



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 11 February, 2025

1. The House met at 11.06 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House sang the National Anthem and recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**  
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 6 February, 2025.

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

4. **Admittance into the Chamber**  
*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do admit into the Chamber, Hon. Garba Datti Babawo, a former Member of the House of Representatives, to observe the proceedings of the House, pursuant to Order Six, Rule 4 (2)” (*Hon. Julius Ihonybere — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

5. **Announcement**
  - (i) **Visitors in the Gallery:**  
Mr Speaker announced the presence of the following visitors in the gallery:
    - (i) Members of the All Progressives Congress, Kaduna State;
    - (ii) Members of the Student Union, Student’s Supreme Council (SSC), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi, Benue State;
    - (iii) Staff and Students of Graceland School, Bwari, Abuja;
    - (iv) Staff and Students of Crest International Schools, Mararaba, Karu, Nasarawa State.
  - (ii) **Appointment of New Deputy Chief Whip:**  
Mr Speaker announced the appointment of Hon. Isiaka Ayokunle Ibrahim (*Ifo.Ewekoro Federal Constituency*), as the new Deputy Chief Whip.

(iii) **Defection:**

Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Amos Gwamna Magaji (*Zango Kataf/Jaba Federal Constituency*) announcing his defection from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to All Progressives Congress (APC).

(iv) **Bereavement:**

Mr Speaker read a communication from Hon. Emmanuel Effiong Ukpang-Udo (*Ikono/Ini Federal Constituency*), announcing the demise of a former Member, Hon. Asukwo Udo Umo (*Ikono/Ini Federal Constituency, 1979 - 1983*), who died on Monday, 19 August, 2024 at the age of 97.

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

**6. Petitions**

- (i) A petition from Yakubu S. Adamu, on behalf of Concerned Citizens of Kwankwashe II Community, Suleja, Niger State, on alleged refusal to replace faulty transformer by the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company, was presented and laid by Hon. Jesse Okey-Joe Onuakalusi (*Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) A petition from Obasi-MacPherson Chukwuma, on behalf of Obasi-MacPherson's Help Foundation on the alleged refusal of the Comptroller-General of the Nigerian Customs Service and 6 others to retire from service following the attainment of their retirement age, was presented and laid by Hon. Anthony Mathew Nwogu (*Aboh Mbaize/Ngor Okpala Federal Constituency*).

*Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.*

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

(i) ***Need to Deploy Urgent Security Measures and Provide Humanitarian Support to Jibwuwhi, Yarkawa in Hawul Local Government Area, and Other Communities in Askira-Uba Local Government Area of Borno State:***

Hon. Midala Usman Balami (*Askira-Uba/Hawul 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 Deploy Urgent Security Measures and Provide Humanitarian Support to Jibwuwhi, Yarkawa in Hawul Local Government Area, and Other Communities in Askira-Uba Local Government Area of Borno State:**

The House:

*Notes* with grave concern the recent escalating attack by Boko Haram insurgents on Jibwuwhi, Yarkawa communities in Hawul Local Government Area of Borno State, resulting in the tragic loss of lives, destruction of properties, and displacement of innocent residents;

*Also notes* that these violent attacks have persisted despite ongoing security interventions, leaving the communities vulnerable to repeated assaults, loss of livelihoods, and severe humanitarian crises;

*Concerned* that following the attack, the residents of Jibwuwhi, Yarkawa and its surrounding areas are living in fear and distress as many are forced to flee their homes, creating an urgent need for enhanced security measures and humanitarian relief;

*Worried* that despite the magnitude of the attack, there has been inadequate response in terms of security reinforcement and immediate relief support for the affected people, worsening their suffering and leaving them in dire need of assistance;

*Aware* that continuous terrorist attacks in Hawul, Askira-Uba, Chibok and other parts of Borno State not only threaten the safety and well-being of residents but also undermine national security and efforts toward peace, stability, and development in the Northeast region;

