

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 9 May, 2024

- 1. The House met at 11.00 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
- 2. The House recited the National Pledge.
- 3. Votes and Proceedings

Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Wednesday, 8 May, 2024.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. Announcement

(i) Visitor in the Gallery:

Mr Speaker announced the presence of Mr Patrick Ebikake

(ii) Ad-hoc Committee on the Demands of the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN):

Mr Speaker announced the membership of the *Ad-hoc* Committee as follows:

(1) Hon. Ahmed Idris

- Chairman
- (2) All Chairmen of Oil and Gas Related Committees.

5. Petition

- (i) A petition from Oyewole & Partners, on behalf of Kelvin Terdoo Augustine, on alleged abuse of office and violation of fundamental human rights by the Commandant-General of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, was presented and laid by Hon. Abdullahi Balarabe Dabai (Bakori/Danja Federal Constituency);
- (ii) A petition from Temple Nwankwo & 3 others, on behalf Umuihueze I United Elites, on alleged neglect of Corporate Social Responsibility by Nigerian Petroleum Development Company (NPDC), was presented and laid by Hon. Nwueke Felix Uche (*Eleme/Oyigbo/Tai Federal Constituency*);
- (iii) A petition from Ohaegbulam Chinenye & 1 other, on behalf of Dominion Microfinance Bank Limited, on alleged seizure of its operational license by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN),

was presented and laid by Hon. Uzokwe Peter Ifeanyi (*Nnewi North/Nnewi South/Ekwusigo Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

- (i) Implementation of the Agreements Signed Between the Federal Government of Nigeria and the Academic and Non-Academic Staff Unions of Federal Tertiary Institutions to Stop Forthwith, Any Further Strike Action in the Tertiary Institutions:
 - Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan (*Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma 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.

Implementation of the Agreements Signed Between the Federal Government of Nigeria and the Academic and Non-Academic Staff Unions of Federal Tertiary Institutions to Stop Forthwith, any Further Strike Action in the Tertiary Institutions:

The House:

Notes that Education is the hub of the socio-economic, political and technological development of every nation which equips individuals with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking abilities essential for effective decision-making and problem-solving, in shaping policies, laws, and the overall direction of a nation and the economy;

Also notes that for a country to attain its aspirations of socio-economic, political and technological development, it must have functional, sustainable, quality and stable tertiary educational system to be able to produce qualified and productive graduates in its labour force that will drive the process;

Concerned that Nigerian tertiary education sub-sector has witnessed unprecedented strike actions over the last three decades as a result of disagreements and non-implementation of agreements, memorandum of understanding, most especially, the 2009 agreement and such other agreements reached between the Federal Government and the unions;

Worried that strike actions have continued to distort both the academic activities and calendar. thereby negatively affecting the early and timely completion of academic programmes and by extension, the future of students as a result of these incessant strikes. This and other issues such as poor funding of public tertiary institutions in the education sub-sector, resulted to a growing demand for foreign owned and private universities in the country which is characterized by illicit activities including certificate racketeering. Also the actions have negative effects on the realization of the missions and visions set by the government with the possible consequences on our economic and technological advancement;

Aware that most of the demands by the unions which include the provision of infrastructural facilities, teaching aides and equipment, proper remuneration, welfare and allowances especially earned allowances, conducive working environment, are genuine and implementable which will forthwith, avert any reoccurrence of strike actions in tertiary institutions:

*Distur*bed that the way and manner this issue is being handled and treated with levity and given selective treatment, if not properly handled and resolved amicably, is capable of further aggravating the impasse and distorting academic activities with the attendant proliferation of social vices, economic and security consequences to the country;

Also concerned that another strike is not needed in order to address the problems of the Unions:

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to direct the relevant MDAs to come up with modalities for true negotiation with both the academic and non-academic staff unions so as to come up with workable, implementable and final agreement to be signed by both parties;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget Office of the Federation, Accountant General of the Federation and such other MDAs to ensure the full implementation and prompt payment of all the moneys due to the unions;
- (iii) further urge the Government to forthwith, desist from any further selective treatment of any of the unions to create fair treatment and avoid counter strike action by the other sister unions; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on University Education, Polytechnic Education, Federal Colleges of Education, Labour, Employment and Productivity, Finance, Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata Birniwa/Kirikasamma/Guri Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Education is the hub of the socio-economic, political and technological development of every nation which equips individuals with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking abilities essential for effective decision-making and problem-solving, in shaping policies, laws, and the overall direction of a nation and the economy;

Also noted that for a country to attain its aspirations of socio-economic, political and technological development, it must have functional, sustainable, quality and stable tertiary educational system to be able to produce qualified and productive graduates in its labour force that will drive the process;

Concerned that Nigerian tertiary education sub-sector has witnessed unprecedented strike actions over the last three decades as a result of disagreements and non-implementation of agreements, memorandum of understanding, most especially, the 2009 agreement and such other agreements reached between the Federal Government and the unions;

Worried that strike actions have continued to distort both the academic activities and calendar, thereby negatively affecting the early and timely completion of academic programmes and by extension, the future of students as a result of these incessant strikes. This and other issues such as poor funding of public tertiary institutions in the education sub-sector, resulted to a growing demand for foreign owned and private universities in the country which is characterized by illicit activities including certificate racketeering. Also the actions have negative effects on the realization of the missions and visions set by the government with the possible consequences on our economic and technological advancement;

