



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 11 July, 2023

1. The House met at 11.11 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 Thursday, 6 July, 2023.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Executive Session**
Question that the House do resolve into a Closed Session — Agreed to.

Closed Session — 11.23 a.m.

Open Session — 12.56 p.m.

5. **Announcement**

(i) **Bereavement:**

Mr Speaker read the following communications from:

- (a) Hon. Olaide Lateef Mohammed (*Irepo/Orelope/Olorunsogo Federal Constituency*), informing the House of the demise of his mother, Nusirat Akije Mohammed Adelabu, on Friday, 7 July, 2023 at the age of 83;
- (b) Hon. Paul Ekpo (*Etinan/Nsit Ibom/Nsit Ubium Federal Constituency*), informing the House of the demise of his wife, Deaconess Vivian Paul Ekpo, on Saturday, 29 April, 2023 at the age of 55.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

- (ii) ***Appointment of Acting Deputy Clerk (Administration), House of Representatives:***
Mr Speaker announced the appointment of Mr Rawlings Agada Emmanuel as the Acting Deputy Clerk (Administration), House of Representatives, with effect from Monday, 19 June, 2023.

6. Petitions

- (i) A petition from Apo Traders Association, on the frequent relocation of Apo Traders (Auto Spare Parts Dealers, Auto Engineers, Mechanics Artisans) within Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and alleged refusal by Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) grant their request for a Right of Occupancy in the FCT, was presented and laid by Hon. Ikeagwuonu Ugochinyere (*Ideato North/Ideato South Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) A petition from Dispatch Risk Advisory, on behalf of Thaddeus Onwugbulem, on his arrest and detention in Benghazi, by Libyan Police, was presented and laid by Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu (*Bende Federal Constituency*);
- (iii) A petition from Aurum Tennis Academy, on behalf of Ogunsakin Oluwaseun Peter, on Visa refusal by France Embassy, was presented and laid by Hon. Akintunde Rotimi Oluwaseun (*Ekiti North/Ikole/Oye Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions (when Constituted).

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

Need for Urgent Intervention on the Killings in Some Local Government Areas of Plateau State:
Hon. Dachung Musa Bagos (*Jos South/Jos 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 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Need for Urgent Intervention on the Killings in Some Local Government Areas of Plateau State:

The House:

Notes that Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) guarantees the right to life, dignity of person and property of all citizen as well as security and safety;

Aware that despite the provision on the Security and right to life by the Constitution, there has been an increase in the rate of insecurity and killing of innocent souls by persons who have been tagged as "suspected herdsmen" in Nigeria of which Plateau State and Jos South are part of the areas affected;

Also aware of reoccurring attacks in some parts of Plateau State for some months now leading to complete destruction of farmlands;

Further aware of the gruesome killings in cold blood of 7 minors on Sunday, 9 July, 2023 around Farin Lamba of Jos South LGA, Plateau State;

Concerned that the inhabitants of the area now live in fear of the unknown due to insecurity and lack of access to their farmlands with ease;

Also concerned that unless the issue of insecurity is handled with doggedness at all levels in the country, citizens will experience food shortage considering that Plateau State is the one of the States which serve as the main producer of food crops in the country;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of those who lost their lives in the process;
- (ii) urge the IGP to investigate and ensure culprits are prosecuted;
- (iii) also urge the Chief of Army Staff to direct *Operation Safe Heaven* to identify and evacuate all cells of bandits within the State (*Hon. Dachung Musa Bagos — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:

“Urge the office of the National Security Adviser to coordinate the security issues in Plateau State and declare the situation a National Emergency” (*Hon. Beni Lar — Langtang North/Langtang South Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Notes that Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) guarantees the right to life, dignity of person and property of all citizen as well as security and safety;

Aware that despite the provision on the Security and right to life by the Constitution, there has been an increase in the rate of insecurity and killing of innocent souls by persons who have been tagged as "suspected herdsmen" in Nigeria of which Plateau State and Jos South are part of the areas affected;

