further aware that the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) is endowed with the budgetary capacity to complete the road, which has more impact on the people and traverses many communities;

Concerned that the aforementioned road had since been removed from the budgets of the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs, now operating as the Federal Ministry of Regional Development in the past years leading to the abandonment of the road project;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to take over the construction of the Uwa Junction/Urua Edet Obo/Nto Edino Road in Essien Udim and Obot Akara Local

Government Areas of Akwa Ibom for the completion of the road; and

- (ii) mandate the Committees on Niger Delta Development Commission, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Patrick Umoh — Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 21/02/2025).

Motion referred to the Committees on Niger Delta Development Commission, and Legislative Compliance, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 10 (5).

22. Need to Recognize Igbo-Ora World Twins Festival and the Famous Idere Hills, Oyo State as Cultural Heritage and Tourist Centres

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the internationally acclaimed World Twins Festival aka "Odun Ibeji," was celebrated in Igbo-Ora the headquarters of the Ibarapa Central Local Government Area, Oyo State, with pomp and pageantry on 12 October 2024;

Also notes that Igbo-Ora metropolitan town of about 250,000 indigenes, has the unique reputation of being the headquarters of twins in the whole world, having been credited as the town with the highest number of twins or multiple births per family in Nigeria household, leading other celebrated twin towns in the world like Kodinhi in India, Velikaya Kopanya in Ukraine, and Candido Godoi in Brazil. The town breaks the world record of global average birth rate of twins, which is put at around 12 births per 1000, as Igbo-Ora's record is close to 50 births per 1000;

Further notes that historically, it is believed that the consumption of okra leaf soup (Ilasa), peculiar to the people of the town, is responsible for the multiple birth rates, while others believe that it was a result of God's almighty benevolence and compensation upon the community after several disasters that befell them in the olden days. That 500 twins and other people of multiple births, both old and young, physically participated in the last World Twins Festival;

Aware that Idere Hills, located at Idere Town, Ibarapa Central Local Government Area of Oyo State, is a world-class, breathtaking tourist center, known for its historical significance comprising its lakes of different sizes, relics,, and historical sites dating back 600 years and surrounded by beautiful, serene, and ambient landscapes, already declared as a tourist center by the Oyo State Government but worthy of international recognition;

Concerned that at this time of the world's cultural renaissance and consciousness, Nigeria should harness its rich cultural heritage not only for the purpose of showcasing and boosting Nigeria diverse cultures but also promoting the country's tourism, which could be a mega income earner for the economy;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministries of Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy, and Tourism to avail the Igbo-ora World Twins Festival and Idere Hills both at Igboora and Idere towns respectively in Oyo State of Nigeria every available support and encouragement towards boosting the cultural heritage of the people and the potential tourism advantage of Nigeria; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Culture and Creative Economy, and Tourism to invite the

Ministers of Art, Culture, and Creative Economy and Tourism to liaise with UNESCO to declare the World Twins Festival in Igbo-Ora as a World Intangible Cultural Heritage and Idere Hills as a world Tourist Center (*Hon. Anthony Adebayo Anthony Adepoju — Ibarapa Central/Ibarapa North Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the internationally acclaimed World Twins Festival aka "Odun Ibeji," was celebrated in Igbo-Ora the headquarters of the Ibarapa Central Local Government Area, Oyo State, with pomp and pageantry on 12 October 2024;

Also noted that Igbo-Ora metropolitan town of about 250,000 indigenes, has the unique reputation of being the headquarters of twins in the whole world, having been credited as the town with the highest number of twins or multiple births per family in Nigeria household, leading other celebrated twin towns in the world like Kodinhi in India, Velikaya Kopanya in Ukraine, and Candido Godoi in Brazil. The town breaks the world record of global average birth rate of twins, which is put at around 12 births per 1000, as Igbo-Ora's record is close to 50 births per 1000;

Further noted that historically, it is believed that the consumption of okra leaf soup (Ilasa), peculiar to the people of the town, is responsible for the multiple birth rates, while others believe that it was a result of God's almighty benevolence and compensation upon the community after several disasters that befell them in the olden days. That 500 twins and other people of multiple births, both old and young, physically participated in the last World Twins Festival;

Aware that Idere Hills, located at Idere Town, Ibarapa Central Local Government Area of Oyo State, is a world-class, breathtaking tourist center, known for its historical significance comprising its lakes of different sizes, relics, and historical sites dating back 600 years and surrounded by beautiful, serene, and ambient landscapes, already declared as a tourist center by the Oyo State Government but worthy of international recognition;

Concerned that at this time of the world's cultural renaissance and consciousness, Nigeria should harness its rich cultural heritage not only for the purpose of showcasing and boosting Nigeria diverse cultures but also promoting the country's tourism, which could be a mega income earner for the economy;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministries of Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy, and Tourism to avail the Igbo-ora World Twins Festival and Idere Hills both at Igboora and Idere towns respectively in Oyo State of Nigeria every available support and encouragement towards boosting the cultural heritage of the people and the potential tourism advantage of Nigeria; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Culture and Creative Economy, and Tourism to invite the Ministers of Art, Culture, and Creative Economy and Tourism to liaise with UNESCO to declare the World Twins Festival in Igbo-Ora as a World Intangible Cultural Heritage and Idere Hills as a world Tourist Center (**HR. 22/02/2025**).

23. Consideration of Reports

- (i) *A Bill for an Act to Establish Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians Regulatory Council of Nigeria to be vested with responsibility of determining Standards of knowledge and Skills to be attained by persons seeking to become Pharmaceutical*

Technologist and Pharmacy Technicians and for Related Matters (HB.345) (Committee of the Whole):

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians Regulatory Council of Nigeria to be vested with responsibility of determining Standards of knowledge and Skills to be attained by persons seeking to become Pharmaceutical Technologist and Pharmacy Technicians and for Related Matters (HB.345)” (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGISTS AND PHARMACY TECHNICIANS REGULATORY COUNCIL OF NIGERIA TO BE VESTED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF DETERMINING STANDARDS OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TO BE ATTAINED BY PERSONS SEEKING TO BECOME PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGISTS AND PHARMACY TECHNICIANS; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 345)

Clause 1: Establishment of the Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians Regulatory Council.

- (1) There is established a body to be known as the Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians Regulatory Council of Nigeria (in this Bill referred to as "the Council").
- (2) The Council shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, and may —
 - (a) sue or be sued in its corporate name;
 - (b) hold, acquire and dispose of any property, movable and immovable; and
 - (c) exercise right, powers, privileges and incur the liabilities and obligations of a natural person of full age and capacity (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 2: Objects of the Council.

The objects of the Board shall be to —

- (a) advance Pharmaceutical Technology and Pharmacy Techniques (in this Bill referred to as "the Profession");
- (b) issue licenses to Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians;
- (c) regulate the practice of the Profession;

- (d) determine what standards of knowledge and skill are to be attained by persons seeking to become licensed members of the profession and reviewing those standards from time to time as circumstances may permit;
- (e) promote the highest standard of competence, practice and conduct among members of the profession;
- (f) advance drug and pharmaceutical technology knowledge and essential drug education in the rural areas through the counseling of patients by the members of the profession.
- (g) ensure the preparation of a register of licensed members of the profession and the publication from time to time of a list of those members;
- (h) secure, safeguard and advance the professional knowledge, interest and efficiency of the professional in the field through the board;
- (i) conduct examinations, grant of certificates, advise and assist in examinations relevant to the profession;
- (j) conduct research in all areas of the profession;
- (k) serve as a certifying body through its licensed members;
- (l) ensure that safety standards are met and that necessary facilities required in the practice of the profession are put in place;
- (m) ensure effective and efficient management and administration of the profession;
- (n) arrange mandatory professional training for members of the profession;
- (o) conduct inspection of pharmaceutical technologies in post-secondary institutions, industries and research institutes in order to ensure maintenance of professional standards;
- (p) carry out action that promote the advancement of the profession in both the public and private sectors; and
- (q) perform through the governing council established under section 5 of this Bill, the functions conferred on the Board by this Bill (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 3: Membership of the Council.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of the Bill, a person admitted to the membership of the Council shall be entitled to use one of the following acronyms after his name, that is —
 - (a) fellow;
 - (b) honorary member;
 - (c) member;

- (d) associate member;
 - (e) extra-ordinary member; and
 - (f) student member.
- (2) A person qualifies to be a registered member and to use any of the acronyms listed in subsection (1) of this section, if he satisfies all the criteria stipulated by the council as applicable to each grade of membership and as contained in the bye-laws of the Council (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 4: Duties and Responsibilities of Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians.

- (1) The duties and responsibilities of pharmaceutical technologists and pharmacy technicians shall be:
- (a) to dispense (compound, mix and supply) non-scheduled pharmaceutical products, primary health care essential drugs; and
 - (b) counseling patients on the use of drugs prescribed by a medical practitioner including —
 - (i) the removal of drugs from packets,
 - (ii) the method of usage of drugs (whether orally, locally or by injection),
 - (iii) when a drug can be used and its side effect on a patient, and
 - (iv) storage of drugs where necessary.
- (2) A registered member shall be eligible to carry out the business of pharmaceutical Technology or essential drug store (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 5: Establishment and Composition of the Governing Council.

- (1) There is established for the council, a governing body (in this Bill referred to as "the Council") which shall be charged with the administration and general management of the Council.
- (2) The council shall consists of —
- (a) a Chairman, who shall be the President of the National Association of Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians of Nigeria (NAPTTON) in this Bill referred to as "the Association";
 - (b) a Deputy Chairman, who shall be the Deputy President of the Association;
 - (c) a Vice Chairman who shall be the Secretary General of the Association;

- (d) the Registrar of the Council who shall be the Secretary of this Council and Head of Department of Administration and Personnel of the Board;
- (e) the Assistant Registrar who shall be the Assistant Secretary of the Council and deputies the Registrar in discharging his duties;
- (f) six Deputy Registrars nominated from the six geo- political zones of the Federation;
- (g) one representative of —
 - (i) Federal Ministry of Health,
 - (ii) State Ministry of Health,
 - (iii) National Primary Health Care Development Agency,
 - (iv) National Agency for Food, Drug, Administration and Control,
 - (v) National Drug Law Enforcement Agency,
 - (vi) Medical Corps of the Nigerian, Army, Navy and Air force, and
 - (vii) the Director of Finance who shall be the Head of Department of finance of the Council.
- (3) There shall be a legal adviser appointed by the Council who shall be a legal practitioner with at least 2years post call practicing experience.
- (4) The Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Vice Chairman, Registrar and Zonal Deputy Registrars shall be fellows of the Council (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 6: Tenure of Office.

- (1) The Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Vice Chairman shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister and shall hold office for a term of four years from the date of their appointment and may be reappointed for another term of 4years and no more.
- (2) The Chairman shall oversee the activities of the Council but in the event death or permanent incapacity of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman shall become the Chairman of the Council for the unexpired period of the term of the affected chairman, but shall not succeed himself for a fresh term unless he has been elected as the President of the Council.
- (3) The Chairman shall preside over meetings of the Board, but in the absence, the Deputy Chairman shall preside over the meeting.
- (4) If the Chairman or any Principal Officer ceases to be a member of the Council, he shall cease to hold any of the offices created under this section.

- (5) The provisions of Schedule 3 to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the qualifications and tenure of office of the members of the Council and other matters (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

PART II — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Clause 7: Funds of the Council.

- (1) The Council shall establish and maintain a fund for the purpose of this Bill.
- (2) There shall be credited into the fund —
- (a) all moneys received by the Council pursuant to this Bill;
 - (b) all fees and other monies payable to the Council by its members, individuals and corporate bodies; and
 - (c) money as may be provided by the Federal, State and Local Government, Individuals or Corporate bodies (National or International) to the Council by way of grant, subvention or otherwise.
- (3) There shall be paid out of the fund of the Council —
- (a) all expenditure incurred by the Council in discharge of its functions under this Bill;
 - (b) remunerations and allowances of the Registrar and other Staff of the Council; and
 - (c) reasonable travelling and other allowances of members of the Council in respect of the time spent on the duties of the Council as the Council may determine.
- (4) The Council may invest money from the fund on behalf of the Council as may be approved by the Council (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 8: Power to Borrow.

The Council may, from time to time, borrow money for the purpose of the Council and any interest payable on monies borrowed, shall be paid out of the fund of the Council (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 9: Accounts of the Council.

- (1) The Council shall keep proper account on behalf of the Council in respect of each year and proper record in relation to the account.
- (2) The Council shall cause the account to be audited by an Auditor appointed from the list and in accordance with the guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General of the Federation.

- (3) The Auditor appointed for the purpose of this section shall not be a member of the Council.
- (4) The Council shall prepare and submit to the Minister not later than 6 months of each subsequent year, a report on the activities of the Council in the last preceding year and shall include in the report, a copy of the audited accounts of the Auditor's report on the account (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

PART III — THE REGISTRAR

Clause 10: Appointment of Registrar and Preparation of the Register.

- (1) The Council shall appoint —
 - (a) a fit and deserving member of the Council to be the Registrar and Assistant Registrar;
 - (b) six fit and deserving members of the Council from the six geopolitical zone of Nigeria (one per zone) to be Zonal Deputy Registrars; and
 - (c) other persons as the Council may from time to time think necessary to assist the Registrar in the performance of his functions under this Bill.
- (2) The Registrar shall prepare and maintain, in accordance with the rules made by the Council, a register of names, addresses, approved qualifications and other relevant particulars as may be specified in the rules, of all persons who are entitled in accordance with the provisions of this Act, to be registered as members of the Council in the category of "Fellows", "Honorary Members", "Members", "Associate Members", "Extra-Ordinary Members" and "Student Members" who in the manner prescribed by the rules, apply to be registered.
- (3) The Zonal Deputy Registrars shall liaise with the offices of the Council in the States under their zones to ensure proper compilation of the register and effective compliance with the provisions of this Bill and Rules made pursuant to this Bill.
- (4) The Register shall consist of parts representing different classes of membership.
- (5) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Council shall make rules with respect to the form, keeping of the register and the making of entries in the register and in particular —
 - (a) regulating the making of applications for registration, and providing for the evidence to be produced in support of the application;
 - (b) providing for notification to the registrar, to effect a change in particulars by the person to whom registered particulars relate;
 - (c) authorizing a registered person to have any qualification which is in relation to the relevant division of the profession, either an approved qualification or an accepted qualification for the purpose of this Bill,

registered in relation to his name in addition to or as he may elect, in substitution for any other qualifications registered;

- (d) specifying the fees including subscription to be paid to the Council in respect of the entry of names into the register and authorizing the Registrar to refuse to enter a name into the register until the fees specified for the entry has been paid;
- (e) specifying anything failing to be specified under the provisions of this section but rules made for the purpose of paragraph (d) of this section shall not come into effect until they are confirmed at a special meeting of the Council convened for that purpose or at the next general meeting as the case may be (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 11: Functions of the Registrar.