Aware that most of the demands by the unions which include the provision of infrastructural facilities, teaching aides and equipment, proper remuneration, welfare and allowances especially earned allowances, conducive working environment, are genuine and implementable which will forthwith, avert any reoccurrence of strike actions in tertiary institutions:

*Distur*bed that the way and manner this issue is being handled and treated with levity and given selective treatment, if not properly handled and resolved amicably, is capable of further aggravating the impasse and distorting academic activities with the attendant proliferation of social vices, economic and security consequences to the country;

Also concerned that another strike is not needed in order to address the problems of the Unions;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to direct the relevant MDAs to come up with modalities for true negotiation with both the academic and non-academic staff unions so as to come up with workable, implementable and final agreement to be signed by both parties;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget Office of the Federation, Accountant General of the Federation and such other MDAs to ensure the full implementation and prompt payment of all the moneys due to the unions;
- (iii) further urge the Government to forthwith, desist from any further selective treatment of any of the unions to create fair treatment and avoid counter strike action by the other sister unions; and
- (*iv*) mandate the Committees on University Education, Polytechnic Education, Federal Colleges of Education, Labour, Employment and Productivity, Finance, Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (**HR. 182/05/2024**).
- (ii) Procurement Process and Award of Contract for the Lagos Calabar Coastal Highway:

 Hon. Austin Asema Achado (Gwer East/Gwer West 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.

Procurement Process and Award of Contract for the Lagos - Calabar Coastal Highway:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Ministry of Works has executed an ENGINEERING PROCUREMENT CONSTRUCTION AND FINANCE (EPC+F) contract, in favour of Hitech Construction Company Nigeria Limited, for the delivery of the 700km Lagos to Calabar Coastal Road and Rail Project estimated at a rate of ₹4.329 Billion per kilometer, using reinforced concrete technology for a carriage width of 59.7 metres, to include 10 lanes,

shoulders and rail with additional designs of service ducts, street lights, drainages and shore protection;

Also notes that this laudable project with the prospect of providing easy access for movement of goods and services across the nation, has a financing structure, as announced by the Minister of Works, which requires the Federal Government to provide 15% to 30% co-financing, while the private sector counterpart will provide the balance, and to toll the road when completed for a minimum period of 15 years, to ensure full recovery of all debts and equity applied for the delivery of the project;

Concerned that the Procurement Strategy may have violated section 40 (2) of the Public Procurement Act, 2007, which requires that where a procuring authority adopts to use Restrictive Tendering Approach, it should be on the basis that the said goods and services are available only from a limited number of Suppliers and Contractors and as such, tenders shall be invited from all such Contractors who can provide such goods and services;

Aware that the Procurement Strategy adopted by the Federal Ministry of Works for the award of the contract violates the Infrastructure Concession and Regulatory Commission Act 2005, as Section 4 of the Act outlines that all approved Infrastructure projects and contracts for Financing, Construction and Maintenance must be advertised for Open Competitive Public Bid, in at least three National dailies and Section 5 of the Act further clarifies that any Direct Negotiations with only one Contractor could be allowed, only after exhausting the provisions of section 4;

Worried that the Federal Ministry of Works in promoting the project has provided a rate per kilometer for the planned works, but has not provided the private partner's financing sources, structure and competitiveness, as this is likely to create contingent liabilities to the Nigerian Government;

Disturbed that the Contingent Liabilities accruing to the Federal Government of Nigeria on this project violate the Debt Management Office (Establishment) Act of 2023, as Section 22 (3) states that the Minister shall not guarantee an external loan unless the terms and conditions of the loan shall have been laid before the National Assembly and approved by its resolution. The guarantees issued to cover the debt financing component of this project do not have the approval of this National Assembly;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Minister of Works, the Minister of Finance and the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice to ensure that all guarantees and credit enhancement instruments for the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Road Project are sent to the National Assembly for approval;
- (ii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the procurement process of the contract for the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway Project and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Austin Asema Achado Gwer East/Gwer West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

(i) In Prayer (ii), leave out the words "set up an Ad-hoc Committee", and insert the words mandate the Committee on Public Procurement (Hon. Unyime Idem Josiah — Ukanafun/Oruk/Anam Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(ii) Leave out Prayer (ii) as amended, and insert as follows: "mandate the Committees on Public Procurement, and Works to investigate the procurement process of the contract for the Lagos - Calabar Coastal Highway project and report within four weeks" (Hon. Isika Ibrahim Ayokunle — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Federal Ministry of Works has executed an ENGINEERING PROCUREMENT CONSTRUCTION AND FINANCE (EPC+F) contract, in favour of Hitech Construction Company Nigeria Limited, for the delivery of the 700km Lagos to Calabar Coastal Road and Rail Project estimated at a rate of ₹4.329 Billion per kilometer, using reinforced concrete technology for a carriage width of 59.7 metres, to include 10 lanes, shoulders and rail with additional designs of service ducts, street lights, drainages and shore protection;