Also aware of reoccurring attacks in some parts of Plateau State for some months now leading to complete destruction of farmlands;

Further aware of the gruesome killings in cold blood of 7 minors on Sunday, 9 July, 2023 around Farin Lamba of Jos South LGA, Plateau State;

Concerned that the inhabitants of the area now live in fear of the unknown due to insecurity and lack of access to their farmlands with ease;

Also concerned that unless the issue of insecurity is handled with doggedness at all levels in the country, citizens will experience food shortage considering that Plateau State is the one of the States which serve as the main producer of food crops in the country;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of those who lost their lives in the process;

- (ii) urge the IGP to investigate and ensure culprits are prosecuted;
- (iii) also urge the Chief of Army Staff to direct *Operation Safe Heaven* to identify and evacuate all cells of bandits within the State;
- (iv) urge the office of the National Security Adviser to coordinate the security issues in Plateau State and declare the situation a National Emergency (**HR. 45/07/2023**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

8. Personal Explanation (Order Eight, Rule 5)

Hon. Eze Nwachukwu Eze (*Ebonyi/Ohuakwu Federal Constituency*), referred to the Plenary Sitting of the House on Thursday, 6 July, 2023, during which he moved a motion on the *Need to Forestall Further Killings in Ebonyi Local Government Area, and the Rising Insecurity in Ebonyi/Ohuakwu Federal Constituency, Ebonyi State*. He informed the House that the media in their coverage of the event wrongfully referred to him as a member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). He stated that he is a bonafide Member of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and urged the media to correct the misinformation.

Mr Speaker noted the explanation.

9. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Federal Character Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 24).
- (2) Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 37).
- (3) Electric Power Sector Reform Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.38).
- (4) Nigerian Red Cross Society Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 39).
- (5) Nigerian Mining Corporation Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 40).
- (6) Chartered Institute of Finance and Control of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 41).
- (7) Maritime Security Operations Co-coordinating Brand Act (HB. 42).
- (8) Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 43).
- (9) Police Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 44).
- (10) Federal Polytechnic Nyak-Shendam (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.45).
- (11) Nigeria Police Force College, Training School and Institution (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.46).
- (12) National Tobacco Control Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 47).
- (13) National Food Reserve Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 48).
- (14) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 49).
- (15) Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 50).

- (16) Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 51).
- (17) Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 52).
- (18) Federal Medical Centre, Alimosho, Lagos State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 53).
- (19) Federal Medical Centre, Kosofe, Lagos State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.54).
- (20) National Infrastructure Management and Maintenance Agency Bill Act (Repeal and Enactment), 2023 (HB.55).
- (21) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 56).
- (22) National Agency for the Control of Cancer (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 57).

10. Need to Halt the Central Bank of Nigeria's Directives on Addition of Social Media Handle on "Know your Customer" Requirement

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the recent directive by the Central Bank of Nigeria to Commercial Banks on the addition to social media handles on "know Your Customer" requirements, thus making it mandatory for Commercial Banks to comply;

Aware that recently the Central Bank of Nigeria released its Customer Due Diligence Regulations, 2023, noting the importance of social media handles on "Know Your Customer" would galvanize compliance with anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing provisions;

Also notes that obtaining the additional information, would be useful to financial institutions in accessing customers' online presence and activities, thus enabling better assessment of potential risks associated with money laundering, terrorism financing and proliferation financing;

Observes that as laudable as this directive may appear, may be unnecessary as it is likely to bear pressure on teeming Nigerian masses at trying period;

Cognizant of the fact that this directive by the CBN is in conflict with the provision of Section 37 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) on the right to privacy of Citizens;

Also cognizant of the fact that banks in the country already have the names, telephone numbers, passport photographs, emails, National Identification Number (NIN), Biometric Verification Number (BVN), utility bills and other basic requirements with which to identify, know and monitor customers;

Further cognizant that there are better means of monitoring money laundering, terrorism financing, and proliferation financing, such as the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU), the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), intelligence and crime tracking agencies, amongst others;