The Registrar shall —

- (a) correct in accordance with the Council's directions any entry in the register which in the Council's opinion was incorrectly made;
- (b) make any necessary alterations in the registered particulars of registered persons from time to time;
- (c) remove from the register, the name of any registered person who has died or ceased to be a member for any reason; and
- (d) record the names of members of the Council who are in default for more than twelve months in the payment of annual subscription, and take appropriate action against those members (including removal of the names of the defaulters from the register) as the Council may direct or require (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 11 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 12: Publication of Registers and List of Corrections.

(1) It shall be the duty of the Registrar to cause —

- (a) the register to be printed, published and put on sale to members of the public not later than 2 years from the commencement of this Bill;
- (b) to be printed, published and put on sale as either a —
 - (i) corrected edition of the register, or
 - (ii) list of corrections each year after the printing and publishing of the first copy of the register;
- (c) a print of each edition of the register and of each list of corrections to be deposited at the principal offices of the Council; and
- (d) the register and lists so deposited to be made available to members of the public at all reasonable times for inspection.

- (2) A document purporting to be —
 - (a) a print of an edition of a register published under this section by authority of the Registrar;
 - (b) prints of an edition of the register published and of the list of corrections to that edition published; shall without prejudice to any other mode of proof, be admissible in any proceeding as evidence that any person specified in the document, or the documents read together, as being registered at the date of the edition or of the list corrections, as the case may be, and that any person not so specified was not registered.
- (3) Where in accordance with subsection (2) of this section a person is in any proceeding shown to have been or not to have been registered at a particular date, he shall, unless the contrary is proved, be taken for the purpose of these proceedings as having in all material times thereafter continued to be, or not to be registered (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 12 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 13: Entries in a Register.

- (1) If the Registrar:
 - (a) sends by post to any registered person a letter addressed to him at his address on the register enquiring whether the registered particulars relating to him are correct and receives no reply to the letter within the period of six months from the date of posting it; and
 - (b) on the expiration of that period, send in like manner to the person in question a second similar letter and receives no reply to that letter within three months from the date of posting it, the Registrar may remove the particulars relating to the person in question from the register.
- (2) Pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, the Council may direct the Registrar to restore to the appropriate part of the register any particulars removed there from (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 13 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART IV — REGISTRATION

Clause 14: Registration of Members.

- (1) Subject to section 15 of this Bill and to rules made under section 10 subsection (3) of this Bill, a person shall be entitled to be registered as a member of the profession if he satisfies the Council that —
 - (a) he has passed the qualifying examination for registration recognized or conducted by the Council under this Bill and completes the practical training prescribed if any;
 - (b) immediately before the commencement of this Bill, he holds

qualification approved for membership of the Profession and has completed the post qualification experience; or

- (c) he is by law entitled to practice for all purposes as Pharmaceutical Technologist, Pharmacy Technician or a practitioner in the country in which the qualification was granted.
- (2) Every Pharmaceutical Technologist or Pharmacy Technician shall also be entitled to be registered under the Act if he holds Certificate as may be recognized by the Council from time to time and his conduct after qualification has been continually satisfactory for a period of not less than 3 years.
- (3) An application to the Board for registration shall be in the prescribed form contained in schedule 1 and shall state clearly —
- (a) the name of the applicant and the institutions attended with qualification obtained and dates;
 - (b) name of two registered members as referees who shall endorse the application;
 - (c) 2 copies of passport sized photographs certified by the referees named above; and
 - (d) the certificate of registration shall be in the form contained in schedule 2 to this Bill.
- (4) An application to the Council for registration under this Bill shall in addition to evidence of qualification, satisfy the Council that the applicant —
- (a) is of good character;
 - (b) has attained the age of 18 years; and
 - (c) has not been convicted in Nigeria or elsewhere of any offence involving fraud or dishonesty.
- (5) The Council may, in its sole discretion, provisionally accept a qualification produced in respect of an application for registration under this section or direct that the application be renewed within a period as may be specified.
- (6) Any entry directed to be made in the register, under subsection (5) of this section, shall show that the registration is provisional and no entry so made shall be converted to full registration without the consent of the Council signified in writing in that behalf.
- (8) The Council shall from time to time, publish in the gazette, particulars of qualification for the time being accepted for registration under this Bill.
- (9) Every registered member shall, on or before the 31st March of each year, pay a fee to be fixed by the Council for retention of his name in the register in addition to annual practicing fee (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 14 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 15: Approval of Qualifications, etc.

- (1) The Council may approve any qualification for the purpose of this Bill, and may for the same purpose approve —
 - (a) any course of training at any approved institution which is intended for persons seeking to become or who are already members of the profession and which in the opinion of the Council is designed to confer sufficient knowledge and skill on persons completing it for the practice of the profession;
 - (b) any qualification which, as a result of examination taken in conjunction with a course of training approved by the Council under this section is granted to candidates reaching a standard at the examination, indicating in the opinion of the Council that the candidates have sufficient knowledge and skill for the practice of the profession.
- (2) The Council may withdraw any approval given under this section in respect of any course, qualification or institution; but before withdrawing the approval the Council shall —
 - (a) give notice that it proposes to do so to persons in Nigeria appearing to the Council to be persons by whom the course is conducted or the qualification is granted or the institution is controlled as the case may be;
 - (b) afford the personal opportunity of making representations to the Council with regard to the proposal; and
 - (c) take into consideration any representation made with respect to the proposal pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section.
- (3) A course, qualification or institution shall not be treated as approved during any period the approval is withdrawn under subsection (2) of this section.
- (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (3) of this section, the withdrawal of an approval under subsection (2) of this section, shall not prejudice the registration or eligibility for registration of any person who by virtue of the approval was registered or was eligible for registration (either unconditionally or prior to his obtaining a certificate of experience) immediately before the approval was withdrawn.
- (5) The giving or withdrawal of an approval under this section shall have effect from the date, either before or after the execution of the instrument signifying the giving or withdrawal of the approval, as the Council may specify in the instrument and the Council shall —
 - (a) expeditiously publish a copy of the instrument in the Gazette; and
 - (b) not later than 7 days before its publication, send a copy of the instrument to the Minister (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 15 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 16: Supervision of Instructions and Examinations Leading to Approved

Qualification.

- (1) The Council shall keep itself informed of the nature of the —
 - (a) instruction given at approved institution to persons attending approved courses of training; and
 - (b) examinations as a result of which approved qualifications are granted; and for the purpose of performing these duties, the Council may appoint, either from among its own members or otherwise, persons to visit the approved institutions, or to observe the examinations.
- (2) A person appointed under subsection (1) of this section shall report to the Council on —
 - (a) the adequacy or otherwise of the instruction given to persons attending approved course of training at institutions visited;
 - (b) the adequacy or otherwise of the examination conducted at any institution he visited; and
 - (c) any other matter to the institutions or examinations on which the Council may, either generally or in a particular case, request him to report; but no appointed person shall interfere with the giving of any instruction or the holding of any examination.
- (3) On the receipt of a report made pursuant to this section, the Council may, if it thinks fit and shall, if so required by the Council, send a copy of the report to the person appearing to the Council to be in charge of the institution or responsible for the examination to which the report relates, requesting that person to make observation on the report to the Council within such period as may be specified in the request, not being less than one month from the date of the request (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 16 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART V — PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE**Clause 17: Establishment of Disciplinary Tribunal and Investigating Panel.**

- (1) There is established a body to be known as the Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians Disciplinary Tribunal (in this Bill referred to as "the Tribunal") which shall be charged with the duty of considering and determining any case referred to it by the Investigation Panel established by subsection (3) of this section and any other case of which the Tribunal has cognizance under the following provisions of this Bill.
- (2) The Tribunal shall consist of the Chairman and 2 other members of the Council, 4 members of the Council from different geo-political zones and 1 Legal practitioner of at least 10 years post call who is to serve in advisory capacity.
- (3) There shall be a body, to be known as the Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians Investigating Panel (in this Bill referred to as "the Panel") which shall be charged with the duty of —

- (a) conducting preliminary investigation into any case where it is alleged that a member of the profession has misbehaved in his capacity as a member or should for any other reason be the subject of proceedings before the Tribunal;
 - (b) deciding whether the case should be referred to the Tribunal; and
 - (c) submitting a report on any action taken in the past to the Tribunal.
- (4) The panel shall be appointed by the Council and shall consist of 2 members of the Council, 3 members of the Council who are not members of the Council, and 1 legal practitioner of at least 2 years post call who is to serve in advisory capacity.
- (5) The provision of Schedule 3 to this Bill, shall, so far as it is applicable to the Tribunal and the Panel respectively, have effect with respect to those bodies.
- (6) The Council may make rules not inconsistent with this Bill as to acts which constitute professional misconduct (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 17 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 18: Penalties for Unprofessional Conducts, etc.

- (1) Where —
 - (a) a member of the Council is judged by the Tribunal to be guilty of infamous conduct or professional misconduct;
 - (b) a member is convicted of a criminal offence by any Court or Tribunal in Nigeria or elsewhere having power to award punishment for an offence (whether or not punishable with imprisonment) which in the opinion of the Tribunals is incompatible with the status of a member of the profession;
 - (c) a member's conduct after registration has not been satisfactory;
 - (d) a member's performance falls below established standards set by the Council;
 - (e) a member's behavior is deemed unethical to this profession as a Pharmaceutical Technologist or Pharmacy Technician; or
 - (f) the Tribunal is satisfied that a person's name has been fraudulently registered; the Tribunal may give a direction reprimanding that person or ordering the Registrar to strike his name off the relevant part of the register.
- (2) The Tribunal may defer or further defer its decision to give a direction under subsection (1) until a subsequent meeting of the Tribunal; but —
 - (a) no decision shall be deferred under this subsection for periods exceeding one year in the aggregate; and

- (b) no person shall be a member of the Tribunal for the purpose of reaching a decision which has been deferred or further deferred unless he was present as a member of the Tribunal when the decision was deferred.
- (3) For the purpose of subsection (1) (b) of this section, a person shall be treated as convicted, unless the conviction stands at time when no appeal or further appeal is pending or may (without extension of time) be brought in connection with the conviction.
- (4) When the Tribunal gives a direction under subsection (1) of this section the Tribunal shall cause notice of the direction to be served on the person to whom it relates.
- (5) A person to whom a direction relates may, at any time within 28 days from the date of service on him of notice of the direction, appeal against the direction to the Court of Appeal and the Tribunal may appear as respondent to the appeal and for the purpose of enabling direction to be given as to the costs of the appeal and of proceedings before the Court of Appeal, the Tribunal shall be deemed to be a party whether or not it appears on the hearing of the appeal.
- (6) A direction of the Tribunal under subsection (1) of this section shall take effect where —
 - (a) no appeal under this section is brought against the direction within the time specified in this Bill for an appeal, on the expiration of that time;
 - (b) an appeal is brought and is withdrawn or struck out for want of prosecution, on the withdrawal or striking out of the appeal; or
 - (c) an appeal is brought and is not withdrawn or struck out, if and when the appeal is dismissed.
- (7) A member whose name is struck off the register in pursuance of a direction of the Tribunal under this section may be re-registered if his conduct is satisfactory to the Council and the Council so directs in writing except where the member has been convicted of a criminal offence (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 18 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART IV — OFFENCES

Clause 19: Offences.

- (1) Any person who, for the purpose of procuring the registration of any name qualification or other matter —
 - (a) makes a statement which he believes to be false in a material particular; or
 - (b) recklessly makes a statement which is false in a particular; commits an offence.
- (2) If on or after the commencement of this Bill, a person who is not a member

of the Council practice or holds himself out to practice for or in expectation of reward or takes or uses any name, title, addition or description implying that he is a member of the Council, he commits an offence.

- (3) A person who practice the profession without a qualifying Certificate or Diploma and without being Licensed by the Council in addition to such qualification commits an offence and is liable on conviction to —
- (a) a fine of an amount not less than ₦100,000 for a first offender
 - (b) imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years; or
 - (c) both.
- (4) Subsection (2) of this section shall not apply in respect of anything done by a person falling within section 20 subsection (1) of this Bill —
- (a) during the period of 6 months mentioned in section 20 of this Bill; and
 - (b) if within that period he duly applies for membership of the Council then, unless within that period he is notified that his application has not been approved, this subsection shall not apply in respect of anything done by him between the end of that period and the date on which he is registered or is notified.
- (5) If the Registrar or any other person employed by or on behalf of the Council willfully makes any falsification in any matter relating to the register, he or she has committed an offence.
- (6) A person who commits an offence under this section, except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, is liable on conviction to —
- (a) a fine of any amount not exceeding ₦150,000;
 - (b) to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 year; or
 - (c) both.
- (7) Where an offence under this section which has been committed by a body corporate is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of any director, manager, secretary or any other similar officer of the body corporate or any person purporting to act in that capacity, he or she as well as the body corporate, shall be deemed to have committed the offence and is liable on conviction to be a fine of ₦5,000,000 (Five Million Naira) (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 19 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART V — MISCELLANEOUS

Clause 20: Application of this Bill to Unregistered Practitioners.