Also noted that this laudable project with the prospect of providing easy access for movement of goods and services across the nation, has a financing structure, as announced by the Minister of Works, which requires the Federal Government to provide 15% to 30% co-financing, while the private sector counterpart will provide the balance, and to toll the road when completed for a minimum period of 15 years, to ensure full recovery of all debts and equity applied for the delivery of the project;

Concerned that the Procurement Strategy may have violated section 40 (2) of the Public Procurement Act, 2007, which requires that where a procuring authority adopts to use Restrictive Tendering Approach, it should be on the basis that the said goods and services are available only from a limited number of Suppliers and Contractors and as such, tenders shall be invited from all such Contractors who can provide such goods and services;

Aware that the Procurement Strategy adopted by the Federal Ministry of Works for the award of the contract violates the Infrastructure Concession and Regulatory Commission Act 2005, as Section 4 of the Act outlines that all approved Infrastructure projects and contracts for Financing, Construction and Maintenance must be advertised for Open Competitive Public Bid, in at least three National dailies and Section 5 of the Act further clarifies that any Direct Negotiations with only one Contractor could be allowed, only after exhausting the provisions of section 4;

Worried that the Federal Ministry of Works in promoting the project has provided a rate per kilometer for the planned works, but has not provided the private partner's financing sources, structure and competitiveness, as this is likely to create contingent liabilities to the Nigerian Government;

Disturbed that the Contingent Liabilities accruing to the Federal Government of Nigeria on this project violate the Debt Management Office (Establishment) Act of 2023, as Section 22 (3) states that the Minister shall not guarantee an external loan unless the terms and conditions of the loan shall have been laid before the National Assembly and approved by its resolution. The guarantees issued to cover the debt financing component of this project do not have the approval of this National Assembly;

Resolved to:

(i) call on the Minister of Works, the Minister of Finance and the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice to ensure that all guarantees and credit

enhancement instruments for the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Road Project are sent to the National Assembly for approval;

- (ii) mandate the Committees on Public Procurement, and Works to investigate the procurement process of the contract for the Lagos Calabar Coastal Highway project and report within four (4) weeks (HR. 183/05/2024).
- (iii) Tragic Killing of Master Damilola Iyanda, a Native of Ogotun Ekiti South Local Government Area, Ekiti State:

Hon. Ojuawo Rufus Adeniyi (*Ekiti South 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.

Tragic Killing of Master Damilola Iyanda, a Native of Ogotun Ekiti, Ekiti Local Government Area, Ekiti State:

The House:

Notes the tragic killing of Master Damilola Iyanda on April 22, 2024, due to the actions of a trigger-happy police officer while attending the after-party of his brother's graduation in Ogbomosho, Oyo State;

Also notes that Master Iyanda Damilola was an enthusiastic member of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), serving in Ibadan, Oya State. He was full of life and a trained Civil Engineer who actively contributed to community development projects during his assignment in Oyo State, Nigeria, before his life was abruptly ended;

Concerned that the unprofessional conduct of the police officer who caused the death of the Corps member is unacceptable;

Also concerned that it is unreasonable for any human being, especially law enforcement officers to unlawfully take the life of a fellow citizen and the need not to condone or allow such killings to continue in the country;

Cognizant of the urgent need for improved measures to safeguard the lives and aspirations of all citizens, including vulnerable individuals like the slain NYSC member, whose life was cut short by the unprofessional actions of the security personnel;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute of silence in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) urge the Inspector General of Police to conduct a thorough investigation and provide appropriate compensation to the bereaved family;
- (iii) also urge the Inspector General to prioritize the training and retraining of police officers on the proper use of firearms (Hon. Rufus Adeniyi Ojuawo Ekiti South Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the tragic killing of Master Damilola Iyanda on April 22, 2024, due to the actions of a trigger-happy police officer while attending the after-party of his brother's graduation in Ogbomosho, Oyo State;

Also noted that Master Iyanda Damilola was an enthusiastic member of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), serving in Ibadan, Oya State. He was full of life and a trained Civil Engineer who actively contributed to community development projects during his assignment in Oyo State, Nigeria, before his life was abruptly ended;

Concerned that the unprofessional conduct of the police officer who caused the death of the Corps member is unacceptable;

Also concerned that it is unreasonable for any human being, especially law enforcement officers to unlawfully take the life of a fellow citizen and the need not to condone or allow such killings to continue in the country;

Cognizant of the urgent need for improved measures to safeguard the lives and aspirations of all citizens, including vulnerable individuals like the slain NYSC member, whose life was cut short by the unprofessional actions of the security personnel;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute of silence in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) urge the Inspector General of Police to conduct a thorough investigation and provide appropriate compensation to the bereaved family;
- (iii) also urge the Inspector General to prioritize the training and retraining of police officers on the proper use of firearms (HR. 184/05/2024).