Worried that if the directive takes effect, Nigerians who are not on social media, with large turn overs from their businesses and trades, would be compelled to or systematically excluded from formal banking systems with its attendant negative effects and implications;

Also worried about the untold hardships this directive will cause millions of Nigerians, especially the

illiterates, or semi-literate business owners, traders and entrepreneurs living in the villages and rural areas who do not have social media handles;

Concerned that implementing the CBN's directive at this point may clearly be unnecessary as it is likely to bear a lot pressure on teeming Nigerian masses;

Again cognizant of the need to revisit and halt the Central Bank of Nigeria directive to reduce the hardship and pain faced by teeming Nigerian;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria to halt the implementation of the policy/directive;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency (*when constituted*) to investigate the matter and report back within three (3) weeks for further legislative action;
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Kelechi Nwogu — Etche/Omuma Federal Constituency and 8 Others*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the recent directive by the Central Bank of Nigeria to Commercial Banks on the addition to social media handles on "know Your Customer" requirements, thus making it mandatory for Commercial Banks to comply;

Aware that recently the Central Bank of Nigeria released its Customer Due Diligence Regulations, 2023, noting the importance of social media handles on "Know Your Customer" would galvanize compliance with anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing provisions;

Also noted that obtaining the additional information, would be useful to financial institutions in accessing customers' online presence and activities, thus enabling better assessment of potential risks associated with money laundering, terrorism financing and proliferation financing;

Observed that as laudable as this directive may appear, may be unnecessary as it is likely to bear pressure on teeming Nigerian masses at trying period;

Cognizant of the fact that this directive by the CBN is in conflict with the provision of Section 37 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) on the right to privacy of Citizens;

Also cognizant of the fact that banks in the country already have the names, telephone numbers, passport photographs, emails, National Identification Number (NIN), Biometric Verification Number (BVN), utility bills and other basic requirements with which to identify, know and monitor customers;

Further cognizant that there are better means of monitoring money laundering, terrorism financing, and proliferation financing, such as the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU), the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), intelligence and crime tracking agencies, amongst others;

Worried that if the directive takes effect, Nigerians who are not on social media, with large turn overs from their businesses and trades, would be compelled to or systematically excluded from formal banking systems with its attendant negative effects and implications;

Also worried about the untold hardships this directive will cause millions of Nigerians, especially the illiterates, or semi-literate business owners, traders and entrepreneurs living in the villages and rural areas who do not have social media handles;

Concerned that implementing the CBN's directive at this point may clearly be unnecessary as it is likely to bear a lot pressure on teeming Nigerian masses;

Again cognizant of the need to revisit and halt the Central Bank of Nigeria directive to reduce the hardship and pain faced by teeming Nigerian;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria to halt the implementation of the policy/directive;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency (*when constituted*) to investigate the matter and report back within three (3) weeks;
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (**HR. 46/07/2023**).

11. Call to Suspend the Implementation of Increase in Tuition Fees of Universities

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that citing the poor funding of Tertiary Education and rising inflation in the country, Federal Universities across the country increased their tuition fees from 100% to 200% while hostel fees were increased from 50% to 100%;

Also notes that the Universities that hiked their fees include Bayero University, Kano (BUK), the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, the University of Uyo, University of Maiduguri, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike and Federal University, Dutse, among others;

Concerned that the hike in fees by the universities is happening against the worsening poverty level in the country, inflation and high rate of unemployment and the recent fuel price hike;

Also concerned that the increase could cause disruptions for a number of students who cannot afford the fees and, while many of them would be forced to defer their studies, others could drop out;

Worried that the hike may aggravate the already volatile situation in the country as students are already making threats which could lead to an uprising against the Federal Government, with grievous consequences for the country as a whole;

Also worried that an increased rate of university dropouts may further worsen insecurity in Nigeria as the frustrated students may find the wrong outlets to express their grievances;