- (1) At the commencement of this Bill —
- (a) a person who holds a Certificate or Diploma in Pharmaceutical Technology or Pharmacy Techniques from an Institution either in

Nigeria or abroad approved pursuant to section 15 (1) of this Bill, shall, within 6 months of the commencement of this Bill, apply to be licensed by the Council in order to be allowed to practice the profession in Nigeria;

(b) a person who has obtained a qualification in a cadre in the health sector that is related to the profession and listed among the cadre that may be allowed to practice the profession shall apply to the Council for a license and the Council may grant the person license if —

(i) he has trained for 12 months in a workshop organized by the Council; and

(ii) he has passed the qualifying exam at the conclusion of the workshop.

(2) The Council shall from time to time review the list of cadre in the health sector that is related to the profession pursuant to the provisions of subsection (1) (b) of this section and make rules stopping the application of the provision of that subsection (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 20 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 21: When a Person is Deemed to Practice as a Member of the Profession.

(1) A person shall be deemed to practice the profession if for consideration of remuneration received or to be received, he, and either by himself or in partnership with any person —

(a) engages himself in the practice of the profession or holds himself out to the public as a member of the profession;

(b) renders professional service or assistance in or about matters of principle or detail relating to the profession; or

(c) renders any other services which may by regulations made by the Council, with the approval of the Minister be designated as service constituting practice as a professional (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 21 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 22: Rules as to Articles, etc.

(1) The Council may make rules for —

(a) registered members of the Council to train suitable persons as Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians;

(b) the supervision and regulation of the engagement, training and transfer of persons trained pursuant to subparagraph (a).

(2) The Council may make rules —

(a) prescribing the form of license to practice to be issued annually or if the council deems fit, by endorsement on an existing license;

- (b) prescribing the fees to be paid by members of the profession;
 - (c) restricting the right to practice in default of payment of the amount of the annual subscription where the default continues for a longer period than that prescribed in the rules.
- (3) The Chairman of the Council may direct that rules made under this section be published in the gazette (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 22 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 23: Honorary Membership.

The Council shall be free to award honorary membership of the Council to persons whom it considers worthy of the honour, on terms and conditions prescribed by the council and approved by the Council in the general meeting (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 23 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 24: Provision of Library Facilities, etc.

The Council shall —

- (a) provide and maintain a library comprising of books and publication for the advancement of knowledge of the profession and other books and publications as the Council may think necessary for the purpose; and
- (b) encourage research into the profession and allied subjects as may be relevant to the profession to the extent that the Council may from time to time consider necessary (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 24 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 25: Power of the Minister to Give Directions to the Council.

The Minister may give to the Council directions of a general nature relating either generally or particular, matters (but not to an individual matter or case) with regard to the exercise of its functions by the Council and it shall be the duty of the Council to comply with the directives (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 25 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 26: Regulations.

- (1) Any regulations made under this Bill shall be sent to the Minister not later than 7 days before they are published in the Gazette.
- (2) Rules made for the purpose of this Bill shall be subject to confirmation by the Council at its next general meeting or at any special meeting of the Council convened for the purpose and if then annulled, shall cease to have effect on the day after the date of annulment, but without prejudice to anything done in pursuance or intended pursuant to the rules.
- (3) The Council may with the approval of the Minister make regulations directing the method and manner in which it shall carry out its business under this Bill (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 26 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 27: Consequential Amendment.

Section 4 (1) (j), (k), (l), (m), (n) and (q) of the Pharmacy Council of Nigeria (Establishment) Act, 2021 is amended by deleting the words, "Pharmacy technicians" wherever appearing and "in all aspects and ramifications" appearing in section 4 (1) (q) (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 27 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 28: Transfer to the Council of Certain Assets and Liabilities.

(1) On the commencement of this Bill —

- (a) all necessary Assets for the starting up of operation by the Council shall be jointly provided by the Federal Ministry of Health, States Ministries of Health, National Association of Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians of Nigeria, and the Medical and Health Workers Union of Nigeria; and
- (b) the provision of schedules 5 to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the proportion in which the bodies stated in subsection (1) of this section shall provide the necessary Assets for the take-off of the Council (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 28 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 29: Interpretation.

In this Bill;

"Association" means the National Association of Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians of Nigeria (NAPTTON) registered under the Companies and Allied Matter Acts (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word "Association" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Council" means the Council established as the governing body of the board under section 5 of this Bill (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word "Council" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Tribunal" means the Board Disciplinary Tribunal established under section 17 subsections (1) of this Bill (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word "Tribunal" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Enrolled" in relation to a fellow, member, associate and affiliate member means registered in the part of the register relating to fellow, members or affiliate member as the case may be (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"Fees" includes annual subscription (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"Member of the Council" means a registered member of the Council and includes the Chairman (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"Minister" means the Minister charged with the responsibility for matters relating to Health (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"NAFDAC Act" means National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control Act, Cap. N1, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the abbreviation “NAFDAC Act” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Panel" means the Council's Investigating Panel established under section 17 (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"Profession" means the profession of Pharmaceutical Technologies and Pharmacy Techniques (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"Pharmacy Technician" means a person who has been trained in Institutions recognized by the Council including Schools or Colleges of Health Technology, Teaching Hospitals and Polytechnics and has obtained a Certificate or Diploma in Pharmacy Technique or Pharmaceutical Technology and by virtue of the qualification can mix, compound, prepare, dispense and supply non-scheduled Pharmaceutical products, and Primary Health care essential drugs (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"Pharmaceutical Technologist" means a person who is first, a Pharmacy Technician and has in addition to that, attained advance training and a qualification of Higher

National Diploma or its equivalent in Pharmaceutical Technology (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"President" means the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"Principal Officers of the Council" means the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Vice Chairman, Registrar and Zonal Deputy Registrars of the Board (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words “Principal Officers of the Council” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Register" means the register containing the names and particulars of qualified members of the Board maintained pursuant to section 10 of this Bill (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"registered member" means a member of the National Association of Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians of Nigeria whose name has been registered by the Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians Council; and (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"Registrar" means the Registrar of the Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians Council under section 10 of this Bill (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Question that Clause 29 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 30: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians Regulatory Council of Nigeria Bill, 2025 (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 30 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGISTS AND PHARMACY

TECHNICIANS REGULATORY COUNCIL OF NIGERIA

Registration Form

Enrolment number:

Date:

1. Name of member Mr/Mrs/Miss:

2. Date of Birth:

3. Year of Qualification:

4. School Attended:

5. State of Origin:

6. Present Station:

7. Home Address:

8. Official Address:

9. Nationality:

10. Religion:

11. (a) Next of Kin:

(b) Address of Next of Kin:

12. Referees:

(a) Name:

Address:

Signature:

(b) Name:

Address:

Signature:

13. I undertakes that the above information is true.

.....

*Signature of Member.***FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

Name of State Chairman of NAPTTON:

Name of State Secretary NAPTTON:

Approved or not Approved:

.....
Chairman

.....
Registrar (Hon. Abubakar
H a s s a n F u l a t a —
Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal
Constituency).

Question that the provisions of Schedule 1 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

SCHEDULES 2

PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGISTS AND PHARMACY TECHNICIANS REGULATORY COUNCIL OF NIGERIA

LICENSE TO PRACTICE

License No:.....

This is to certify that

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Chief:.....is licensed to practice as a:

- (a) Pharmaceutical Technologist
- (b) Pharmacy Technician.

This license is given for the period of to

.....
Chairman

.....
Registrar (Hon. Abubakar
H a s s a n F u l a t a —
Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal
Constituency).

Question that the provisions of Schedule 2 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

SCHEDULE 3

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS IN RELATION TO THE COUNCIL

1. (1) Subject to the provision of this paragraph, every elected principal officer of the Council shall hold office for one year in the first instance and shall be eligible for reelection for a further term of one year in the same office beginning with the date of this appointment election.
- (2) An officer of the Council who ceases to be a member shall, if he is also a member of the Council, cease to hold office in the Council.
- (3) An appointed member may, by notice in writing under his hand addressed to the Minister resign his office.
- (4) A person who retires from or otherwise ceases to be a member of the Council shall be eligible to be re-elected or re-appointed a member of the Council.
- (5) Where a member vacates his elected office for any reason, the council shall, if the

unexpired period of his term of office warrants the filling of the vacancy, notify the Minister to recommend an appropriate member to the President for appointment for the unexpired term.

- (6) A person appointed pursuant to subsection (5) may on completion of the unexpired term, be re-appointed if he so qualifies.
- (7) The Council shall be constituted a month before the end of an existing term off office.

Powers of Council

- 2. (1) The Council shall have power to manage the Board's business and in particular —
 - (a) do anything which in its opinion is calculated to facilitate the activities of the Council;
 - (b) exercise all powers of the Council to borrow money, within Nigeria or overseas, subject to the banking laws of the country, mortgage or charge its undertaking and property or any part thereof and to issue off the debentures, debenture stocks, and other securities whether outright or as security for any debt, liability or obligation of the Council;
 - (c) set up as soon as practicable the general meeting, an executive committee of Council which shall meet regularly and carry out the normal business of Council between the regular meetings of Council; and
 - (d) may at any time establish a branch of the Council in any locality within the country
- (2) The Council shall have power to make, alter and repeal any regulations as it may deem necessary for the proper conducts and management of the Council
- (3) The Council shall adopt means as it deems sufficient to bring to the notice of the Council and all its members, regulations, alterations and repeals made under the powers conferred by this Bill and no regulations shall be inconsistent with, affect or repeal anything contained in this Bill or constitute an amendment of or addition to this Bill, and where a regulation is inconsistent with the provisions of this Bill, that regulation shall be void to the extent of its inconsistency.

Proceedings of the Council

- 3. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, and section 27 of the interpretation Act, the Council may in the name of the Board make standing orders regulating the proceedings of the Board or of the Council, and in the exercise of its power under this Bill may set up committees in the general interest of the Council and make standing orders in that regard.
- (2) The standing order shall provide for decisions to be taken by a majority of the members and in the event of equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a second casting vote.
- (3) Standing orders made for a committee shall be for the committee to report back to the Council on any matter referred to it by the Council.

- (4) The quorum of the Council shall be five and the quorum of the committee of the Council shall be fixed by the Council.

Meeting of the Council

4. (1) Subject to the provisions of any standing orders of the Council, the Council shall meet biannually or whenever it is summoned by the Chairman and if the Chairman is required to do so notice in writing given to him by not less than five other members of the Council, he shall summon a meeting of the Council to be held fourteen days from the date on which the notice is given.
- (2) At any meeting of the Council, the Chairman or in his absence the Deputy Chairman shall preside; but if both of them are absent, the Vice Chairman shall preside.
- (3) Where the Council desires to obtain the advice of any person on a particular matter, the Council may co-opt him as a member for a period as the Council deems fit; but a person who is a member by virtue of this sub-paragraph, shall not count towards a quorum.
- (3) Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this paragraph, the first meeting of the Council shall be convened after consultation with the Minister.

Committees

5. (1) The Council may appoint one or more regular or ad-hoc committees to assist in carrying out, on behalf of the Council such functions as the Council may determine.
- (2) A committee appointed under this paragraph shall consist of the number of persons determined by the Council of whom not more than one third may be persons who are not members of the Council.
- (3) A person other than a member of the Council shall hold office on the committees in accordance with the terms of the letter by which he is appointed.
- (4) A decision of a committee shall be of no effect until it is confirmed by the Council.
6. (1) The fixing of the seal of the Council shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman or of some other members of the Council authorized generally or specially by the Council to act for that purpose.
- (2) Any contract or instrument which, if made or executed by a person not being body corporate, will not be required to be under seal, may be made or executed on behalf of the Board or of the Council, as the case may require, by any person generally or specially authorized to act for that purpose by the Council.
- (3) Any document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal of the Council shall be received and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be so executed.
7. The validity of any proceedings of the Board, Council or a committee shall not be adversely affected by any vacancy in membership or any defect in the appointment of a member of the Board, Council or of a person to serve on a committee or by reason that a person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings.
8. Any member of the Council and any person holding office on a committee of the Council, who has a personal interest in any contract or arrangement entered into or proposed to be

considered by the Council shall immediately disclose his interest to the President of the Council and shall not vote on any question relating to the contract or arrangement.

9. A person shall not by any reason only of the membership of the Council be treated as holding an office in the Public Service of the Federation (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that the provisions of the Schedule 3 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

SCHEDULE 4

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISION RELATING TO THE DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL AND INVESTIGATING PANEL

The Disciplinary Tribunal

1. The quorum of the Tribunal shall be 5 members
2.
 - (1) The Attorney-General of the Federation may make rules as to the selection of members of the Tribunal for the purpose of any proceeding, and as to the procedure to be followed and the rules of the evidence to be observed in proceedings before the Tribunal.
 - (2) The rules shall provide —
 - (a) for securing that notice of the proceeding shall be given at such time and in such manner as may be specified by the rules to a person who is the subject who is the subject of a proceeding;
 - (b) for determining who in addition to the person aforesaid, shall be a party to the proceedings;
 - (c) for securing that any party to the proceedings shall, if he so requests, be entitled to be heard by the Disciplinary Tribunal;
 - (d) for securing that any party to the proceedings may be represented by a legal practitioner;
 - (e) subject to the provisions of section 18 (5) of this Bill, as to the costs of proceedings before the Tribunal;
 - (f) for requiring, in a case where it is alleged that a person who is the subject of the proceedings is guilty of infamous conduct in any professional respect, that where the Tribunal adjudges that the allegation has not been proved it shall record a finding that the person is not guilty of the conduct in respect of the matters to which the allegation relates; and
 - (g) for publishing in the Gazette, notice of any direction of the Tribunal which has taken effect providing that a person's name shall be struck off a register.
3. For the purpose of any proceedings before the Tribunal, any member of the Tribunal may administer oaths and any party to the proceedings may issue out of the registry of the High Court writs of subpoena *ad testificandum* or *duces tecum*; but no person appearing before the Tribunal shall be compelled —
 - (a) to make any statement before the Tribunal tending to incriminate himself; or

- (b) to produce any document under such a writ which he could not be compelled to produce at the trial of an action.
- 4.
 - (1) For the purpose of advising the Tribunal on questions of Law arising in proceedings before it, there shall in all such proceedings be an assessor to the Tribunal who shall be appointed by the Council on the nomination of the Attorney- General of the Federation and shall be a legal practitioner of not less than 10 years standing.
 - (2) The Attorney-General of the Federation shall make rules as to the functions of the assessors appointed under this paragraph and in particular the rules shall contain provisions for securing —
 - (a) that where an assessor advises the Tribunal on any question of law as to evidence, procedure or any other matter specified by the rules, he shall do so in the presence of every party or person representing a party to the proceedings who appears at the proceeding or, if the advice is tendered while the Tribunal is deliberating in private, that every such party or person shall be informed of what advice the assessor has tendered; and
 - (b) that every party or person as mentioned in paragraph (a) shall be informed if in any case the Tribunal does not accept the advice of the assessor on the question.
 - (3) Any assessor may be appointed under this paragraph, either generally or for a particular proceeding or class of proceedings and shall hold and vacate office in accordance with the terms of the letter by which he is appointed.