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 — Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(iv) Need to Resuscitate the Gbarain 252MV Power Station in Koroama Yenagoa, Bayelsa State:

Hon. Oboku Abonsizibe Oforji (*Yenogoa/Kolokuma/Opokuma 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 Resuscitate the Gbarain 252MW Power Station in Koroama Yenagoa, Bayelsa State:

The House:

Notes that the Niger Delta Power Holding Plants were built with resources of the three tiers of Government (Federal, State and Local Government) through the application of the excess crude funds:

Also notes that Gbarain is one of the twenty-three National integrated power projects which has been deemed. "Critical Infrastructure in the generation, transmission, distribution and natural gas supply sub-sectors of the electric power value chain" by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission;

Further notes that on 30 November, 2020, the Niger Delta Power Holding Company (NDPHC) lost the Power Control Module (PCM) of the Gbarain Power Plant to an inferno. The Bayelsa State Government offered to take some responsibilities of the NDPHC, since the state happened to be the most affected, particularly as the state owned Niger Delta University derives its electricity supply from the station. Accordingly, the state Government undertook the rehabilitation and restoration of power supply through the 60MVA, 132/33KV power transformer which is currently supplying the Gbarain power station auxiliaries and the host communities through the 2xl5 MVA33/11KV injection substation which was not functioning before the intervention and also a NDPHC project;

Disturbed that three years down the line the NDPHC have not been able to live up to their responsibility by replacing the Power Control Module, which allegedly have been lying redundant in one of its uncompleted station;

Cognizant that the Gbarain Power Station has close proximity of only 700m to the Gbarain-Ubie multi-million dollars Central Gas processing facility that transports over one billion, Standard cubic feet of gas to the NLNG in Bonny, therefore gas is not a constraint. One is prompted to doubt the competence of Niger Delta Holding Company to manage this power plant which has the potentials to be the largest power station in the nation because of its comparative advantage over other Power Plants in its proximity to gas. Reaching its potentials, Gbarain Power Station can conveniently Power the whole Niger Delta Region and beyond;

Also cognizant that rather than resuscitate the power plant, which is built with four hundred million US Dollars, and valued as of today with over Eight hundred million US Dollars, the management of the NDPHC is proposing to designate the 252MW Open Cycle Power Station as a construction site, thereby abandoning its primary responsibility of running it to the benefit of the state, the Niger Delta, and the nation at large. In fact, the Shell Petroleum Development Company has over 60MMsc (sixty million standard cubic feet) of gas allocated to the plant which is unutilized due to the inability of company to operate. This in itself is a risk to the community in case of a leakage of the gas pipeline. It is the intervention of the Bayelsa State Government that has kept the equipment intact, because they are supposed to be under controlled temperature if not, they would have exploded; *Resolves to*:

(i) urge the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to direct the Chairman of the Board of the NDPHC to summon an Emergency Meeting of the Board for the urgent resuscitation of the Gbarain Power Plant in order to increase the National grid;

(ii) invite the Managing Director of the Niger Delta Power Holding Company to appear before the House and shed light on the state of the NDPHC and the Gbarain Power Plant in particular (Hon. Oboku Abonsizibe Oforji — Yenagoa/Kolokuma-Opokima Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (ii), immediately after the words "before the", leave out the word "House", and insert the words "Committee on Power" (Hon. Kwamoti Laori — Demsa/Numan/Lamorde Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — $Agreed\ to$.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Niger Delta Power Holding Plants were built with resources of the three tiers of Government (Federal, State and Local Government) through the application of the excess crude funds;

Also noted that Gbarain is one of the twenty-three National integrated power projects which has been deemed. "Critical Infrastructure in the generation, transmission, distribution and natural gas supply sub-sectors of the electric power value chain" by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission;

Further noted that on 30 November, 2020, the Niger Delta Power Holding Company (NDPHC) lost the Power Control Module (PCM) of the Gbarain Power Plant to an inferno. The Bayelsa State Government offered to take some responsibilities of the NDPHC, since the state happened to be the most affected, particularly as the state owned Niger Delta University derives its electricity supply from the station. Accordingly, the state Government undertook the rehabilitation and restoration of power supply through the 60MVA, 132/33KV power transformer which is currently supplying the Gbarain power station auxiliaries and the host communities through the 2xl5 MVA33/11KV injection substation which was not functioning before the intervention and also a NDPHC project;

Disturbed that three years down the line the NDPHC have not been able to live up to their responsibility by replacing the Power Control Module, which allegedly have been lying redundant in one of its uncompleted station;

Cognizant that the Gbarain Power Station has close proximity of only 700m to the Gbarain-Ubie multi-million dollars Central Gas processing facility that transports over one billion, Standard cubic feet of gas to the NLNG in Bonny, therefore gas is not a constraint. One is prompted to doubt the competence of Niger Delta Holding Company to manage this power plant which has the potentials to be the largest power station in the nation because of its comparative advantage over other Power Plants in its proximity to gas. Reaching its potentials, Gbarain Power Station can conveniently Power the whole Niger Delta Region and beyond;

Also cognizant that rather than resuscitate the power plant, which is built with four hundred million US Dollars, and valued as of today with over Eight hundred million US Dollars, the management of the NDPHC is proposing to designate the 252MW Open Cycle Power Station as a construction site, thereby abandoning its primary responsibility of running it to the benefit of the state, the Niger Delta, and the nation at large. In fact, the Shell Petroleum Development Company has over 60MMsc (sixty million standard cubic feet) of gas allocated

to the plant which is unutilized due to the inability of company to operate. This in itself is a risk to the community in case of a leakage of the gas pipeline. It is the intervention of the Bayelsa State Government that has kept the equipment intact, because they are supposed to be under controlled temperature if not, they would have exploded;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to direct the Chairman of the Board of the NDPHC to summon an Emergency Meeting of the Board for the urgent resuscitation of the Gbarain Power Plant in order to increase the National grid;
- (ii) invite the Managing Director of the Niger Delta Power Holding Company to appear before the Committee on Power and shed light on the state of the NDPHC and the Gbarain Power Plant in particular (HR. 185/05/2024).
- (v) Brutal Killing of 46 People and Kidnapping of 35 Others at Isa and Sabon Birnin Local Government Areas, Sokoto State:

Hon. Mohammed Saidu Bargaja (*Isa/Sabon Birnin 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.