Cognizant that tertiary education is imperative in fostering growth, reducing poverty, and boosting the prosperity of any nation;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Universities Commission to immediately halt implementation of the increase of fees by Federal Universities;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services (*when constituted*) to investigate the increase of fees by Federal Universities across the country with a view to finding lasting

solutions to the challenges in the tertiary education sector (*Hon. Aliyu Sani Madaki — Dala Federal Constituency and 8 Others*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Prayer (i) (Hon. Makki Yalleman — Mallam Madori/Kaugama Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

Question on the Motion — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that citing the poor funding of Tertiary Education and rising inflation in the country, Federal Universities across the country increased their tuition fees from 100% to 200% while hostel fees were increased from 50% to 100%;

Also noted that the Universities that hiked their fees include Bayero University, Kano (BUK), the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, the University of Uyo, University of Maiduguri, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike and Federal University, Dutse, among others;

Concerned that the hike in fees by the universities is happening against the worsening poverty level in the country, inflation and high rate of unemployment and the recent fuel price hike;

Also concerned that the increase could cause disruptions for a number of students who cannot afford the fees and, while many of them would be forced to defer their studies, others could drop out;

Worried that the hike may aggravate the already volatile situation in the country as students are already making threats which could lead to an uprising against the Federal Government, with grievous consequences for the country as a whole;

Also worried that an increased rate of university dropouts may further worsen insecurity in Nigeria as the frustrated students may find the wrong outlets to express their grievances;

Cognizant that tertiary education is imperative in fostering growth, reducing poverty, and boosting the prosperity of any nation;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the National Universities Commission to immediately halt implementation of the increase of fees by Federal Universities;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services (*when constituted*) to investigate the increase of fees by Federal Universities across the country with a view to finding lasting solutions to the challenges in the tertiary education sector (**HR. 47/07/2023**).

12. Need to Establish the Presence of a Military Outpost at Kwanar Maharba and Military Base in Gada Local Government Area of Sokoto State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that security of lives and properties is the primary responsibility of government and that security is necessary for human existence and development, while insecurity in Nigeria is not peculiar to a particular region, however Goronyo/Gada Federal Constituency is most affected by banditry activities;

Disturbed that banditry activities in Kwanar Maharba resulted in the loss of over 40 lives, with over 200 persons kidnapped while hundreds suffered injuries and vehicles destroyed;

Worried that the delay of the security agencies to abridge the continuous horror and inhumanity will result in loss of lives, destruction of property and immobilize Socio-Economic and Educational development in communities;

Also worried that if this is allowed to continue, there will be food shortages and people might result to self-help which will lead to a total breakdown of law and order;

Also notes that their exist vacuum of security presence in Goronyo/Gada Federal Constituency which have provide a fertile ground for Insecurity to thrive;

Observes that Kwanan Maharba serves as the main point of entry for bandits coming out from Gundumi forest passing through Biyarda, Kaikazzaka, Gidan Buzu, Mahalba, to lunch attacks on the innocent people using it as point of entry to lunch-attack across eastern part of Gada and Goronyo communities;

Lament that Commuters had their share of the mayhem unleashed by the banditry activities recorded on the Goronyo/Sabon-Birni road, a trend that has adversely disrupt economic activities in the area;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence for the repose of victims of various banditry attacks in Goronyo/Gada Federal Constituency and the country at large;
- (ii) urge the Executive Arm of Government to:
 - (a) establish a Military Outpost in Kwanan Mahalba to intercept and deter activities of bandits,
 - (b) establish a permanent Military Base in Gada Local Government to ensure a swift response to distress calls and provide a proactive approach to tackle insecurity;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Army (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Bashir Usman Gorau — Goronyo/Gada Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:

“Urge the various security agencies to ensure synergy with a view to having effective and efficient communication system in the affected areas” (*Hon. Isa Mohammed Anka — Anka/Mafara Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that security of lives and properties is the primary responsibility of government and that security is necessary for human existence and development, while insecurity in Nigeria is not peculiar to a particular region, however Goronyo/Gada Federal Constituency is most affected by banditry activities;

Disturbed that banditry activities in Kwanar Maharba resulted in the loss of over 40 lives, with over 200 persons kidnapped while hundreds suffered injuries and vehicles destroyed;