*Also worried* that failure to take swift action to secure Jibwuwhi, yarkawa communities and provide necessary support to victims may encourage further attacks, exacerbate displacement, and deepen the humanitarian crisis in the constituency and beyond;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Nigerian Army, Nigeria Police Force, and other relevant security agencies to immediately deploy personnel and reinforce security operations in Jibwuwhi, Yarkawa Communities and other vulnerable areas in Hawul LGA to prevent future attacks;
- (ii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government, through the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in collaboration with the Borno State Government, to facilitate the immediate provision of relief materials, including food, medical aid, and psycho-social support to the affected victims;
- (iii) call on the Executive Arm of Government to strengthen counterterrorism strategies in Borno State, improve intelligence gathering, and enhance collaboration between security agencies and local vigilante groups to prevent further insurgent activities in Askira-Uba/Hawul Federal Constituency;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Army, National Security and Intelligence, and Humanitarian Affairs to investigate the security lapses that led to the attack, monitor the implementation of security reinforcements, and ensure the immediate delivery of humanitarian assistance (*Hon. Midala Usman Salami — Askira-Uba/Hawul Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* with grave concern the recent escalating attack by Boko Haram insurgents on Jibwuwhi, Yarkawa communities in Hawul Local Government Area of Borno State, resulting in the tragic loss of lives, destruction of properties, and displacement of innocent residents;

*Also noted* that these violent attacks have persisted despite ongoing security interventions, leaving the communities vulnerable to repeated assaults, loss of livelihoods, and severe humanitarian crises;

*Concerned* that following the attack, the residents of Jibwuwghi, Yarkawa and its surrounding areas are living in fear and distress as many are forced to flee their homes, creating an urgent need for enhanced security measures and humanitarian relief;

*Worried* that despite the magnitude of the attack, there has been inadequate response in terms of security reinforcement and immediate relief support for the affected people, worsening their suffering and leaving them in dire need of assistance;

*Aware* that continuous terrorist attacks in Hawul, Askira-Uba, Chibok and other parts of Borno State not only threaten the safety and well-being of residents but also undermine national security and efforts toward peace, stability, and development in the Northeast region;

*Also worried* that failure to take swift action to secure Jibwuwghi, yarkawa communities and provide necessary support to victims may encourage further attacks, exacerbate displacement, and deepen the humanitarian crisis in the constituency and beyond;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Nigerian Army, Nigeria Police Force, and other relevant security agencies to immediately deploy personnel and reinforce security operations in Jibwuwghi, Yarkawa Communities and other vulnerable areas in Hawul LGA to prevent future attacks;
  - (ii) also urge the Executive Arm of Government, through the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in collaboration with the Borno State Government, to facilitate the immediate provision of relief materials, including food, medical aid, and psycho-social support to the affected victims;
  - (iii) call on the Executive Arm of Government to strengthen counterterrorism strategies in Borno State, improve intelligence gathering, and enhance collaboration between security agencies and local vigilante groups to prevent further insurgent activities in Askira-Uba/Hawul Federal Constituency;
  - (iv) mandate the Committees on Army, National Security and Intelligence, and Humanitarian Affairs to investigate the security lapses that led to the attack, monitor the implementation of security reinforcements, and ensure the immediate delivery of humanitarian assistance **(HR. 23/02/2025)**.
- (ii) ***Need for the Nigerian Communications Commission Not to Approve the Impending Hike in the Telecommunications Tariffs:***  
Hon. Obuku Abonsizibe Oforji (*Yenogoa/Okolokuma/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 for the Nigerian Communications Commission Not to Approve the Impending Hike in the Telecommunications Tariffs:**

The House:

*Notes* that speaking after a stake holders' meeting with Mobile Network Operators in Abuja on Wednesday, 8 January, 2025, the Minister of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy, Dr Bosun Tijani, disclosed that telecommunication tariffs will soon increase;

*Also notes* that according to the Minister, consultations are ongoing as there have been agitations from some of these companies to increase tariffs to as high as 100 percent. He however said it will not be an 100 percent increase and that the Nigerian Communications Commission would approve the new tariffs and announce them in due course;

*Further notes* that the argument of the telecommunications companies for the hike includes, the cost of investment, better networks, increasing demand for digital services across sectors such as education, banking and healthcare amongst others;