Brutal Killing of 46 People and Kidnaping of 35 Others at Isa and Sabon Birni Local Government Areas, Sokoto State:

The House:

Notes with greatest dismay the brutal killing of 46 people and kidnaping of 35 others within one week in Isa/Sabon Birni Federal Constituency;

Also notes that the 46 people killed are at Lajinge - 15, Modachi - 4, Bargaja - 3, Lugu - 4, Tozai - 3, Saturu - 1, Gidan Sale - 5, Chohi - 2 and Kurar Mota - 2;

Aware that the 35 people kidnapped are at Gidan Sale -13, Mansalawa - 5, Bargaja - 2, Sardauna - 5 and Adamawa - 6;

Worried that several houses, schools and business places were burnt down, while villages were deserted as security of lives and property is under threat.

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) urge the President to provide urgent security intervention to protect lives and properties in the Federal Constituency;
- (iii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), National Commission for Refugees and any relevant agency to provide food and non-food items to the affected victims in the Federal Constituency; and

(iv) further urge the National Commission for Refugees to establish Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Centre to cater for the displaced victims in Isa and Sabon Birni Local Government Areas (Hon. Mohammed Saidu Bargaja — Isa/Sabon Birni Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (v) as follows:

"mandate the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance" (*Hon. Satomi Alhaji Ahmed — Jere Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with greatest dismay the brutal killing of 46 people and kidnaping of 35 others within one week in Isa/Sabon Birni Federal Constituency;

Also noted that the 46 people killed are at Lajinge - 15, Modachi - 4, Bargaja - 3, Lugu - 4, Tozai - 3, Saturu - 1, Gidan Sale - 5, Chohi - 2 and Kurar Mota - 2;

Aware that the 35 people kidnapped are at Gidan Sale -13, Mansalawa - 5, Bargaja - 2, Sardauna - 5 and Adamawa - 6;

Worried that several houses, schools and business places were burnt down, while villages were deserted as security of lives and property is under threat.

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased;
- (ii) urge the President to provide urgent security intervention to protect lives and properties in the Federal Constituency;
- (iii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), National Commission for Refugees and any relevant agency to provide food and non-food items to the affected victims in the Federal Constituency; and
- (*iv*) further urge the National Commission for Refugees to establish Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Centre to cater for the displaced victims in Isa and Sabon Birni Local Government Areas; and
- (v) mandate the Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure compliance (HR. 186/05/2024).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(vi) Activities of Private Sectors (Foreign and Local Companies) to Haemorrhage the Nigerian Economy Through Trade Malpractices:

Hon. Olufemi Richard Bamisile (*Emure/Gbonyin Ekiti East 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.

Ouestion 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.

Activities of Private Sectors (Foreign and Local Companies) to Hemorrhage Nigerian Economy Through Trade Malpractices:

The House:

Notes that Despite joint effort of government agencies to track activities in the private sectors, several foreign and local companies continue to device new and sophisticated schemes to hemorrhage the Nigerian Economy through trade malpractices;

Also notes that in the last eight years Nigeria lost an estimated sum of ₹28 trillion to trade malpractices perpetrated by rogue foreign companies;

Further notes that on daily basis, hundreds of trade malpractices are carried out by foreign and local companies operating in the different sectors of Nigeria economy as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), the Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA) and the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) can definitely not be at all places at the same time;

Observes that in the maritime industry alone, the volume of revenue diverted by foreign companies is about 40 times the revenue target of Nigeria Customs Service and other subsectors of the Nigeria economy;

Concerned that the loss due to trade malpractices does not include the $\aleph6$ trillion lost annually to sophisticated tax avoidance scheme perpetrated by some foreign companies;

Worried that similar situation equally include the Oil and Gas Free Trade Zones Authority (OGFZA);

Also worried that if this continues Nigeria's economy will worsen whilst some people sit in their private space to enjoy the dividends of these malpractices hereby destroying the economy and its hope of development in those sectors;

Disturbed that if this issue is not addressed Nigeria will keep losing to trade malpractices as a result of the loose ends in the foreign companies;

Also concerned that there is a similar motive why the said Act is being carried out despite different efforts by government agencies to track activities in the private sectors and foreign companies;

Informed that some people are beneficiaries of the trade malpracticies with the connivance of some kingpin in the society;

Cognizant of the need to investigate and ascertain the illegal trade malpractices being carried out in the private sector, foreign and local companies in Nigeria;

Resolves to:

Set up a Special Investigating Committee to:

- (i) recover, harness or prevent further loss of such magnitude in a bid to enhance the overall country's GDP restore on economic health;
- (ii) track activities in the private sector, several foreign and local companies from hemorrhaging the Nigeria economy through trade malpractices, the investigative scope will be elastic to cover private sector activities, on land, sea and air;
- (iii) carry out its statutory oversight functions in an increasingly sophisticated private sector;
- (iv) build a technical software tracker that cannot be easily by passed which will pre-empt the multiple trade malpractices scheme employed by their foreign companies and report once the whole process is concluded (Hon. Olufemi Richard Bamisile Gbonyin/Ekiti East/Emure Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Despite joint effort of government agencies to track activities in the private sectors, several foreign and local companies continue to device new and sophisticated schemes to hemorrhage the Nigerian Economy through trade malpractices;

Also noted that in the last eight years Nigeria lost an estimated sum of ₹28 trillion to trade malpractices perpetrated by rogue foreign companies;

Further noted that on daily basis, hundreds of trade malpractices are carried out by foreign and local companies operating in the different sectors of Nigeria economy as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), the Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA) and the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) can definitely not be at all places at the same time;

Observed that in the maritime industry alone, the volume of revenue diverted by foreign companies is about 40 times the revenue target of Nigeria Customs Service and other subsectors of the Nigeria economy;

Concerned that the loss due to trade malpractices does not include the $\aleph6$ trillion lost annually to sophisticated tax avoidance scheme perpetrated by some foreign companies;

Worried that similar situation equally include the Oil and Gas Free Trade Zones Authority (OGFZA);

Also worried that if this continues Nigeria's economy will worsen whilst some people sit in their private space to enjoy the dividends of these malpractices hereby destroying the economy and its hope of development in those sectors;

Disturbed that if this issue is not addressed Nigeria will keep losing to trade malpractices as a result of the loose ends in the foreign companies;

Also concerned that there is a similar motive why the said Act is being carried out despite

different efforts by government agencies to track activities in the private sectors and foreign companies;

Informed that some people are beneficiaries of the trade malpracticies with the connivance of some kingpin in the society;

Cognizant of the need to investigate and ascertain the illegal trade malpractices being carried out in the private sector, foreign and local companies in Nigeria;

Resolved to:

Set up a Special Investigating Committee to:

- (i) recover, harness or prevent further loss of such magnitude in a bid to enhance the overall country's GDP restore on economic health;
- (ii) track activities in the private sector, several foreign and local companies from hemorrhaging the Nigeria economy through trade malpractices, the investigative scope will be elastic to cover private sector activities, on land, sea and air;
- (iii) carry out its statutory oversight functions in an increasingly sophisticated private sector;
- (iv) build a technical software tracker that cannot be easily by passed which will pre-empt the multiple trade malpractices scheme employed by their foreign companies and report once the whole process is concluded (HR. 187/05/2024).

Ad-hoc Committee on the Tracking of the Activities of Private Sector (Foreign and Local) Trade Malpractices (HR. 187/05/2024):

Mr Speaker announced membership of the Committee as follows:

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(<i>i</i>)	Hon. Abubakar Makki Yalleman	_	Chairman
(ii)	Hon. Olufemi Bamisile	_	Member
(iii)	Hon. Marie Ebikake Enenimiete	_	Member
(iv)	Hon. Fatoba Olusola	_	Member
(<i>v</i>)	Hon. Carnice-Moore Nwachukwu	_	Member
(vi)	Hon. Aliyu Boya Wakili	_	Member
(vii)	Hon. Maipalace Kabiru Amodu	_	Member
(viii)	Hon. Cyril Hart Godwin	_	Member
(ix)	Hon. Muhammed Bello Shehu	_	Member
(<i>x</i>)	Hon. Okey- Joe Jesse	_	Member
(xi)	Hon. Ajiya Abdulrahaman	_	Member
(xii)	Hon. Rodney Ambaiowei	_	Member
(xiii)	Hon. Osawaru Billy Famous	_	Member

(vii) Need to Halt and Modify the Proposed Implementation of the Cybersecurity Levy Imposed by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN):

Hon. Chinda Kingsley (*Abio/Akpor 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 Halt and Modify the Proposed Implementation of the Cybersecurity Levy Imposed by the Central Bank of Nigeria:

The House:

Notes that the Central Bank of Nigeria through a Circular dated 6 May, 2024, to all Commercial, Merchant, Non-interest and Payment Service Banks; other Financial Institutions, Mobile Money Operators and Payment Service Providers informed Nigerians of a proposed 0.5% levy on electronic transactions in line with Section 44 (2) (*a*) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) (Amendment) Act, 2024 ("Cybercrimes Act");

Also notes that Section 44 (2) (a) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) (Amendment) Act, 2024 provides that "a levy of 0.5% (0.005) equivalent to half percent of all electronic transactions value by business specified in the Second Schedule to this Act" should be paid into the Cybersecurity Fund;

Further notes that the businesses referrewd to are listed in the Second Schedule to the Cybercrimes Act to be GSM Service Providers and all telecommunication companies, Internet Service Providers, Banks and Other Financial Institutions, Insurance Companies and as well as Nigerian Stock Exchange;

Concerned that the CBN circular mandates all Banks, Other Financial Institutions and Payments Service Providers to implement the Cybercrimes Act by applying the levy at the point of electronic transfer origination as "Cybersecurity Levy" and remitting same;