The Panel

- 5. The quorum of the Panel shall be three.
- 6.
 - (1) The panel may, at any of its meeting attended by its members make standing orders with respect to the Panel.
 - (2) The Panel may regulates its own procedure subject to the provisions of any standing orders made pursuant to subparagraph (1).

Miscellaneous

- 7.
 - (1) A person who has ceased to be a member of the Tribunal or the Panel shall be eligible for re-appointment as a member of the Tribunal or Panel, as the case may be.
 - (2) A person may, if otherwise eligible, be a member of both the Tribunal and the Panel; but no person who acted as a member of the Panel with respect to any case shall act as a member of the Tribunal with respect to that case.
- 8. The Tribunal or the panel may act notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership; and the proceedings of either body shall not be invalidated by any irregularity in the appointment if a member of that body or (subject to paragraph 7 (2) of this schedule) by reason of the fact any person who was not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings of that body.
- 9. The Council shall defray the cost of serving any document authorised or required by virtue of this Bill to be served on the Tribunal or the Panel.

10. Any expenses of the Tribunal or the Panel shall be defrayed by the Council (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

SCHEDULE 5

PROPORTIONAL PROVISION OF ASSETS NECESSARY FOR THE TAKE-OFF OF THE COUNCIL

Transfer of Assets and liabilities

1. The proportion in which the assets necessary for the take-off of the Council shall be provided shall be as follows —
- (a) the Federal Government shall provide 25% of the assets;
 - (b) the 36 States of the federation shall provide 50% of the assets in equal proportion among the states;
 - (c) National Association of Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians of Nigeria shall provide 10% of the assets; and
 - (d) Medical and Health Workers' Union of Nigeria shall provide 15% of the assets.

Commencement of Functions, etc.

2. (1) The Council shall be constituted at the commencement of this Bill and at its first meeting and the Council shall fix a date (not later than six months after the commencement of this Bill) for the first biannual general meeting of the Council.
- (2) The members of the Association shall be deemed to be members of the Council until the date determined in pursuance of sub-paragraph (1) when the Board shall have its first biannual meeting and they shall cease to be members unless they are licensed to practice the profession in accordance to the provisions of this Bill and the Rules made by the Council.
- (3) Any person who, immediately before the commencement of this Bill held office as the President, Deputy President, and Secretary General of the Association shall on commencement of this Bill become the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Vice Chairman of the board; the Registrar of the Board shall be appointed from among committed members of the Association on the recommendation of the Chairman and shall be deemed to have been appointed on the following conditions;
- (a) that the tenure of office at the commencement of the Council shall be equivalent with the tenure of office of the Association;
 - (b) the date of termination of office shall be the same as the date of termination of the existing term of office in the Association; and
 - (c) the officials of the Council so appointed shall qualify for reappointment only if they are re-elected into the same office in the Association (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that the provisions of Schedule 5 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to establish the Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians Regulatory Council, to among other things:

- (a) determine what standards of knowledge and skill are to be attained by persons seeking to become Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians;
- (b) promote the highest standard of competence, practice and conduct among members of the profession; and
- (c) ensure that determined standards are strictly observed (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians Regulatory Council of Nigeria to be Vested the Responsibility of Determining Standards of Knowledge and Skills to be Attained by Persons Seeking to Become Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians and for Related Matters (HB. 345) (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish Pharmaceutical Technologists and Pharmacy Technicians Regulatory Council of Nigeria to be vested with responsibility of determining Standards of knowledge and Skills to be attained by persons seeking to become Pharmaceutical Technologist and Pharmacy Technicians and for Related Matters (HB.345) and approved Clauses 1 - 30, the Schedules, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

- (ii) ***A Bill for an Act to Establish Nigerian Institute of Chartered Foresters and for Related Matters (HB. 896) (Committee of the Whole):***

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish Nigerian Institute of Chartered Foresters and for Related Matters (HB. 896)” (Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH NIGERIA INSTITUTE OF
CHARTERED FORESTERS; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB.896)

*The Nigerian Institute of Chartered Foresters***Clause 1: Establishment of Nigerian institute of Chartered Foresters.**

- (1) There shall be established a body to be known as the Nigerian Institute of Chartered Foresters (in this Bill hereafter referred to as "the Institute ") which shall be a body corporate under that name and be charged with the general duty of —
 - (a) determining what standards of knowledge and skill are to be attained by persons seeking to become members of the forestry profession and raising those standards from time to time as circumstance may permit.
 - (b) securing in accordance with the provisions of this Bill the establishment and maintenance of register of fellows, chartered members, associates and registered foresters entitled to practice as foresters and the publication from time to time of list of those persons; and
 - (c) performing through the Council under this Bill the functions conferred on it by this Bill.
- (2) The Institute shall have perpetual succession and a common seal which shall be kept in such custody as the Council under this Bill may from time to time authorize.
- (3) The institute may sue and be sued in its corporate name and may hold, acquire and dispose of any property, movable or immovable.
- (4) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, members admitted to the institute shall be enrolled in the category of :
 - (i) Fellows; or
 - (ii) Chartered Members; or
 - (iii) Associates; or
 - (iv) registered as Registered Members, either ordinary or student, and shall have status therein, as accorded by the rules of the institute, so however that no ordinary or student member admitted under subsection shall hold office under this Bill, and a student member shall not be entitled to a vote at any meeting.
- (5) Any fit person shall be accorded by the institute under this Bill status as a fellow, Chartered member or an associate in the following cases, that is to say —
 - (a) shall be elected as a fellow, if:
 - (i) he has been a chartered forester for at least five years next preceding the date of application in that behalf and have, in addition to being a holder of approved academic qualifications, been in continuous practice on his own account as a chartered forester or in partnership with other chartered forester;

- (ii) he has been a chartered forester for a period of not less than ten years immediately preceding the date of application of such enrolment (period of membership of association, in the discretion of the council, counting in that behalf) he has been enrolled as a chartered forester, or qualified to be so enrolled whether in practice as forester or not and has made substantial contribution to enhance the forestry profession;
- (b) shall be elected as a chartered member if he possesses any of the following qualifications :
 - (i) a forestry degree (Bachelors, Masters or Doctorate) from a University accredited by the institute;
 - (ii) a postgraduate diploma in forestry from institutions accredited by the institute and applicant with either qualification shall submit details of his work in forestry in a log book endorsed by a chartered forester, pass the competence examination and or professional interview conducted by the Council and must have been actively engaged in forestry profession for a period of at least five years under this Bill;
 - (iii) provided that subsection 5 (a) and (b) of this section shall not be operative until two years after the commencement of this Bill; that is there shall only be enrolled as the first fellows of the institute two years after commencement of this Bill, foresters who must have immediately applied in writing with detailed curriculum vitae to the institute upon commencement of this Bill, to be enrolled and recognised as a chartered forester and must have been so recognised by the institute for two years.
- (c) shall be elected as an associate member if he :
 - (i) possess a Higher National Diploma in Forestry or it's equivalent from institution accredited by the institute
 - (ii) submit details of his work in forestry in a log book endorsed by a chartered forester, pass the professional interview conducted by the Council;
- (6) Any fit person shall be registered as registered member —
 - (a) as an ordinary member, if he satisfies the council as to his qualification for admission to such category; or
 - (b) as a student member, if being a student he satisfies the council of his qualification for registration as a student member.
- (7) Where a person is enrolled or registered as the case maybe in the institute, he shall be entitled to the use of such letter after his name as may be authorized by the Council according as he is a fellow, chartered forester, an associate or a registered member, and shall, when enrolled or registered, as the case may be, receive a certificate in such form as the council may approve for the purpose (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 2: Council of institute and membership, etc.

- (1) There shall be as the governing body of the institute, a council charged with the administration and general management of the institute, and the council shall consist of a total of eleven persons, being fellows or chartered foresters members, as follows —
 - (a) two persons nominated by the Federal Minister of Environment, of whom each shall be fellows or chartered foresters whether in practice as foresters or not; and
 - (b) nine persons elected by the institute of whom five shall be members in practice as Foresters.
- (2) The provisions of the First Schedule of this Bill shall have effect with respect to the qualifications and tenure of office of members of the Council and the other matters there mentioned.
- (3) Regulations made by the Council with the approval the Minister of Environment may provide for increasing or reducing the membership of the Council and may make such amendments to subsection (1) of this section and paragraph 1 of the First Schedule to this Bill as the Minister consider expedient for the purpose of or in consequence of the increase or reduction (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 3: President, of the Institute, etc.

- (1) There shall be a President and Vice-President of the institute who, subject to the provision of section 5 and of the Second Schedule to this Bill, shall be elected by the Council under this Bill and hold office each, for a term of one year from the date of election, and the President shall be Chairman at meetings of the institution, so however that, in the event of the death, incapacity or inability for any reason of the president, the vice-president shall act in his stead for the unexpired portion of the term of office, or as the case may require, and references in this Bill to the president shall be construed accordingly.
- (2) The president and vice-president shall respectively be chairman and vice chairman of the Council under this Bill.
- (3) If the president or the vice-president ceases to be a member of the institute he shall cease to hold any of the offices designated under this section (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 4: Financial Provisions.

- (1) The Council shall establish and maintain a fund, the management and control of which shall be in the hands of the Council, and into which shall be paid all moneys received by the Council including moneys held by the Forestry Association of Nigeria incorporated under the Companies and Allied Matters Act (and in this Bill hereafter referred to as "the association") on its

ceasing to exist as provided in the next succeeding section, and there shall be paid there-out accounts and other liabilities incurred by or on behalf of the institute under this Bill.

- (2) The Council may invest moneys in the fund in any security created or issued by or on behalf of the Government of the Federation or in any other securities in Nigeria approved by the Council.
- (3) The Council may from time to time borrow money for the purposes of the institute, and any interest payable on moneys so borrowed shall be paid out of the fund.
- (4) The Council shall keep proper accounts on behalf of the institute in respect of each financial year and proper records in relation to those accounts; and the Council shall cause the accounts to be audited by a Chartered Accountant appointed by the Council and when audited, the accounts shall be submitted to the members of the institute for approval by them at the next annual general meeting (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 5: Transitional provisions as to Property and function, etc.

- (1) On the appointed day —
 - (a) all property held immediately before that day by or on behalf of the association shall, by virtue of this subsection and without further assurance, vest in the institute and be held by it for the purposes of the institute;
 - (b) the association shall cease to exist; and
 - (c) subject to the next succeeding subsection, any act, matter or thing made or done by the association shall cease to have effect.
- (2) The provisions of the Second Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to, and to matters arising from, the transfer by this section to the institute of the property of the association, and with respect to the other matters mentioned in that Schedule (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

The Register

Clause 6: Appointment of Registrar, and preparation of the register.

- (1) It shall be the duty of the Council to appoint a fit person to be the Registrar for the purpose of this Bill, and such other persons as the institute may from time to time think necessary.
- (2) It shall be the duty of the Registrar to prepare and maintain, in accordance with rules made by the Council, a register of names, addresses and approved qualifications, and of such other particulars as may be specified in the rules, of all persons who are entitled in accordance with the provisions of this Bill to be enrolled as fellows or as chartered foresters or as associates, or registered foresters, and who, in the manner prescribed by such rules, apply to be so registered.

- (3) The register shall consist of four parts of which one part shall be in respect of fellows, the second part shall be in respect of chartered foresters, the third part shall be in respect of associates and the third part shall be in respect of registered foresters.
- (4) Subject to the followings provisions of this section, the council shall make rules with respect to the form and keeping of the registers and the making of entries therein, and in particular —
 - (a) regulating the making of applications for enrolment or registration as the case may be, and providing for the evidence to be produced in support of applications;
 - (b) providing for the notification to the registrar, by the person to whom any registered particulars relate, of any change in those particulars;
 - (c) authorizing a registered person to have any qualification which is, in relation to the relevant division of the profession, either an approved qualification or an accepted qualification for the purposes of this Bill, registered in relation to his name in addition to or, as he may elect, in substitution for any other qualifications so registered;
 - (d) specifying the fees, including any annual subscription, to be paid to the institute in respect of the entry of names on the register, and authorizing the registrar to refuse to enter a name on the register until any fee specified for the entry has been paid;
 - (e) specifying anything falling to be specified under the foregoing provisions of this section, but rules made for the purposes of paragraph (d) of this subsection shall not come into force until they are confirmed at a special meeting of the institute convened for the purpose thereafter, or at the next annual general meeting, as the case may be.
- (5) It shall be the duty of the registrar:
 - (a) to correct, in accordance with the Council's directions, any entry in the register which the Council directs him to correct as being in the council's opinion an entry which was incorrectly made;
 - (b) to make from time to time any necessary alterations, in the registered particulars of registered persons;
 - (c) to remove from the register the name of any registered person who has died;
 - (d) to record the names of members of the institute who are in default for more than four months in the payment of annual subscriptions, and to take such action in relation thereto (including removal of the names of defaulters from the register) as the Council under this Bill may direct or require.
- (6) If the registrar:
 - (a) sends by post to any registered person, a registered letter addressed to him at his address on the register enquiring whether the registered

particulars relating to him are correct and receives no reply to the letter within the period of six months from the date of posting it; and upon the expiration of that period sends in the like manner to the person in question a second similar letter and receives no reply to that letter within three months from the date of posting it, the registrar may remove the particulars relating to the person in question from the register, and the Council may direct the registrar to restore to the appropriate part of the register any particulars removed therefrom under his subsection (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 7: Publication of register and lists of corrections.