*Aware* that the telecommunications companies have been advocating for the hike for the last eleven years, according to the Association of Licensed Telecom Operators of Nigeria (ALTON) and the Association of Telecommunication Companies of Nigeria (ATCON) they argued that the telcos need cost- reflective tariffs in the face of adverse economic reality like a record inflation of 34.6 percent in November 2024 and losses resulting from foreign exchange fluctuations;

*Worried* that the National Association of Telecoms Subscribers has rejected the proposed increase in tariffs, describing it as insensitive and a further burden on consumers already grappling with economic hardship, and poor network service delivery. It is imperative that the telecommunications companies improve on their service delivery (poor network), which Nigerians have been yearning for in years, before embarking on the increase in their tariffs;

*Also worried* that the far reaching effects of these price hikes will deepen financial struggles for the average Nigerian, threaten the country's vision of leveraging technology to drive economic revival, exacerbate poverty and widen existing inequalities, hitting lower income families the hardest. Affordable connectivity is a must for progress in critical sectors like digital banking, education, healthcare, agriculture and e- governance. Informal sector workers who depend on affordable mobile data to access gig work opportunities may find it harder to stay connected;

*Saddened* that those small businesses, which rely heavily on affordable telecommunication for operations, marketing, and customer engagement, will face additional financial burden. Imagine a scenario where a 10 percent increase is approved. It is estimated that a 10 percent increase in telecommunications costs would reduce small business profitability up to 7 percent, potentially leading to closure of businesses;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy and the Nigerian Communications Commissions to suspend the impending hike in telecommunications tariffs until their service improved;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Telecommunications to ensure compliance (*Hon. Oforji Abonsizibe Obuku — Yenagoa/Kolokuma Opokuma Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that speaking after a stake holders' meeting with Mobile Network Operators in Abuja on Wednesday, 8 January, 2025, the Minister of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy, Dr Bosun Tijani, disclosed that telecommunication tariffs will soon increase;

*Also noted* that according to the Minister, consultations are ongoing as there have been agitations from some of these companies to increase tariffs to as high as 100 percent. He however said it will not be an 100 percent increase and that the Nigerian Communications Commission would approve the new tariffs and announce them in due course;

*Further noted* that the argument of the telecommunications companies for the hike includes, the cost of investment, better networks, increasing demand for digital services across sectors such as education, banking and healthcare amongst others;

*Aware* that the telecommunications companies have been advocating for the hike for the last eleven years, according to the Association of Licensed Telecom Operators of Nigeria (ALTON) and the Association of Telecommunication Companies of Nigeria (ATCON) they argued that the telcos need cost- reflective tariffs in the face of adverse economic reality like a record inflation of 34.6 percent in November 2024 and losses resulting from foreign exchange fluctuations;

*Worried* that the National Association of Telecoms Subscribers has rejected the proposed increase in tariffs, describing it as insensitive and a further burden on consumers already grappling with economic hardship, and poor network service delivery. It is imperative that the telecommunications companies improve on their service delivery (poor network), which Nigerians have been yearning for in years, before embarking on the increase in their tariffs;

*Also worried* that the far reaching effects of these price hikes will deepen financial struggles for the average Nigerian, threaten the country's vision of leveraging technology to drive economic revival, exacerbate poverty and widen existing inequalities, hitting lower income families the hardest. Affordable connectivity is a must for progress in critical sectors like digital banking, education, healthcare, agriculture and e- governance. Informal sector workers who depend on affordable mobile data to access gig work opportunities may find it harder to stay connected;

*Saddened* that those small businesses, which rely heavily on affordable telecommunication for operations, marketing, and customer engagement, will face additional financial burden. Imagine a scenario where a 10 percent increase is approved. It is estimated that a 10 percent increase in telecommunications costs would reduce small business profitability up to 7 percent, potentially leading to closure of businesses;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy and the Nigerian Communications Commissions to suspend the impending hike in telecommunications tariffs until their service improved;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Telecommunications to ensure compliance (**HR. 24/02/2025**).