Worried that the delay of the security agencies to abridge the continuous horror and inhumanity will result in loss of lives, destruction of property and immobilize Socio-Economic and Educational development in communities;

Also worried that if this is allowed to continue, there will be food shortages and people might result to self-help which will lead to a total breakdown of law and order;

Also noted that their exist vacuum of security presence in Goronyo/Gada Federal Constituency which have provide a fertile ground for Insecurity to thrive;

Observed that Kwanan Maharba serves as the main point of entry for bandits coming out from Gundumi forest passing through Biyarda, Kaikazzaka, Gidan Buzu, Mahalba, to lunch attacks on the innocent people using it as point of entry to lunch-attack across eastern part of Gada and Goronyo communities;

Lamented that Commuters had their share of the mayhem unleashed by the banditry activities recorded on the Goronyo/Sabon-Birni road, a trend that has adversely disrupt economic activities in the area;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence for the repose of victims of various banditry attacks in Goronyo/Gada federal constituency and the country at large;
- (ii) urge the Executive Arm to:
 - (a) establish a Military Outpost in Kwanan Mahalba to intercept and deter activities of bandits,
 - (b) establish a permanent Military Base in Gada Local Government to ensure a swift response to distress calls and provide a proactive approach to tackle insecurity;
- (iii) also urge the various security agencies to ensure synergy with a view to having effective and efficient communication system in the affected areas;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Army (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (**HR. 48/07/2023**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

13. Need to Rehabilitate the Abandoned Obudu Dam Resort Project

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Government adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September, 2015 amongst which is SDG 6 to ensure access to water and sanitation for all;

Also notes that the National Water Resources Master Plan was launched in 2013 by the Federal Government to provide access to portable water by utilizing the dams, which was reviewed and integrated into the SDG implementation plan and formed part of the National Guidelines for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Healthcare facilities meant to improve sanitary conditions and prevent infectious diseases;

Aware that the Obudu Dam resort a multipurpose facility which provides water to over 60,000 people

as well serves as a recreational centre was flooded, in 2005, this prompted the Cross River State Government to access a facility from the International Development Agency (IDA), to finance its rehabilitation;

Recalls that on August 14, 2012, the Federal Government awarded a contract worth 1.165 billion Naira to Consolidated Construction Limited (CCL), for the rehabilitation of the Dam resort;

Also recalls that the World Bank in collaboration with the Ministry of Water Resources and the Cross River State Water Board Limited (CRSWBL) contracted Lilleker Brothers Limited (LBL) to construct a water treatment plant, with the second phase being the construction of reticulation channels to benefit neighbouring communities;

Aware that the Dam was expected to facilitate the irrigation of about 100 hectares of agricultural land, boost fisheries and promote tourism in the northern part of the State in line with the Federal Government's Partnership for the Expanded Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (PEWASH) and the World Bank-assisted Sustainable Urban-Rural Water Sanitation and Hygiene (SURWASH) to improve public healthcare services and eradicate poverty in Nigeria to achieve SDG Targets 6.1 and 6.2 in the rural areas, improvement in Urban, Small Towns, and Rural Water Supply in the Country;

Worried that failure of the Federal Government to complete the Obudu Dam Project has contributed to the further dwindling of revenues to the Country, thus threatening the livelihoods of over 60,000 Nigerians who depend on the dam for water, sanitation and hygiene as well as economic purposes;

Also worried that if urgent actions is not taken by the Federal Government to rehabilitate the Dam, an outbreak of another disease is inevitable in Obudu/Obanliku/Bekwarra Federal Constituency;

Concerned that the continuous loss of lives occasioned by preventable action has become a norm that must be checked;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to resume the immediate rehabilitation of the Obudu Dam project and provide funds to relevant financial authorities;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Water Resources (*when constituted*) to investigate why the Contract was abandoned, and make recommendations (*Hon. Peter Akpanke — Obudu/Obanliku/Bekwarra Federal Constituency and 8 Others*).