- (1) It shall be the duty of the registrar —
 - (a) to cause the register to be printed, published and put on sale to members of the public not later than two years from the appointed day; and
 - (b) in each year after that in which the register is first published under paragraph (a) of this subsection, to cause to be printed, published and put on sale as aforesaid either a corrected edition of the register or a list of alterations made to the register since it was last printed; and
 - (c) to cause a print of each edition of the register and of each list of corrections to be deposited at the principal offices of the institute, and it shall be the duty of the Council to keep the register and lists so deposited available at all reasonable times for inspection by members of the public.
- (2) A document purporting to be a print of an edition of the register published under this section by authority of the registrar, or documents purporting to be prints of an edition of the register so published, and of a list of corrections to that edition so published, shall (without prejudice to any other mode of proof) be admissible in any proceedings as evidence that any person specified in the document, or the documents read together, as being registered was so registered at the date of the edition or of the list of corrections, as the case may be, and that any person not so specified was not so registered.
- (3) Where in accordance with subsection (2) of this section a person is, in any proceedings, shown to have been, or not to have been, registered at a particular date, he shall, unless the contrary is proved, be taken for the purposes of those proceedings as having at all material times thereafter continued to be, or not to be, so registered (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Registration

Clause 8: Registration of Foresters and others.

- (1) Subject to section 12 of this Bill and to rules made under section 6 of this Bill a person registered as a registered member shall be entitled to entry of his qualification in the register as a forester and may so apply if —

- (a) he passes and possess the required qualifications prescribed for the qualifying status in any institution accredited for that purpose by the institute, and completes the practical training prescribed; or
 - (b) he holds the equivalent qualification granted outside Nigeria and for the time being accepted by the institute and, if the Council so requires, satisfies the Council that he has had sufficient practical experience as a forester.
- (2) An applicant for registration under subsection (1) of this section shall, if so required by the Council, in addition to evidence of qualification, satisfy the council —
 - (a) that he is of good character:
 - (b) that he has attained the age of twenty-one years: and
 - (c) that he has not been convicted in Nigeria or else-where of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty.
- (3) The Council may in its sole discretion provisionally accept a qualification produced in respect of an application for registration under this section, or direct that an entry be made in the register accordingly, or where applicable direct that the application be renewed within such period as may be specified in the direction.
- (4) Any entry directed to be made in the register under subsection (3) of this section shall show that registration is provisional, and no entry so made shall be converted to full registration without the consent of the council signified in writing in that behalf.
- (5) The council shall from time to time publish in the Federal Gazette particulars of qualifications for the time being accepted as aforesaid (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 9: Approval of qualifications, etc.

- (1) The Council may approve any institution for the purposes of the Act, and may for those purposes approve —
 - (a) any course of training at an approved institution, which is intended for persons who are seeking to become or are already foresters and which the council considers is designed to confer on persons completing it sufficient Knowledge and skill for admission to status in the institute;
 - (b) any qualification which, as a result of an examination taken in conjunction with a course of training approved by the council under this section, is granted to candidates reaching a standard at the examination indicating the opinion of the members of the council that the candidates have sufficient knowledge and skill to practice foresters
- (2) The council may, if it thinks fit, withdraw any approval given under this section in respect of any course, qualification or institution: but before withdrawing such an approval the council shall —

- (a) give notice that it proposes to do so to each person in Nigeria appearing to the council to be a person by whom the course is conducted or the qualification is granted or the institution is controlled, as the case may be; and
 - (b) afford each such person an opportunity of making to the council representations with regard to the proposal; and
 - (c) take into consideration any representations made as respects the proposal in pursuance of the last foregoing paragraph.
- (3) As respects any period during which the approval of the council under this section for a course, qualification or institution is withdrawn, the course, qualification or institution shall not be treated as approved under this section; but the withdrawal of such an approval shall not prejudice the registration or eligibility for registration of any person who by virtue of the approval was registered or eligible for registration (either unconditionally or subject to his obtaining a certificate of experience) immediately before the approval was withdrawn.
- (4) The giving or withdrawal of an approval under this section shall have effect from the date, either before or after the execution of the instrument signifying the giving or withdrawal of the approval, as the council may specify in that instrument; and the council shall —
 - (a) as soon as maybe publish a copy of every such instrument in the Federal Gazette; and
 - (b) not later than seven days before its publication as aforesaid, send a copy of the instrument to the Minister of Environment (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Clause 10: Supervision of instruction and examinations leading to approved qualifications.
It shall be the duty of the members of the council of the institute to keep themselves informed of the nature of —

- (a) the instruction given at approved institutions to persons attending approved courses of training; and
- (b) the examinations as a result of which approved qualifications are granted and for purposes of performing that duty the Council of the institute may appoint, either from among its own members or otherwise, persons to visit approved institutions, or to attend such examinations (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Professional Discipline

Clause 11: Establishment of disciplinary tribunal and investigating panel.

- (1) There shall be a tribunal to be known as the Nigerian Institute of Chartered Foresters Disciplinary Tribunal (in this Bill hereafter referred to as 'the tribunal') which shall be charged with the duty of considering and

determining any case referred to it by the panel established by the following provisions this section, and any other case of which the tribunal has cognizance under the following provisions of this Bill.

- (2) The tribunal shall consist of the chairman of the Council and six other members of the Council appointed by the Council.
- (3) There shall be a body, to be known as the Investigating Panel of the Institute in this Bill hereafter referred to as “the panel” which shall be charged with the duty of —
 - (a) conducting a preliminary investigation into any case where it is alleged that a member has misbehaved in his capacity as a member of the institute, or should for any other reason be the subject of proceedings before the tribunal; and
 - (b) deciding whether the case should be referred to the tribunal
- (4) The panel shall be appointed by the Council and shall consist of three members of the Council and one associate who is not a member of the Council.
- (5) The provisions of the Third Schedule to this Bill shall, so far as applicable to the tribunal and the panel respectively, have effect with respect to those bodies (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 11 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 12: Penalties for unprofessional conduct, etc.

- (1) Where —
 - (a) a member is judged by the tribunal to be guilty of misconduct in any professional respect, or
 - (b) a member is convicted, by any Court in Nigeria or elsewhere having power to award imprisonment, of an offence (whether or not punishable with imprisonment) which in the opinion of the tribunal is incompatible with his status in the institute; or
 - (c) the tribunal is satisfied that the name of any person has been fraudulently registered, the tribunal may, if it thinks fit, give a direction reprimanding that person or ordering the registrar to strike his name off the relevant part of the register.
- (2) The tribunal may, if it thinks fit, defer or further defer its decision as to the giving of a direction under the foregoing subsection until a subsequent meeting of the tribunal; but —
 - (a) no decision shall be differed under this subsection for periods exceeding two years in the aggregate; and
 - (b) so far as possible no person shall be a member of the tribunal for the purposes of reaching a decision which has been deferred or further deferred unless he has present as a member of the tribunal when the decision was deferred.

- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1) (b) of this section, a person shall not be treated as convicted as therein mentioned unless the conviction stands at a time when no appeal or further appeal is pending or may (without extension of time) be brought in connection with the conviction.
- (4) When the tribunal gives a direction under subsection (1) of this section, the tribunal shall cause notice of the direction to be served on the person to whom it relates.
- (5) The person to whom such a direction relates may, at any time within twenty-eight days from the date of service on him of notice of the direction, appeal against the direction to the Court of Appeal and the tribunal may appear as respondent to the appeal and, for the purposes of enabling directions to be given as to the costs of the appeal and of proceedings before the tribunal, shall be deemed to be a party thereto whether or not it appears on the hearing of the appeal.
- (6) A direction of the tribunal under subsection (1) of this section shall take effect:
 - (a) where no appeal under this section is brought against the direction within the time limited for such an appeal, on the expiration of that time;
 - (b) where such an appeal is brought and is withdrawn or struck out for want of prosecution, on the withdrawal or striking out of the appeal;
 - (c) where such an appeal is brought and is not withdrawn or struck out as aforesaid if and when the appeal is dismissed, and shall not take effect except in accordance with the foregoing provisions of this subsection.
- (7) A person whose name is removed from the register in pursuance of a direction of the tribunal under this section shall not be entitled to be registered again except in pursuance of a direction in that behalf given by the tribunal on the application of that person; and a direction under this section for the removal of a person's name from the register may prohibit an application under this section by that person until the expiration of such period from the date of the direction (and where he has duly made such an application, from the date of his last application) as may be specified in the direction (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 12 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Miscellaneous and General

Clause 13: Application of Act to unenrolled persons.

Any person not a member of the institute who, but for this Bill, would have been qualified to apply for and obtain membership of an approved institute outside Nigeria may within the period of three months beginning with the appointed day apply for membership of the institute in such manner as may be prescribed by rules made by the Council; and if approved, he shall be enrolled or registered, as the case maybe, according to his qualifications (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 13 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 14: When persons are deemed to practise as Foresters.

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, a person shall be deemed to be actively engaged as a member of the institute if, in considerations of remuneration received or to be received, and whether by himself or in partnership with any other person —
 - (a) he engages himself in the practice of forestry or holds himself out to the public as a forester; or,
 - (b) he offers to perform or performs any service involving knowledge of the forestry profession; or
 - (c) he renders professional service or assistance in or about matters of principle or detail relating to forestry procedure or certification of facts or data; or
 - (d) he renders any other service which may by regulations made by the Council with the approval of the Minister of Environment be designated as service constituting practice as a forester under this Bill.
- (2) Nothing in this section shall be construed so as to apply to persons who, while employed by persons approved by the Council under this section or employed by any government or university in Nigeria, are required under the terms or in the course of such employment, to perform duties as foresters under this Bill (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 14 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 15: Rules as to articles, practicing fees, etc.

- (1) The Council may make rules:
 - (a) for the training of suitable persons in forestry methods and practice;
 - (b) for the supervision and regulation of the engagement, training and transfer of such persons; and
 - (c) for distinguishing between foresters and other auxiliary forestry personnel.
- (2) The Council may also make rules —
 - (a) prescribing the amount and due date for payment of the annual subscription and for such purpose different amounts maybe prescribed by the rules according as the member of the institute is a fellow, a chartered forester, an associate or an ordinary member or student member;
 - (b) prescribing (otherwise than in respect of a student who shall not require it) the form of license to practice to be issued every three years or, if the Council thinks fit, by endorsement on an existing license

- (c) restricting the right to practice as a member of the institute in default of payment of the amount of the annual subscription, where the default continues for longer than such period, as may be prescribed by the rules.
 - (d) restricting the right to practice as a member of the institute if the qualification granted outside Nigeria does not entitle the holder to practice as a member of the institute;
- (3) Rules when made shall, if the Chairman of the Council so directs, be published in the Federal Gazette (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 15 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 16: Provision of Library facilities, etc.

The institute shall :

- (a) provide and maintain a library comprising books and publications for the advancement of knowledge of forestry, and such others books and publications as the Council may think necessary for the purpose;
- (b) encourage research into forestry and other allied matters and subjects to the extent that the Council may from time to time consider necessary (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 16 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 17: Registrations and rules.

- (1) Any regulations made under this Bill shall be published in the Federal Gazette as soon as may be after they are made.
- (2) Rules made for the purposes of this Bill shall be subject to confirmation by the institute at its next annual general meeting or at any special meeting of the institute convened for the purpose, and if then annulled shall cease to have effect on the day after the date of annulment, but without prejudice to anything done in pursuance or intended pursuance of any such rules (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 17 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 18: Offences.

- (1) If any person for the purpose of procuring the registration of any name, qualification or other matter —
 - (a) makes a statement which he believes to be false in a material particular; or
 - (b) recklessly makes a statement which is false in a material particular, he shall be guilty of an offence.
- (2) If on or after the relevant date, any person not a member of the institute practices for or in expectation of reward, or takes or uses any name title, addition or description implying that he is in practice as a member of the

institute, he shall be guilty of an offence:

Provided that, in the case of a person falling within section 13 of this Bill:

- (a) this subsection shall not apply in respect of anything done by him during the period of three months mentioned in that section; and
 - (b) if within that period he duly applies for membership of the institute, then unless within that period he is notified that his application has not been approved this subsection shall not apply in respect of anything done by him between the end of that period and the date on which he is enrolled or registered or is notified as aforesaid.
- (3) If, on or after the relevant date, a member not otherwise entitled, holds himself out as a fellow or a chartered forester or an associates of the institute or takes or uses any name, title, addition or description implying that he is a fellow or a chartered forester or an associates of the institute as aforesaid, he shall be guilty of an offence.
- (4) If the registrar or any other person employed by or on behalf of the institute wilfully makes any falsification in any matter relating to the register, he shall be guilty of an offence.
- (5) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable —
- (a) on summary conviction for a first offence by any magistrate court to a fine of an amount not exceeding ten thousand naira;
 - (b) on conviction for a first offence by any court of superior jurisdiction to a fine of an amount not less than ten thousand naira or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or both.
- (6) Where an offence under this section which has been committed by a body corporate is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of the director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate or any person purporting to act in any such capacity, he as well as the body corporate, shall be deemed to be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.
- (7) In this section "the relevant date" means the third anniversary of the appointed day or such earlier date as may be prescribed for the purposes of this section by order of the Minister of Environment published in the Federal Gazette; and for the purpose of this section different dates may be prescribed for different territories within the meaning of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 18 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 19: Interpretation.