**8. Privilege (Order Six, Rule 2)**

Hon. Donald Kimikanboh Ojogo (*Ese-Odo/Ilaje Federal Constituency*), drew the attention of the House to a publication on ThisDay News Paper of Friday, 7 February, 2025, following the

announcement of Mr Deputy Speaker, on Thursday, 6 February, 2025, on the proposal received from Nigerians requesting for State creation. He noted that Mr Deputy Speaker's announcement was grossly misrepresented and taken out of context, particularly by Arise News Television Presenter, Dr Reuben Abati, who in a viral video described the House of Representatives as "stupid and idiotic". He viewed Dr Abati's baseless assertion as a breach of his privilege and that of the House. He urged the House to demand an unreserved apology from Dr. Reuben Abati and Arise News Television within 24 hours, and also urged the House to take any other measures deemed necessary to prevent a reoccurrence.

**Ordered:** *Mr Speaker noted the matter and by leave of the House demanded for an unreserved apology from Dr Reuben Abati and Arise News Television within 24 hours.*

## 9. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) National Assembly Infrastructure and Property Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2072).
- (2) Company Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 2019).
- (3) Oseakwa Deep Water Seaport Resuscitation and Development (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2031).
- (4) National Broadcasting Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2039).
- (5) Freedom of Information Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2048).
- (6) National e-Gaming (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2073).
- (7) Nigeria Police Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2065).
- (8) Federal Highways Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2066).
- (9) Federal Road Safety Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2067).
- (10) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2068).
- (11) Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2070).
- (12) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 2071).

## 10. Presentation of Reports

### (i) ***Committees on Treaties, Protocols and Agreements, and Environment:***

*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committees on Treaties, Protocols and Agreements, and Environment on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Conservation and Management of Nigeria's Wildlife as required under the Convention on International Trade in Engender Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Cities), the Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and Associated Agreements and Protocols and the Convention on Biological diversity (CBD) to which Nigeria is a Party and for Related Matters (HB. 1085)" (*Hon. Rabi'u Yusuf — Sumaila/Takai Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

(ii) **Committee on Health Institutions:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Health Institutions on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal Medical Centre, Saki, Oyo State and for Related Matters (HB. 1356)” (*Hon. Patrick Umoh — Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

(iii) **Committee on Health Institutions:**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Health Institutions on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act to Provide for Establishment of Federal Medical Centre, Mallam Madori, Jigawa State and for Related Matters (HB. 1504)” (*Hon. Patrick Umoh — Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

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

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the 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)” (*Hon. Fuad Kayode Laguda — Surulere I Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

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

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do receive the 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 (HB 497)” (*Hon. Fuad Kayode Laguda — Surulere I Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.*

*Report laid.*

**11. 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) — Third Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That 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) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third Time and passed.*

**12. A Bill for an Act to Establish Nigerian Institute of Chartered Foresters and for Related Matters (HB. 896) — Third Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Nigerian Institute of Chartered Foresters and for Related Matters (HB. 896) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third Time and passed.*

**13. A Bill for an Act to Establish Institute of Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Corporate Governance and for Related Matters (HB.1681) — Third Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Institute of Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Corporate Governance and for Related Matters (HB.1681) be now read the Third Time” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*Agreed to.*

*Bill read the Third Time and passed.*

**14. A Bill for an Act to make Provisions for Regulatory Body for Organ Harvesting, Transplant and Donations and for Related Matters (HB.992) — Second Reading**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That a Bill for an Act to make Provisions for Regulatory Body for Organ Harvesting, Transplant and Donations and for Related Matters (HB.992) be read a Second Time” (*Hon. Sada Soli — Jibia/Kaita 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 Healthcare Services.*

**15. A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) to Provide for Establishment of an Electoral Offences Tribunal and ensure that all Electoral matters are determined before swearing in of the elected office holders and for Related Matters (HB.1290) — Second Reading**

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

**16. A Bill for an Act to Establish Chartered Institute for Social Entrepreneurship and Leadership of Nigeria (CISEL) and for Related Matters (HB.840) — Second Reading**

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

**17. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act to Establish Federal Medical Centre, Otukpa, Benue State and for Related Matters (HB.103) — Second Reading**

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

**18. Need to Investigate Non-compliance by Mining Operators to the Provisions of the Minerals and Mines Act, 2007 and the Explosives Act**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that the Nigerian Minerals and Mining Act, 2007 expressly outlines several consequences for mining operators who fail to comply with its provisions some of which include revocation of mineral title, penalties and fines, suspension of operations, legal actions and community development agreements to mention a few;