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (ii), immediately after the word “recommendations”, *insert* the words “and report within four (4) weeks” (*Hon. Billy Famous Osawaru Adesuwa — Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Federal Government adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September, 2015 amongst which is SDG 6 to ensure access to water and sanitation for all;

Also noted that the National Water Resources Master Plan was launched in 2013 by the Federal Government to provide access to portable water by utilizing the dams, which was reviewed and integrated into the SDG implementation plan and formed part of the National Guidelines for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Healthcare facilities meant to improve sanitary conditions and prevent infectious diseases;

Aware that the Obudu Dam resort a multipurpose facility which provides water to over 60,000 people as well serves as a recreational centre was flooded, in 2005, this prompted the Cross River State Government to access a facility from the International Development Agency (IDA) to finance its rehabilitation;

Recalled that on August 14, 2012, the Federal Government awarded a contract worth 1.165 billion Naira to Consolidated Construction Limited (CCL), for the rehabilitation of the Dam resort;

Also recalled that the World Bank in collaboration with the Ministry of Water Resources and the Cross River State Water Board Limited (CRSWBL) contracted Lilleker Brothers Limited (LBL) to construct a water treatment plant, with the second phase being the construction of reticulation channels to benefit neighbouring communities;

Aware that the Dam was expected to facilitate the irrigation of about 100 hectares of agricultural land, boost fisheries and promote tourism in the northern part of the State in line with the Federal Government's Partnership for the Expanded Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (PEWASH) and the World Bank-assisted Sustainable Urban-Rural Water Sanitation and Hygiene (SURWASH) to improve public healthcare services and eradicate poverty in Nigeria to achieve SDG Targets 6.1 and 6.2 in the rural areas, improvement in Urban, Small Towns, and Rural Water Supply in the Country;

Worried that failure of the Federal Government to complete the Obudu Dam Project has contributed to the further dwindling of revenues to the Country, thus threatening the livelihoods of over 60,000 Nigerians who depend on the dam for water, sanitation and hygiene as well as economic purposes;

Also worried that if urgent actions is not taken by the Federal Government to rehabilitate the Dam, an outbreak of another disease is inevitable in Obudu/Obanliku/Bekwarra Federal Constituency;

Concerned that the continuous loss of lives occasioned by preventable action has become a norm that must be checked;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to resume the immediate rehabilitation of the Obudu Dam project and provide funds to relevant financial authorities;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Water Resources (*when constituted*) to investigate why the Contract was abandoned, make recommendations and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 49/07/2023**).

14. Need to Reverse the Recent Hike of School Fees in Unity Secondary Schools in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Federal Unity Schools were established to promote national unity and provide quality and affordable education to Nigerian students from different parts of the country, regardless of their socio-economic background;

Also notes that the Federal Government established 104 Federal Government Colleges across the nation and adopted an enrolment policy which reflects the principle of Federal Character as well as a curriculum that targets patriotism, entrepreneurship, peaceful coexistence and interrelationship;

Concerned that the facilities in Unity Schools across the country are severely dilapidated while the schools lack materials required for teaching, which has negatively affected the quality of teaching and students performance in general;

Also concerned that the recently approved increase in school fees for students in Federal Government Colleges across the Country by the Federal Ministry of Education has caused anxiety among parents and students who are still grappling with the effects of the economic hardship caused by the recent subsidy removal;

Worried that as a result of the new school fees regime many parents are considering withdrawing their wards from schools as they are unable to meet up with the fees, hence the country may have to deal with the dire consequences of having an alarming number of out-of-school children;

Also worried that the increment will likely lead to a decline in students enrolment in these schools which were originally intended to be affordable, the impact of which would be on the already declining quality of education and the overall development of Nigeria;

Aware that the Federal Government has a responsibility to ensure that education remains accessible and affordable, especially during difficult economic times;