Also concerned that the wordings of the CBN Circular leaves the CBN directive to multiple interpretations including that the levy be paid by Bank customers, that is, Nigerians against the letters and spirit of Section 44 (2) (a) and the Second Schedule to the Cybercrimes Act, which specifies the businesses that should be levied accordingly;

Worried that this act has led to apprehension as Civil Society Organisations and citizens have taken to conventional and social media to call out the Federal Government, give ultimatums for a reversal of the "imposed levy on Nigerians" among other things;

Also worried that unless immediate pragmatic steps are taken to halt the proposed action of the CBN, the Cybercrimes Act shall be implemented in error at a time when Nigerians are experiencing the aftermath of multiple removal of subsidies from petroleum, electricity and so on and the rising inflation;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria to withdraw the ambiguous circular and issue an unequivocal Circular in line with the letters and spirit of the Law;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Banking Regulations, and Banking and other Ancillary Institutions to guide the Central Bank of Nigeria properly (Hon. Kingsley Ogundu Chinda Obio Akpor Federal Constituency and Four Others).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Central Bank of Nigeria through a Circular dated 6 May, 2024, to all Commercial, Merchant, Non-interest and Payment Service Banks; other Financial Institutions, Mobile Money Operators and Payment Service Providers informed Nigerians

of a proposed 0.5% levy on electronic transactions in line with Section 44 (2) (a) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) (Amendment) Act, 2024 ("Cybercrimes Act");

Also noted that Section 44 (2) (a) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) (Amendment) Act, 2024 provides that "a levy of 0.5% (0.005) equivalent to half percent of all electronic transactions value by business specified in the Second Schedule to this Act" should be paid into the Cybersecurity Fund;

Further noted that the businesses referrewd to are listed in the Second Schedule to the Cybercrimes Act to be GSM Service Providers and all telecommunication companies, Internet Service Providers, Banks and Other Financial Institutions, Insurance Companies and as well as Nigerian Stock Exchange;

Concerned that the CBN circular mandates all Banks, Other Financial Institutions and Payments Service Providers to implement the Cybercrimes Act by applying the levy at the point of electronic transfer origination as "Cybersecurity Levy" and remitting same;

Also concerned that the wordings of the CBN Circular leaves the CBN directive to multiple interpretations including that the levy be paid by Bank customers, that is, Nigerians against the letters and spirit of Section 44 (2) (a) and the Second Schedule to the Cybercrimes Act, which specifies the businesses that should be levied accordingly;

Worried that this act has led to apprehension as Civil Society Organisations and citizens have taken to conventional and social media to call out the Federal Government, give ultimatums for a reversal of the "imposed levy on Nigerians" among other things;

Also worried that unless immediate pragmatic steps are taken to halt the proposed action of the CBN, the Cybercrimes Act shall be implemented in error at a time when Nigerians are experiencing the aftermath of multiple removal of subsidies from petroleum, electricity and so on and the rising inflation;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria to withdraw the ambiguous circular and issue an unequivocal Circular in line with the letters and spirit of the Law;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Banking Regulations, and Banking and other Ancillary Institutions to guide the Central Bank of Nigeria properly (HR. 188/05/2024).
- (viii) Implementation of the Government Reforms in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Missions and the 4D Foreign Policy/Agenda of Democracy, Development, Demography and Diaspora to Avert Possible Loss of Lives and Properties of Nigerians:

 Hon. Etanabene Benedict (Okpe/Sapele/Uvwie Federal Constituency and 33 Others)

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.

Implementation of Government Reforms in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Missions and the Foreign Policy Thrust of Democracy, Development, Demography and Diaspora to Avert Possible Loss of Lives and Properties:

The House:

Notes that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is a body recognized by law to ensure the implementation of the Foreign policy objectives of government exercisable through the various Foreign Missions;

Also notes that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs equally plays other specialized roles that promote and regulate how Nigeria and Nigerians are perceived across the global community, especially through activities in our Embassies and High Commissions which carry out Consular and Diplomatic functions in all areas of our national life;

Aware that the government has set in motion reforms for effective service delivery in the Ministry of foreign Affairs, Parastatals and the Missions;

Also aware that government has put in place a clearly defined Foreign Policy thrust of Democracy, Development, Demography and Diaspora known as 4Ds to usher in a new foreign policy focus for the country;

Concerned that the House has taken several steps to ensure that the reforms and policy thrust comes to fruition for the good of the country, and in spite of the efforts of the House, Nigerians around the world are faced with general and urgent Consular Services Challenge;

Also concerned that many Nigerians are illegally held or imprisoned in foreign countries and often under harsh conditions that may lead to loss of lives if urgent actions are not taken;

Convinced that many Nigerians students are stranded in foreign land over issues that can be resolved and that many Nigerians owned businesses around the world helping in contributing to the economy of those countries and sending remittances back home but are suffering harassment and sabotage;

Cognizant that many Nigerians go through extreme difficulties to secure visas for legitimate travels including Government Officials and Legislators after paying exorbitant visa fees;

Disturbed that many embassies in a bid to ease visa application processes have resulted to outsourcing the processes to agent whose cost of services are born by Nigerians;

Also disturbed that several modes of visa applications are in force including express services with huge cost paid by applicants who are sometimes denied visas after such payments;