*Also notes* that whereas the Act was enacted to ensure sustainable mining practices, protect the environment, and uphold the rights of local communities, it has become increasingly evident that many mining operators have failed to adhere to its provisions which reveals an alarming level of complacency exhibited by regulatory bodies in addressing these violations;

*Recalls* that in 2024 most Nigerians lost their lives in several incidents which includes massive explosion in Bodija area of Ibadan, Oyo State, resulting in property damage and five deaths, a mining collapse in Niger state, and a building collapse in Plateau State due to improper reclaimed mine tunnels;

*Also aware* that in recent times there have been compliant from host communities on the administration of consent as well as poor or negligible and Non-compliance with Community Development Agreements, leaving the host communities with the short end of the stick;

*Worried* that the role of regulators is crucial in enforcing compliance and ensuring that mining activities are conducted ethically and sustainably, the apparent negligence and lack of action in addressing these violations have raised serious concerns and eroded public trust;

*Also worried* that if these ugly trends continues they can lead to a breakdown of law and order amongst the affected communities.

*Concerned* that the unfortunate cases stated are just a few out of numerous mining accidents which often result in fatalities, injuries and damages to host communities;

*Cognizant* of the need to investigate the non-compliance of Mining Operators to Provisions of the Minerals and Mines Act, 2007 and the Explosives Act to safeguard mining host communities, protect the rights of citizens, and restore the integrity of the mining sector in the country;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Ministry of Solid Minerals to conduct public awareness campaigns to educate citizens on their rights under the Minerals and Mines Act and the mechanisms available for reporting non-compliance and environmental violations;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Solid Minerals Development to carry out:
  - (a) physical inspection of mining sites as well as a comprehensive review of the practices and effectiveness of regulatory bodies responsible for overseeing mining operations, with a focus on identifying areas of complacency and recommending necessary reforms to enhance their capacity and accountability, and
  - (b) an immediate and thorough investigation into the non-compliance of mining operators with the provisions of the Minerals and Mines Act, 2007 and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Etteh Okpolupm Ikpong — Eket/Esit Eket/Ibeno/Onna Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the Nigerian Minerals and Mining Act, 2007 expressly outlines several consequences for mining operators who fail to comply with its provisions some of which include revocation of mineral title, penalties and fines, suspension of operations, legal actions and community development agreements to mention a few;

*Also noted* that whereas the Act was enacted to ensure sustainable mining practices, protect the environment, and uphold the rights of local communities, it has become increasingly evident that many mining operators have failed to adhere to its provisions which reveals an alarming level of complacency exhibited by regulatory bodies in addressing these violations;

*Recalled* that in 2024 most Nigerians lost their lives in several incidents which includes massive explosion in Bodija area of Ibadan, Oyo State, resulting in property damage and five deaths, a mining collapse in Niger state, and a building collapse in Plateau State due to improper reclaimed mine tunnels;

*Also aware* that in recent times there have been compliant from host communities on the administration of consent as well as poor or negligible and Non-compliance with Community Development Agreements, leaving the host communities with the short end of the stick;

*Worried* that the role of regulators is crucial in enforcing compliance and ensuring that mining activities are conducted ethically and sustainably, the apparent negligence and lack of action in addressing these violations have raised serious concerns and eroded public trust;

*Also worried* that if these ugly trends continues they can lead to a breakdown of law and order amongst the affected communities.

*Concerned* that the unfortunate cases stated are just a few out of numerous mining accidents which often result in fatalities, injuries and damages to host communities;

*Cognizant* of the need to investigate the non-compliance of Mining Operators to Provisions of the Minerals and Mines Act, 2007 and the Explosives Act to safeguard mining host communities, protect the rights of citizens, and restore the integrity of the mining sector in the country;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Ministry of Solid Minerals to conduct public awareness campaigns to educate citizens on their rights under the Minerals and Mines Act and the mechanisms available for reporting non-compliance and environmental violations;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Solid Minerals Development to carry out :
  - (a) physical inspection of mining sites as well as a comprehensive review of the practices and effectiveness of regulatory bodies responsible for overseeing mining operations, with a focus on identifying areas of complacency and recommending necessary reforms to enhance their capacity and accountability, and
  - (b) an immediate and thorough investigation into the non-compliance of mining operators with the provisions of the Minerals and Mines Act, 2007 and report within four (4) weeks **(HR. 25/02/2025)**.