In the Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

"Appointed day" means day of 200 (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"Association" means the Forestry Association of Nigeria (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

“Council” or "Council under this Bill" means the Council established as the governing body of the institute under section 2 of this Bill (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words “Council” or “Council under this Bill” be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"enrolled", in relation to a fellow, chartered forester or an associate, means registered in the part of the register relating to fellows, chartered foresters or associates as the case may be, and in relation to any other member means registered in the part of the register pertaining to the category of the particular member (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"fees" includes annual subscriptions (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"institute" means the Nigerian Institute of Chartered Foresters under this Bill (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"member" means a member of the institute (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"Minister" means the Minister of the Government of the Federation charge with responsibility for environment (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"panel" has the meaning assigned by section 11 of this Bill (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

"president and vice-president" mean respectively the office-holders under those names in the institute (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the words "President and Vice President" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"register" means the register maintained in pursuance of section 6 of this Bill (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word "register" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"foresters" means a person qualified for admission to the institute who is not a fellow, a chartered forester or an associate member (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word "foresters" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"tribunal" has the meaning assigned to it by section 11 of this Bill (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word "tribunal" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

Question that Clause 19 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 20: Citation.

This Bill may be cited as the Nigerian Institute of Chartered Foresters (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 20 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

SCHEDULES

FIRST SCHEDULE

Section 2 (6)

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE COUNCIL AND INSTITUTE

Qualifications and tenure of office of members

1. Subject to the provisions of this paragraph a member of the Council shall hold for a period of three years beginning with the date of his appointment or election.
2. Any member of the institute who ceases to be a member thereof shall, if he is also a member of the Council, cease to hold office on the Council.
3. Any elected member may by notice in writing under his hand addressed to the president resign his office, and any appointed member may, with the consent of the Minister, likewise so resign his office.
4. A person who retires from or otherwise ceases to be an elected member of the Council shall

be eligible again to become a member of the Council, and any appointed member may be reappointed.

5. Elections to the Council shall be held in such manner as may be prescribed by rules made by the Council, and until so prescribed they shall be decided by a show of hands.
6. If for any reason there is a vacation of office by a member and :
 - (a) such member was appointed by the Minister, the Minister shall appoint another fit person from the territory in respect of which the vacancy occurs; or
 - (b) such member was elected, the Council may, if the time between the unexpired portion of the term of office and the next general meeting of the institute appears to warrant the filling of the vacancy, co-opt some fit person for such time as aforesaid.

Powers of Council

7. The Council shall have power to do anything which in its opinion is calculated to facilitate the carrying on of the activities of the institute.

Proceedings of the Council

8.
 - (1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill the Council may in the name of the institute make standing orders regulating the proceedings of the institute or of the council, and in the exercise of its power under this Bill, may set up committees in the general interest of the institute, and make standing orders therefore.
 - (2) Standing orders shall provide for decisions to be taken by a majority of the members, and, in the event of equality of votes, for the president or the chairman, as the case may be, to have a second or casting vote.
 - (3) Standing orders made for a committee shall provide that the committee is to report back to the Council on any matter not within its competence to decide.
9. The quorum of the Council be six; and the quorum of a committee of the Council shall be fixed by the Council.

Meetings

(a) of the Institute

10.
 - (1) The Council shall convene the annual meeting of the institute on the 30th of in every year or such other day as the Council may from time to time appoint, so however that if the meeting is not held within one year after the previous annual meeting, not more than fifteen months shall elapse between the respective dates of the two meetings.
 - (2) A special meeting of the institute may be convened by the Council at any time; and if not less than twenty members of the institute require it by notice in writing addressed to the secretary of the institute setting out the objects of the proposed meeting, the chairman of the Council shall convene a special meeting of the institute.
 - (3) The quorum of any general meeting of the institute shall be ten members, and that of any special meeting of the institute shall be fifteen members.

(b) of the Council

11. (1) The Council shall meet not less than twice in any financial year, and subject to the provisions of any standing orders of the Council, the Council shall meet at other times according as it is summoned by the chairman; and if the chairman is required to do so by notice in writing given to him by not less than five other members, he shall summon a meeting of the Council to be held within seven days from the date on which the notice is given.
- (2) At any meeting of the Council, the chairman or in his absence the vice-chairman shall preside; but if both are absent, the members present at the meeting shall appoint one of their members present to preside at that meeting.
- (3) Where the Council desires to obtain advice of any person on a particular matter, the Council may co-opt him as a member for such period as the Council thinks fit; but a person who is a member by virtue of this subparagraph shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Council, and shall not count towards a quorum
- (4) Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this paragraph, the first meeting of the Council shall be summoned by the Minister, who may give such directions as he thinks fit as to the procedure which shall be followed at the meeting.

Committees

12. (1) The Council may appoint one or more committees either standing or ad hoc to carry out on behalf of the institute or of the Council, such functions as the Council may determine.
- (2) The initiating of policy shall be the principal duty of a standing committee to be known as the executive committee appointed under this paragraph, and persons who are not members of the Council shall be ineligible for appointment and persons who are members of the executive committee shall hold office during the pleasure of the Council.
- (3) Subject as provided in the case of the executive committee, any committee appointed under this paragraph shall consist of the number of persons determined by the Council; and any committee other than the executive may co-opt any person whose advice is desired as a member but the co-opted member shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the committee and shall not count towards a quorum.
- (4) A decision of a committee of the Council shall be of no effect until it is confirmed by the Council.

Miscellaneous

13. (1) The fixing of the seal of the institute shall be authenticated by the signature of the president or of some other member of the Council authorised generally or specially by the institute to act for that purpose.
- (2) Any contract or instrument which, if made or executed by a person not being a body corporate, would not be required to be under seal, may be made or executed on behalf of the institute or of the council as the case may require, by any person generally or specially authorized to act for that purpose by the council.
- (3) Any document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal of the institute shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be so executed.

14. The validity of any proceedings of the institute or the council or of a committee of the council shall not be affected by any vacancy in membership, or by any defect in the appointment of a member of the institute or of the council or of a person to serve on the committee, or by reason that a person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings.
15. Any member of the institute or of the council, and any person holding office on a committee of the council, who has a personal interest in any contract or arrangement entered into or proposed to be considered by the council on behalf of the institute, or on behalf of the council or a committee thereof, shall forthwith disclose his interest to the president or to the council, as the case maybe, and shall not vote on any question relating to the contract or arrangement.
16. A person shall not by reason only of his membership of the institute be treated as holding an office of emolument under the Federal Republic or any state thereof (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

SECOND SCHEDULE

Section 5 (2)

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS AS TO PROPERTY, ETC.

Transfer of Property

1. (1) Every agreement to which the association affected by the creation of the institute was a party immediately before the appointed day, whether in writing or and whether or not of such a nature that the rights, liabilities and obligations thereunder could be assigned, shall, unless its terms or subject matter make it impossible that it should have effect as modified in the manner provided by this subparagraph, have effect from the appointed day, so far as it relates to property transferred by this Bill to the institute, as if —
 - (a) the institute had been a party to the agreement;
 - (b) for any reference (however and whether express or implied) to the association there were substituted, as respects anything falling to be done on or after the appointed day, a reference to the institute; and
 - (c) for any reference (however worded and whether express or implied) to a member or members of the council of the association or an officer of the association there were substituted, as respect anything falling to be done on or after the appointed day, a reference to a member or members of the council under this Bill or the officer of the association who corresponds as nearly as may be to the member or officer in question of the association.
- (2) Other documents which refer, whether specially or generally, to the association shall be construed in accordance with subparagraph (1) of this paragraph so far as applicable.
- (3) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions of this Schedule, where, by the operation of any of them or of section 5 of this Bill, any right, liability or obligation vests in the institute, the institute and all other person shall, as from the appointed day, have the same right, powers and remedies (and in particular, the same rights as to the taking or resting of legal proceedings or the making or resisting of applications to any authority) for perfecting or enforcing that right, liability or

obligation as they would have if it had at all times been a right, liability or obligation of the institute.

- (4) Any legal proceedings or application to any authority pending on the appointed day by or against the association and relating to property transferred by this Bill to the institute may be continued on or after that day by or against the institute.
- (5) If the law in force at the place where any property transferred by this Bill is situated provides for the registration of transfers of property of the kind in question (whether by reference to an instrument of transfer or otherwise), the law shall, so far as it provides for alterations of a register (but not for avoidance of transfers, the payment of fees or any other matter) apply with the necessary modifications to the transfer of the property aforesaid; and it shall be the duty of the council to furnish the necessary particulars of the transfer to the proper officer of the registration authority, and of that officer to register the transfer accordingly.

Transfer of function, etc.

2. (1) At its first meeting the council of the institute shall fix a date (not later than six months after the appointed day) for the annual general meeting of the institute.
- (2) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Bill, the members of the committee of the Association which recommended the establishment of the institute under this Bill shall, on the making of this Bill, be deemed to be the members of the council of the institute until the date determined in pursuance of the foregoing subparagraph when the institute shall have its first annual general meeting, and they shall cease to hold office at the conclusion of such meeting, but shall be eligible for re-appointment.
- (3) All regulations, rules and similar instruments made for the purpose of the association and in force immediately before the making of the Act shall, except in so far as they are subsequently revoked or amended by any authority having power in that behalf have effect, with any necessary modifications as if duly made for the corresponding purpose of the institute (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

THIRD SCHEDULE

Section 11 (5)

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE
DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL AND INVESTIGATING PANEL

The Tribunal

1. The quorum of the tribunal shall be four of whom at least two shall be chartered foresters.
2. (1) The Chief Justice of Nigeria shall make rules as to the selection of members of the tribunal for the purposes of any proceedings and as to the procedure to be followed and the rules of evidence to be observed in proceedings before the tribunal.
- (2) The rules shall in particular provide —
 - (a) for securing that notice of the proceedings shall be given, at such time and

in such manner as may be specified by the rules, to the person who is the subject of the proceedings;

- (b) for determining who in addition to the person aforesaid, shall be a party to the proceedings;
- (c) for securing that any party to the proceeding shall, if he so equires, be entitled to be heard by the tribunal;
- (d) for enabling any party to the proceedings to be represented by a legal practitioner;
- (e) subject to the provisions of section 12(5) of this Bill, as to the costs of proceedings before the tribunal;
- (f) for requiring, in a case where it is alleged that the person who is the subject of proceedings is guilty of misconduct in any professional respect, that where the tribunal adjudges that the allegation has not been proved it shall record a finding that the person is not guilty of such conduct in respect of the matters to which the allegation relates;
- (g) for publishing in the Federal Gazette notice of any direction of the tribunal which has taken effect providing that a person's name shall be struck off a register.

3. For the purposes of any proceedings before the tribunal, any member of the tribunal may administer oaths and any party to the proceedings may sue out of the registry of the Supreme Court writs of subpoena and testificandum and duces tecum; but no person appearing before the tribunal shall be compelled —

- (a) to make any statement before the tribunal tending to incriminate himself; or
- (b) to produce any document under such a writ which he could not be compelled to produce at the trial of an action

4. (1) For the purpose of advising the tribunal on questions of law arising in proceedings before it, there shall in all such proceedings be an assessor to the tribunal who shall be appointed by the council on the nomination of the Chief Justice of Nigeria and shall be a legal practitioner of not less than ten years for standing.

(2) The Chief Justice of Nigeria shall make rules as to the functions of assessors appointed under this paragraph, and in particular such rules shall contain provisions for securing —

- (a) that where an assessor advises the tribunal on any question of law as to evidence, procedure or any other matters specified by the rules, he shall do so in the presence of every party or person representing a party to the proceedings who appears thereat or, if the advice is tendered while the tribunal is deliberating in private, that every such party or person as aforesaid shall be informed what advice the assessor has tendered;
- (b) that every such party or person as aforesaid shall be informed if in any case the tribunal does not accept the advice of the assessor on such a question as aforesaid.
- (c) an assessor may be appointed under this paragraph either generally or for

any particular proceedings, and shall hold and vacate office in accordance with the terms of the instrument by which he is appointed.

The Panel

5. The quorum of the panel shall be three.
6.
 - (1) The panel may, at any meeting of the panel attended by all the members of the panel, make standing orders with respect to the panel.
 - (2) Subject to the provisions of any such standing orders, the panel may regulate its own procedure.

Miscellaneous

7.
 - (1) A person ceasing to be a member of the tribunal or the panel shall be eligible for reappointment as a member of that body.
 - (2) A person may, if otherwise eligible, be a member of both the tribunal and the panel; but no person who acted as a member of the panel with respect to any case shall act as a member of the tribunal with respect to that case.
8. The tribunal or the panel may act notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership; and the proceedings of either body shall not be invalidated by any irregularity in the appointment of a member of that body, or (subject to paragraph 7 (2) of this Schedule) by reason of the fact that any person who was not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings of that body.
9. Any document authorized or required by virtue of this Bill to be served on the tribunal or the panel shall be served on the registrar appointed in pursuance of section 6 of this Bill.
10. Any expenses of the tribunal or the panel shall be defrayed by the institute.