Conscious that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in addition to budgetary allocations, benefits from intervention funds, for running the affairs of the ministry and missions as well as the internally generated revenue by several missions around the world with questions over effective and efficient utilization over the years;

Perturbed that several complaints regarding issues of employments in the Ministry and Missions, appointments, postings, redeployment and disciplinary issues that affect morals and service delivery have been received;

Also perturbed that the country has properties and assets across the world under various missions, many underutilized and several others abandoned which if properly audited and harnessed will enhance efficiency of our Foreign Service Officers and increase the revenue that is generated by the Federal Government;

Worried that in a lot of Missions, local staff ceiling has been exceeded due to violation of rules and in some instances, the ceiling of Foreign Service Officers. This has further resulted to indebtedness in the respective missions;

Also worried that if these issues are not investigated and appropriate and urgent actions taken, it may lead to loss of lives and properties, further difficulties in visa and consular services home and abroad, malfeasance and waste, inefficiency and loss of revenue, poor implementation of the government reforms, 4Ds policy thrust;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Foreign Affairs to carry out a holistic investigation and report within three (3) weeks (*Hon. Benedict Etanabene — Okpe/Sapele/Uvwie Federal Constituency and Thirty-Three Others*).

The House:

Noted that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is a body recognized by law to ensure the implementation of the Foreign policy objectives of government exercisable through the various Foreign Missions;

Also noted that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs equally plays other specialized roles that promote and regulate how Nigeria and Nigerians are perceived across the global community, especially through activities in our Embassies and High Commissions which carry out Consular and Diplomatic functions in all areas of our national life;

Aware that the government has set in motion reforms for effective service delivery in the Ministry of foreign Affairs, Parastatals and the Missions;

Also aware that government has put in place a clearly defined Foreign Policy thrust of Democracy, Development, Demography and Diaspora known as 4Ds to usher in a new foreign policy focus for the country;

Concerned that the House has taken several steps to ensure that the reforms and policy thrust comes to fruition for the good of the country, and in spite of the efforts of the House, Nigerians around the world are faced with general and urgent Consular Services Challenge;

Also concerned that many Nigerians are illegally held or imprisoned in foreign countries and often under harsh conditions that may lead to loss of lives if urgent actions are not taken;

Convinced that many Nigerians students are stranded in foreign land over issues that can be resolved and that many Nigerians owned businesses around the world helping in contributing to the economy of those countries and sending remittances back home but are suffering harassment and sabotage;

Cognizant that many Nigerians go through extreme difficulties to secure visas for legitimate travels including Government Officials and Legislators after paying exorbitant visa fees;

Disturbed that many embassies in a bid to ease visa application processes have resulted to outsourcing the processes to agent whose cost of services are born by Nigerians;

Also disturbed that several modes of visa applications are in force including express services with huge cost paid by applicants who are sometimes denied visas after such payments;

Conscious that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in addition to budgetary allocations, benefits from intervention funds, for running the affairs of the ministry and missions as well as the internally generated revenue by several missions around the world with questions over effective and efficient utilization over the years;

Perturbed that several complaints regarding issues of employments in the Ministry and

Missions, appointments, postings, redeployment and disciplinary issues that affect morals and service delivery have been received;

Also perturbed that the country has properties and assets across the world under various missions, many underutilized and several others abandoned which if properly audited and harnessed will enhance efficiency of our Foreign Service Officers and increase the revenue that is generated by the Federal Government;

Worried that in a lot of Missions, local staff ceiling has been exceeded due to violation of rules and in some instances, the ceiling of Foreign Service Officers. This has further resulted to indebtedness in the respective missions;

Also worried that if these issues are not investigated and appropriate and urgent actions taken, it may lead to loss of lives and properties, further difficulties in visa and consular services home and abroad, malfeasance and waste, inefficiency and loss of revenue, poor implementation of the government reforms, 4Ds policy thrust;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Foreign Affairs to carry out a holistic investigation and report within three (3) weeks (HR. 189/05/2024).

Debate.

Agreed to.

7. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the First Time:

- (1) Nigerian Content Programmes, Contracts, Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation (NOPCESTI) Bill, 2024 (HB.1167).
- (2) North East Development Vocational Education Institute, Alkaleri, Bauchi State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1180).
- (3) National Vocational and Entrepreneurship Institute, Jos, Plateau State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1186).
- (4) National Agency for Technology Management (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1193).
- (5) Niger -Delta Development Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1233).
- (6) Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1252).
- (7) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1255).
- (8) Police Service Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1256).
- (9) Pension Reform Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1268).
- (10) National Broadcasting Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1270).
- (11) National Cotton, Textile and Garment (CTG) Development Council (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1287).
- (12) Budget and National Planning Bill, 2024 (HB.1302).

- (13) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1310).
- (14) National Grains Development Council (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1311).
- (15) Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skills Acquisitions, Isiagu Obizi, Awka South, Anambra State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1322).
- (16) African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons (Domestication and Enforcement) Bill, 2024 (HB.1350).
- (17) National Institute of Agricultural and Applied Economics (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1351).
- (18) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1354).
- (19) Federal Polytechnics Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1372).
- (20) Federal Universities of Agriculture Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1375).
- (21) Federal Colleges of Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1384).

8. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 14 May, 2024 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 12.58 p.m.

Abbas Tajudeen Speaker