**19. Menace of Gully Erosion in Nanka, Oko and Umunze Communities**

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

**20. Need to Install Solar Powered Biometric Capturing Devices in all Correctional Centres to Discourage the Incidence of Jail Break in Nigeria**

*Motion made and Question proposed:*

The House:

*Notes* that in 2019, the former President Muhammadu Buhari assented to an Act which changed the name of the Nigerian Prison Service to Nigerian Correctional Service;

*Aware* that since the name was changed to Nigerian Correctional Service which splited the service into Custodial and non-Custodial service, more than 1000 inmates have escaped from the facilities across the country;

*Disturbed* that these jail breaks are becoming a recurring decimal, national embarrassment and a security threat to the country;

*Observes* that in spite of the change in nomenclature, critical infrastructure like provision of (Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV), Artificial Intelligence (AI), etc. are not provided to meet modern challenges in the security ecosystem;

*Concerned* that the absence of modern technology equipment makes it impossible for the Administrative Staff of the facilities to account for the number of escapees each time there is a jail break;

*Worried* that if urgent steps are not taken to install modern security gadgets and equipment's, like installation of Solar Powered Biometric Capturing devices for an on the spot capturing of inmates at the point of admission into the facilities, incessant jail breaks will continue unabated with attendant number of escapees unaccounted for;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) urge the Ministry of Interior, the Nigerian Correctional Service in collaboration with the Committees on Reformatory Institutions and Interior to ensure the acquisition and installation of Solar Powered Biometric Capturing Devices to enable correctional Officers capture full details of accused persons (both convicted and awaiting trial) and upload to a central data collection base;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Reformatory Institutions, Interior, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Emeka Idu Godwin — Onitsha North/Onitsha South Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendment Proposed:**

In Prayer (i), immediately after the words “installation of“, *insert* the word and symbol “electric/” (*Hon. Ahmadu Usman Jaha — Chibok/Dambo/Gwoza Federal Constituency*).

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

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

The House:

*Noted* that in 2019, the former President Muhammadu Buhari assented to an Act which changed the name of the Nigerian Prison Service to Nigerian Correctional Service;

*Aware* that since the name was changed to Nigerian Correctional Service which splited the service into Custodial and non-Custodial service, more than 1000 inmates have escaped from the facilities across the country;

*Disturbed* that these jail breaks are becoming a recurring decimal, national embarrassment and a security threat to the country;

*Observed* that in spite of the change in nomenclature, critical infrastructure like provision of (Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV), Artificial Intelligence (AI), etc. are not provided to meet modern challenges in the security ecosystem;

*Concerned* that the absence of modern technology equipment makes it impossible for the Administrative Staff of the facilities to account for the number of escapees each time there is a jail break;

*Worried* that if urgent steps are not taken to install modern security gadgets and equipment's, like installation of Solar Powered Biometric Capturing devices for an on the spot capturing of inmates at the point of admission into the facilities, incessant jail breaks will continue unabated with attendant number of escapees unaccounted for;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) urge the Ministry of Interior, the Nigerian Correctional Service in collaboration with the Committees on Reformatory Institutions and Interior to ensure the acquisition and installation of electric/Solar Powered Biometric Capturing Devices to enable correctional Officers capture full details of accused persons (both convicted and awaiting trial) and upload to a central data collection base;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Reformatory Institutions, Interior, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 26/02/2025**).

**21. Order of the Day**

*Motion made and Question proposed*, “That the House do set down items 11 - 16 on the Order Paper till another legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (3)” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

**22. Adjournment**

*That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 12 February, 2025 at 11.00 a.m.* (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

*The House adjourned accordingly at 12.48 p.m.*

**Abbas Tajudeen**  
*Speaker*