CHATTERED FORESTERS (DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL AND ASSESSORS) RULES

Under paragraphs 2 and 4 of the Third Schedule

PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE TRIBUNAL

1.
 - (1) Parties to proceedings before the tribunal shall be —
 - (a) the complainant;
 - (b) the respondent;
 - (c) any other person required by the tribunal to be joined, or joined by leave of the tribunal.
 - (2) Subject to paragraph (30 of this rule, parties to the proceedings may enter an appearance in person, or by their respective legal practitioners acting as counsel.
 - (3) The tribunal may the attendance of the complainant or respondent in person if of opinion that it is necessary in the interest of justice.
2.
 - (1) When a complaint is referred by the panel to the tribunal, the registrar shall, after consultation with the chairman, appoint a time place for the hearing; and forthwith thereafter the registrar shall in the form in the Schedule hereto give notice to all

- interested parties (including members of the tribunal and the assessor) as directed or required by the chairman.
- (2) If directions are for any reason not so given, it shall be sufficient compliance with this rule if the notice is —
- (a) handed to the party concerned or affected personally; or
- (b) sent by registered post to the last known place of residence of the party.
3. (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this rules, the tribunal may hear and determine a case in the absence of any party.
- (2) Any party to proceedings before a tribunal who fails to appear or be represented may apply within one month after the date when the pronouncement of the findings and directions of the tribunal were given, for a rehearing on the ground of want of notice or other good and sufficient reason; and the tribunal, in appropriate cases may grant the application upon such terms as to costs or otherwise as it thinks fit.
4. The tribunal may in the course of its proceedings hear witnesses and receive documentary evidence necessary in its opinion to assist it in arriving at a conclusion as to the truth or otherwise of the allegation of misconduct in the complaint referred to it by the panel; and in the application of this rule, the provisions of the Evidence Act or law in force in the state where the tribunal is sitting shall apply to any such proceedings.
5. If in the course of the proceedings it appears to the tribunal that the complaint before it requires to be amended in any respect, the tribunal may, on such terms as it thinks fit, allow the amendment to be made and the complaint as so amended shall thereupon be dealt with accordingly.
6. Proceedings of the tribunal shall be held, and its finding and directions shall be delivered, in public, unless otherwise directed by the tribunal.
7. The tribunal may, of its own motion, or upon the application of any party, adjourn the hearing on such terms as to costs or otherwise as the tribunal may think fit.
8. If any person wilfully gives false evidence on oath before the tribunal during the course of any proceedings, or wilfully makes a false statement in any affidavit sworn for the purpose of any such proceedings, the tribunal may refer the matter to the Attorney-General of the Federation for such action as the Attorney -General may think fit.
9. If after the hearing the tribunal adjudges that the charge of professional misconduct has not been proved, the tribunal —
- (a) shall records or finding that the respondent is not guilty of such conduct in respect of which the charge relates;
- (b) may, nevertheless order any party (except the complainant) to pay the costs of the proceedings if, having regard to his conduct and to all the circumstances of the case, the tribunal thinks fit so to order.
10. Subject to section 12 5) of the Act (which relates interalia to appeals) any finding or direction given by the tribunal shall be published in the Federal Gazette as soon as may be after the finding or direction takes effect.
11. (1) Notes of proceedings may be taken in shorthand by any person appointed by the

tribunal and any party appearing at the proceedings shall be entitled to inspect the transcript thereof when made.

- (2) The registrar shall supply to any person entitled to be heard upon an appeal against any finding or direction of the tribunal, a copy of the transcript of such notes on payment of such charges as may be fixed by the registrar.
 - (3) If for any reason provision is not made for taking of notes in shorthand, the chairman shall take notes of the proceedings; and the provisions of this rules as to inspection and taking of copies shall apply to any such notes made by the chairman.
12. The tribunal may dispense with any requirements of these rules as to notices, affidavits, document, service or time for doing or omitting anything, in any case where it appears to the tribunal to be just or expedient so to do; and the tribunal in any particular case may extend the time for doing anything under these rules.
13. Books and other exhibits whatsoever produced or used at the hearing shall, unless the tribunal otherwise directs, be retained by the registrar until the expiry of the time for filling an appeal against a finding or direction of the tribunal or, if notice of any such appeal is given, until the hearing and disposal of the appeal.
14.
 - (1) An assessor, when nominated in accordance with paragraph 4 (1) of Schedule 3 to the Act shall be appointed by the Institute by instrument, and the assessor shall hold and vacant office as provided in the instrument; and where the appointment is not a general one, it shall have effect only in respect of a particular meeting of the tribunal.
 - (2) Subject to the terms of his appointment, an assessor shall attend any meeting of the tribunal as and when requested to do so by notice in writing given to him by the registrar not later than three days before the date appointed for the meeting; and he shall there advise the tribunal on questions of law.
 - (3) The tribunal shall be sole judge of facts offered in evidence so however that in respect of mixed questions of fact and law, questions of law shall be for the assessor to advise on, In relation to evidence and procedure, and matters specified by these rules; and the tribunal shall confer with the assessor on the advisability of hearing proceedings in private, unless already so advised in writing by the Attorney-General of the Federation.
 - (4) If advice is tendered by an assessor to the tribunal otherwise than in the presence of all parties entering an appearance or as may be of their counsel, the assessor shall as soon as may be thereafter, informed all parties to the proceedings entering an appearance, as to the nature of the advice given and the reaction thereto of the tribunal.
15.
 - (1) Except when the context otherwise requires, expressions used in these rules have the same meaning as in the Act.
 - (2) Where used in these rules:

"complainant" means a person or body alleging before the tribunal, professional misconduct against a member of the institute;

"respondent" means the person required to answer to any charge of professional misconduct.

16. These rules may be cited as the Chartered Foresters (Disciplinary Tribunal and Assessors) Rules (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

FOURTH SCHEDULE

NOTICE OF HEARING BY THE FORESTERS DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED FORESTERS AND IN THE MATTER OF A CHARGE OF UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AGAINST

..... of,
a chartered foresters/registered foresters

Take Notice that foresters disciplinary tribunal sitting at
..... at
..... on, 20..... will commence
its hearing of charge (s) to be there preferred against aforesaid of
Unprofessional conduct shall thereafter present its findings.

This notice is given to you as a (here state whether a party or a
member, etc.) and a copy of charge(s) to be preferred is annexed.

Dated at Lagos this day of, 20..... (*Hon. Abubakar
Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

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

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Establish Nigeria Institute of Chartered Forestrers; and for Related Matters (HB.896) (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri/Kasama Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish Nigerian Institute of Chartered Foresters and for Related Matters (HB. 896) and approved Clauses 1 - 20, the Schedules, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

(iii) Committee on Commerce:

*Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Commerce on a Bill for an Act to Establish Institute of Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Corporate Governance and for Related Matters (HB.1681)” (*Hon. Ahmed Munir Mohammed — Lere Federal Constituency*).*

Agreed to.

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

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN INSTITUTE FOR THE TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF LEADERSHIP AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PROFESSIONALS AND TO PROVIDE A CURRICULUM FOR TRAINING AND STANDARD OF PROFESSIONALISM FOR LEADERSHIP, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PROFESSIONALS IN NIGERIA;
AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB. 1681)

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 1: The Establishment of the Institute.

- (1) There is hereby established the Institute of Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Corporate Governance (in this Bill hereinafter referred to as "the Institute").
- (2) The Institute shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal.
- (3) The Institute may sue or be sued in its corporate name (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 2: Functions and objectives of the Institute.

- (1) To build national capacity and necessary awareness in and broad Communication on corporate governance, continuous membership training, development and sustainability of corporate governance as a practice and career.
- (2) To engage in advocacy for targeted laws and policies towards the enhancement of corporate governance.
- (3) The advancement of Leadership education, training, research and practice.
- (4) The dissemination of Leadership information through conference, seminars, meetings, exhibitions and publications.
- (5) The establishment and enforcement of a code of professional practice and conduct for leadership practitioners in Nigeria.
- (6) The protection of the practice of the leadership profession and the welfare of those practicing it.
- (7) To generate curricular for instructions in entrepreneurship studies.
- (8) To encourage the advancement of learning and to hold out to all persons without distinction of race, creed, sex or political conviction, the opportunity of acquiring a higher and liberal education;
- (9) To provide courses of instruction and other facilities for the pursuit of learning in all its branches, and to make those facilities available on proper terms to such persons as are equipped to benefit from them;

- (10) To encourage and promote scholarship and conduct research in all fields of learning and human endeavor;
- (11) To relate its activities to the social, cultural and economic needs of the people of Nigeria; and
- (12) To undertake other activities appropriate for an Institute of the highest standard.
- (13) To do all such other things as may be considered incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects or any of them (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 3: Powers of the Institute.

- (1) For the carrying out of its objects, the Institute shall have power-
 - (a) to establish such campuses, colleges, faculties, institutes, schools, extra-mural departments and other teaching and research units within the Institute as may, from time to time, seem necessary or desirable subject to the approval of the National Universities Commission and the Federal Ministry of Education;
 - (b) to institute professorships, readerships, lectureships and other posts and offices and to make appointments thereto;
 - (c) to institute and award fellowships, scholarships, exhibitions, bursaries, medals, prizes and other titles, distinctions, awards and forms of assistance;
 - (d) to provide for the discipline and welfare of members of the Institute;
 - (e) to hold examinations and grant degrees, diplomas, certificates and other distinctions to persons who have pursued a course of study approved by the Institute and have satisfied such other requirements as the Institute may lay down, subject to the approval of the Ministry of Education and the National Universities Commission.
 - (f) to grant honorary degrees, fellowships or academic titles;
 - (g) to demand and receive from any student or any other person attending the Institute for the purpose of instruction, such fees as the Institute may from time to time determine subject to the overall directives of the Minister;
 - (h) to acquire, hold, grant, charge or otherwise deal with or dispose of movable and immovable property wherever situate;
 - (i) to accept gifts, legacies and donations to the Institute and the carrying on of any trust attached to such gifts, endowment or bequest, but without obligation to accept the same for a particular purpose unless it approves the terms and conditions attaching thereto;

- (j) to enter into contracts, establish trusts, act as trustee, solely or jointly with any other person, and employ and bid through agents;
 - (k) to erect, provide, equip and maintain libraries, lecture halls, halls of residence, refectories, sports grounds, playing fields and other buildings or things necessary or suitable or convenient for any of the objects of the Institute;
 - (l) to hold public lectures and to undertake printing, publishing and bookselling;
 - (m) subject to any limitations or conditions imposed by statute, to invest any moneys appertaining to the Institute by way of endowment, whether for general or special purposes, and such other monies as may not be immediately required for current expenditure, in any investments or securities or in the purchase or improvement of land, with power from time to time to vary any such investments, and to deposit any monies for the time being un-invested with any bank on deposit or current account;
 - (n) to raise funds where necessary for the purpose of carrying out its objectives;
 - (o) to borrow, whether on interest or not and if need be upon the security of any or all of the property, movable or immovable, of the Institute, such monies as the Council may from time to time in its discretion find it necessary or expedient to borrow or to guarantee any loan, advances or credit facilities;
 - (p) to make gifts for any charitable purpose;
 - (q) to arrange for the general welfare of children of members of staff;
 - (r) to do anything which it is authorized or required by this Bill or by statute to do; and
 - (s) to do all such other things, whether or not incidental to the foregoing powers, as may advance the objects of the Institute.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Bill and of the statutes, the powers conferred on the Institute by subsection (1) of this section shall be exercisable on behalf of the Institute by the Council or in any other manner which may be authorized by statute (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 4: Establishment of the Governing Council.

- (1) There is hereby established for the Institute, the Governing Council (in this Bill referred to as "the Council").
- (2) The Council shall be the governing body of the Institute and shall be charged with the general control and superintendence of the policy, finances and property of the Institute, including its public relations.

- (3) The Council is vested with the power to make decisions and formulate general policies for the guidance of the Institute.
- (4) The Council shall ensure that proper accounts of the Institute are kept and that the accounts of the Institute are audited annually by Auditors appointed by the Council and in accordance with guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General for the Federation; and that an annual report is published by the Institute together with certified copies of the said accounts as audited.
- (5) The Council shall meet as and when necessary for the performance of its functions under this Bill, and shall meet at least three times in every year.
- (6) If requested in writing by any five members of the Council, the Chairman shall within 28 days after the receipt of such request call a meeting of the Council; and the request shall specify the business to be considered at the meeting and no business not so specified shall be transacted at that meeting (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 5: Membership of the Council.

Membership of the Council shall consist of:

- (a) the President/Chairman of Council and Chairman, Education and Research Committee;
- (b) the Chairman, Membership Committee;
- (c) the Chairman, Planning and Resource Committee;
- (d) the Chairman, Business and Development Committee;
- (e) the Chairman, Finance and Audit Committee;
- (f) the Chairman, Media and Public Relations Committee; and
- (g) Registrar/Chief Executive Officer as Member/Secretary of the Council (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 6: Functions of the Council.

- (1) It shall be the general function of the Council to organize and control the teaching of the Institute, the admission (where no other enactment provides to the contrary) of students and the discipline of students, and to promote research at the Institute.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) of this section, it shall in particular be the function of the Council to make provision for-
 - (a) the establishment, organization and control of campuses, colleges, faculties, departments, schools, institutes and other teaching and research units of the Institute, and the allocation of responsibility for different branches of learning;

- (b) the organization and control of courses of study at the Institute and of the examinations held in conjunction with those courses, including the appointment of Examiners, both internal and external;
 - (c) the award to any person of an honorary fellowship or honorary degree or the title of professor emeritus;
 - (d) the establishment, organization and control of halls of residence and similar institutions at the Institute;
 - (e) the supervision of the welfare of students at the Institute and the regulation of their conduct;
 - (f) the granting of fellowships, scholarships, prizes and similar awards in so far as the awards are within the control of the Institute;
- (3) The supplementary provisions contained in the Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Council and the other matters (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 7: Powers of the Council.

The Council shall have power to:

- (a) determine the general policy of the Institute;
- (b) provide for the discipline and welfare of members of staff of the Institute;
- (c) erect, provide, equip and maintain libraries, lecture halls, halls of residence and other buildings or structures necessary for the Institute; and
- (d) constitute relevant committees to assist in executing specific assignments for the Institute (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 8: Allowances of Members of the Council.

There shall be paid to Members of the Council and any other committee set up by the Council, allowances in respect of traveling and other reasonable expenses at such rates as are applicable to government agencies and institutes or as may be stipulated by the Council in accordance with applicable Federal Government regulations (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 9: Tenure of Office.

- (1) The Chairman and members of the Council shall hold office for a period of 2 years.
- (2) The office of the Chairman or any member of the Council shall become vacant if:

- (a) he resigns his office by notice in writing under his and addressed to the office of the Secretary of the Council;
- (b) two thirds of members of the Council is satisfied that it is not in the interest of the Institute for the person to continue in office and notifies the member in writing to that effect; or
- (c) he is incapable of performing the functions of his office by reason of disease or infirmity and has been so declared by a medical practitioner (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 10: Establishment of Board of Governors.

There is hereby established, a Board of Governors for the Institute (which is hereinafter referred to as "the Board") (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

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

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 11: Membership of the Board of Governors.

The membership of the Board shall not be more than thirty and shall be made up of the Founders of the Institute (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 11 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 12: The Council's duty to the Board.

The Council shall in all its activities including the formulation or execution of its policies, finances, award of certificates, honours and the general well being of the Institute, staff and students, work in consultation with the Board or the Board's appointed representative (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 12 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 13: Election of President of the Institute and Members of the Executive.

- (1) The Institute shall have a President and a Vice President and such other executive officers as the Council may approve from time to time.
- (2) The President and Vice President shall respectively be Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council under this Bill.
- (3) In the event of the death, incapacity or inability for any reason of the President to perform his functions, the Vice-President shall act in his stead for the unexpired portion of office or as the case may require.
- (4) If the President or Vice-President ceases to be a member of the Institute, he shall cease to hold any of the offices referred to in this Bill (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 13 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 14: Tenure of the Executive Members.

The President and Vice President and all such other executive officers shall be elected and shall serve for a period of two years only (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 14 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 15: Registrar/Chief Executive Officer of the Institute.

- (1) There shall be for the Institute, a Registrar who shall possess appropriate qualifications and cognate experience.
- (2) The Registrar shall be appointed by the Council.
- (3) The Registrar shall hold office for a period of 4 years and may be re-appointed for another term of 4 years.
- (4) The Registrar shall be the Chief Executive and Academic Officer of the Institute and shall be charged with the general responsibility formatters relating to the day-to-day management and operations of the Institute.
- (5) The Registrar shall be responsible to the Council (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 15 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 16: The structure of the Institute.

- (1) There shall be established for the Institute, such Departments as the Institute may deem necessary.
- (2) Each Department shall be headed by a Director who shall be a professionally qualified person appointed through a competitive process.
- (3) Subject to the approval of the Council, the Management Committee may create additional departments, divisions and units as it may deem necessary to achieve the objectives of the Institute (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 16 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 17: Establishment of the Management Committee.

- (1) There is hereby established for the Institute, a Management Committee comprising of the Directors of the various Departments.
- (2) The Registrar shall be the Chairman of the Management Committee.
- (3) The Management Committee shall be responsible for the General administration of the Institute, particularly recruitment, discipline and promotion of staff (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 17 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 18: Staff of the Institute.

- (1) The staff of the Institute other than those mentioned in the Bill shall be employed according to procedure of employment as stipulated by Council.
- (2) The staff of the Institute shall be entitled to benefits under the Pension Act.
- (3) Nothing in subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall prevent the employment of a person to any office on temporary or permanent basis on terms which preclude the grant of pension (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 18 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 19: Staff Regulations.

- (1) The Council may, subject to the provision of this Bill, make Staff Regulations relating generally to the conditions of service of the employees of the Institute and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing such regulations may provide for:
 - (a) the appointment, promotion and disciplinary control (including dismissal) of employees of the Institute; and
 - (b) appeals by such employees against dismissal or other disciplinary measures, and until such regulations are made; any instrument relating to the conditions of service of public officers shall be applicable, with such modification as may be necessary, to the employees of the Institute.
- (2) The staff regulations made under subsection (1) of this section, shall not have effect until they are approved by the Council of the Institute and the Council shall cause them to be brought to the notice of all affected persons in such manner as it may, from time to time determine (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 19 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 20: Establishment of Fund for the Institute.

- (1) The Institute shall establish and maintain a fund which shall be applied towards the promotion of the objectives specified in this Bill.
- (2) At the beginning of every budget year, the Council shall approve a budget for the Institute.
- (3) There shall be paid and credited to the Fund established for the Institute:
 - (a) sums appropriated for the fiscal year;
 - (b) gifts and donations and contributions from national and international institutions and philanthropic persons and organizations; and

- (c) fees charged for service rendered by the Institute (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 20 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 21: Management of Funds of the Institute.

The Institute shall manage its funds in accordance with rules made by the Management Committee with the general direction of the Council, and without prejudice to the power to make rules under this section; the rules shall contain provisions specifying:

- (a) the manner in which assets or funds of the Institute are to be held; and
- (b) the keeping of proper accounts and records for the purpose of the fund in such manner as may be safe and effective (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 21 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 22: Application of Funds of the Institute.

The Institute shall apply its fund to the cost of administration of the Institute, including but not limited to, payment of salaries, gratuities, allowances, fees and the payment of other contracts, consultancies and purchases made for the benefit of the Institute (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 22 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 23: Estimate of income and expenditure of the Institute.

The Institute shall, not later than 31st of August each year, present to the Council for approval an estimate of the expenditure and incomes of the Institute for the next fiscal year (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 23 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 24: Annual Budget of the Institute.

The Registrar shall not later than 30th September each year or other date stipulated by law or administrative policy, submit to the Council an estimate of the expenditure and incomes of the Institute approved by the Council for the next fiscal year (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 24 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 25: Quarterly reports.

The Registrar shall submit to the Council, quarterly reports of the finances of the Institute and the annual report of its activities (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 25 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 26: Power to accept gifts.

The Institute may accept gifts and bequests upon such terms that do not compromise its capability to fulfill its objectives and sustain its non-partisan policy (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 26 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 27: Power to borrow.

The Institute may, with approval in writing of the Council and subject to other guidelines and policies of the Federal Government, borrow such money needed for the exercise of its functions as the Council may determine under this Bill, provided that such borrowing shall be made on terms that do not compromise the independence and competence of the Institute (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 27 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 28: Removal and Discipline of Staff.

- (1) If it appears to the Council that there exists reason(s) for believing that any person employed as a member of the academic or administrative or professional staff of the Institute, should be removed from his office or employment on the ground of misconduct or of inability to perform the functions of his office or employment, the Council shall —
 - (a) give notice of such reason(s) to the person in question;
 - (b) afford him an opportunity of making representations in person on the matter to the Council; and
 - (c) if he or any three members of the council so request within the period of one month beginning with the date of the notice, make arrangements —
 - (i) to investigate the matter and to report on it to the Council; and
 - (ii) for the person in question to be afforded an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by an investigating committee with respect to the matter, and if the Council, after considering the report of the investigating committee, is satisfied that the person in question should be removed as aforesaid, the Council may so remove him by an instrument in writing signed on the directions of the Council.
- (2) The Registrar may, in a case of misconduct by a member of the staff which in his opinion is prejudicial to the interests of the Institute, suspend such member and any such suspension shall forthwith be reported to the Council.
- (3) For good cause, any member of staff may be suspended from his duties or his appointment may be terminated by the Council; and for the purposes of this subsection "good cause" means —
 - (a) conviction for any offence which the Council considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit for the discharge of the functions of his office; or

- (b) any physical or mental incapacity which the Council, after obtaining medical advice, considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit to continue to hold his office; or
 - (c) conduct of a scandalous or other disgraceful nature which the Council considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit to continue to hold his office; or
 - (d) conduct which the Council considers to be such as to constitute failure or inability of the person concerned to discharge the functions of his office or to comply with the terms and conditions of his service.
- (4) Any person suspended pursuant to subsection (2) or (3) of this section shall be on half pay and the Council shall before the expiration of a period of three months after the date of such suspension, consider the case against that person and come to a decision as to —
 - (a) whether to continue such person's suspension and if so, on what terms (including the proportion of his emoluments to be paid to him);
 - (b) whether to reinstate such person, in which case the Council shall restore his full emoluments to him with effect from the date of suspension;
 - (c) whether to terminate the appointment of the person concerned, in which case such a person will not be entitled to the proportion of his emoluments withheld during the period of suspension; or
 - (d) whether to take such lesser disciplinary action against such person (including the restoration of such proportion of his emoluments that might have been withheld) as the Council may determine, and in any case where the Council, pursuant to this section, decides to continue a person's suspension or decides to take further disciplinary action against a person, the Council shall before the expiration of a period of three months from such decision come to a final determination in respect of the case concerning any such person.
- (5) It shall be the duty of the person by whom an instrument of removal is signed in pursuance of subsection (1) of this section to use his best endeavors to cause a copy of the instrument to be served as soon as reasonably practicable on the person to whom it relates.
- (6) Nothing in the foregoing provisions of this section shall prevent the Council from making regulations for the discipline of other categories of staff and workers of the Institute as may be prescribed (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 28 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 29: Removal of Examiners.

If, on the recommendation of the Registrar, it appears to the Council that a person appointed as an Examiner for any examination of the Institute ought to be removed from his office or appointment, then, except in such cases as may be prescribed, he

may, after affording the Examiner an opportunity of making representations in person on the matter to the Council, remove the Examiner from the appointment (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 29 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 30: Discipline of students.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, where it appears to the Council that any student of the Institute has been guilty of misconduct, the Council may, without prejudice to any other disciplinary powers conferred on it by statute or regulations, direct —
 - (a) that the student shall not, during such period as may be specified in the direction, participate in such activities of the Institute or make use of such facilities of the Institute, as maybe so specified; or
 - (b) that the activities of the student shall, during such period as may be specified in the direction, be restricted in such manner as may be so specified; or
 - (c) that the 'student be rusticated for such period as may be specified in the direction; or
 - (d) that the student be expelled from the Institute.
- (2) Where a direction is given under subsection (1) (c) or (d) of this section in respect of any student, the student may, within the prescribed period and in the prescribed manner, appeal the direction; and where such an appeal is brought, the Council shall, after causing such inquiry to be made in the matter as the Council considers just, either confirm or set aside the direction or modify it in such manner as the Council thinks fit.
- (3) The fact that an appeal from a direction is brought in pursuance of the last foregoing subsection shall not affect the question of the direction while the appeal is pending.
- (4) The Council may delegate its powers under this section to a disciplinary board consisting of such members of the Institute as it may nominate.
- (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing the restriction or termination of a student's activities at the Institute otherwise than on the ground of misconduct (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 30 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 31: Procedure for Suit Against the Institute.

No suit shall commence against the Institute before the expiration of a period of one month after written notice of intention to commence the suit shall have been served upon the Institute by the party intending to sue the Institute (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 31 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:**Clause 32: Service of Summons.**

Any summons, notices, process or other document required or authorized to be served on the Institute under the provisions of this Bill or any law, shall be served by delivering the same to the Registrar of the Institute, or by sending it by registered mail to the Registrar at the principal office of the Institute (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 32 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:**Clause 33: Indemnity for members.**

Every member of the Council, Management Committee, agent or employee of the Institute, shall be indemnified from the Fund of the Institute against any liability incurred by him or her in defending any proceeding, if such proceeding is brought against him or her in his or her capacity as such member, agent or employee (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 33 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:**Clause 34: Acquisition of Property by the Institute.**

The Institute may, subject to the provisions of the Land Use Act and any other applicable law, lease, rent or acquire an interest in land and other properties, build and maintain offices and premises for its activities (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 34 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:**Clause 35: Interpretation.**

In this Bill:

"Chairman" means the Chairman of the Governing Council (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word "Chairman" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Registrar" means the Chief Executive of the Institute (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word "Registrar" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Institute" means the Institute of Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Corporate Governance (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word "Institute" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

"Him" or "His" includes "her" (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that the meaning of the word "Him" or "His" be as defined in the interpretation to this Bill — Agreed to.

Question that Clause 35 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee's Recommendation:

Clause 36: Citation.

The Bill may be cited as the Institute of Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Corporate Governance Bill, 2025 (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 36 stands part of the Bill — Agreed to.

SCHEDULE

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE INSTITUTE

Proceedings of the Council

1. Subject to this Bill and other applicable laws, the Council may make standing orders regulating its proceedings.
2. The Council shall meet whenever summoned by the Chairman, or if required to do so by at least four members of the Council and shall meet for a minimum of three times a year.
3. The Chairman shall preside at the meeting of the Council and in his absence, the Vice Chairman to preside.
4. The Management Committee may appoint one or more Committees to carry out, on behalf of the Management Committee, such of its functions as the Management Committee may determine.
5. A decision of a sub-committee of the Management Committee shall be of no effect until it is confirmed by the Management Committee and thereafter by the Council.
6. The fixing of the common seal of the Institute shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman or of some other member authorized generally or specifically to act for that purpose by the Management Committee.
7. Any contract or instrument which, if made or executed by a person not being a body corporate, would not be required to be under seal, may be made or executed on behalf of the Institute by the Registrar or any person generally or specially authorized to act for that purpose by the Management Committee.
8. Where the Council or the Management Committee desires to obtain advice from any person on a particular matter, the Council or Management Committee may co-opt him or her as a member for such period as the Council or Management Committee thinks fit but a person who is a member by virtue of this paragraph shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Council or Management Committee and shall not count towards a quorum.
9. Except as may be otherwise provided by statute or by regulations, the quorum and procedure of any body of persons established by this Bill shall be such as may be determined by that body (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

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

Explanatory Memorandum:

This Bill seeks to enact the institute of Leadership, Indentureship and Corporate Governance Bill 2023 to establish and Institute for the training and certification of Leadership and corporate governance professionals and to provide a curriculum for training and standard of professionalism

for Leadership, Entrepreneurship and corporate governance professionals in Nigeria (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Establish an Institute for the Training and Certification of Leadership and Corporate Governance Professionals and to Provide a Curriculum for Training and Standard of Professionalism for Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Corporate Governance Professionals in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 1681) (*Hon. Ahmed Mohammed Munir — Lere Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Commerce on a Bill for an Act to Establish Institute of Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Corporate Governance and for Related Matters (HB.1681) and approved Clauses 1 - 36, the Schedule, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

24. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 11 February, 2025 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.47 p.m.

Benjamin Okezie Kalu
Deputy Speaker