Cognizant that Education is essential for the progress of any country as it contributes to social stability and drives long-term economic growth;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Education to review the new School Fees Regime in Federal Government Colleges and revert to the old regime;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to adequately fund the education sector by increasing budgetary provisions to ensure that Nigerian students have access to quality and affordable basic and senior secondary education;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Basic Education (*when constituted*) to investigate the hike in school fees for students of Federal Government Colleges across the Country to ensure that basic education remains accessible and affordable to Nigerians and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Osi Kama Nkemkanma — Ivo/Ohaozara/Onicha Federal Constituency and 1 other*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Federal Unity Schools were established to promote national unity and provide quality and affordable education to Nigerian students from different parts of the country, regardless of their socio-economic background;

Also noted that the Federal Government established 104 Federal Government Colleges across the nation and adopted an enrolment policy which reflects the principle of Federal Character as well as a curriculum that targets patriotism, entrepreneurship, peaceful coexistence and interrelationship;

Concerned that the facilities in Unity Schools across the country are severely dilapidated while the schools lack materials required for teaching, which has negatively affected the quality of teaching and students performance in general;

Also concerned that the recently approved increase in school fees for students in Federal Government Colleges across the Country by the Federal Ministry of Education has caused anxiety among parents and students who are still grappling with the effects of the economic hardship caused by the recent subsidy removal;

Worried that as a result of the new school fees regime many parents are considering withdrawing their wards from schools as they are unable to meet up with the fees, hence the country may have to deal with the dire consequences of having an alarming number of out-of-school children;

Also worried that the increment will likely lead to a decline in students enrolment in these schools which were originally intended to be affordable, the impact of which would be on the already declining quality of education and the overall development of Nigeria;

Aware that the Federal Government has a responsibility to ensure that education remains accessible and affordable, especially during difficult economic times;

Cognizant that Education is essential for the progress of any country as it contributes to social stability and drives long-term economic growth;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Education to review the new School Fees Regime in Federal Government Colleges and revert to the old regime;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to adequately fund the education sector by increasing budgetary provisions to ensure that Nigerian students have access to quality and affordable basic and senior secondary education;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Basic Education (*when constituted*) to investigate the hike in school fees for students of Federal Government Colleges across the Country to ensure that basic education remains accessible and affordable to Nigerians and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 50/07/2023**).

15. Need to Stop Excess Charges and Illegal Deductions by Commercial Banks in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that some Banks and Financial Institutions in Nigeria indulge in the unethical practice of fleecing their customers through excess charges and unauthorised deductions;

Also notes that customers of different Commercial Banks are groaning over excessive charges on their accounts, the Financial Institutions known as Deposit Money Banks (DMBs) have reportedly introduced different deductions to increase their income, a development that is uncomfortable with customers;

Aware that apart from Stamp Duty, bank customers also pay Value Added Tax (VAT) charges applicable on all VATable transactions in their account;

Also aware that Commercial Banks are charging outrageous interest on loans, and overdraft at a rate that is higher than the agreed rate in the offer letter;

Further aware of the arbitrary increase in the interest rate on loans and overdrafts and increase in the other fees without notifying and getting customer's consent as stipulated in the Central Bank/Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN) guideline;

Concerned that the creation of charges not recognized in the Central Bank Guide to Bank charges is a common practice by Commercial Banks;

Also concerned about the wrong application of maintenance fees, banks overcharging maintenance fees, the inclusion of transactions exempted from maintenance charge, loan liquidation and bank-induced transactions amongst others;

Worried that as affected customers attempted to lodge complaints to the Bank's Customer Care they are treated as beggars without result;

Resolves to:

- (i) mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency (*when constituted*) to investigate the issue of excess charges and illegal deductions by commercial banks in Nigeria and report to within four (4) weeks;
- (ii) also mandate the committee on Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Godwin Offiong Odey — Ogoja/Yala Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that some Banks and Financial Institutions in Nigeria indulge in the unethical practice of fleecing their customers through excess charges and unauthorised deductions;

Also noted that customers of different Commercial Banks are groaning over excessive charges on their accounts, the Financial Institutions known as Deposit Money Banks (DMBs) have reportedly introduced different deductions to increase their income, a development that is uncomfortable with customers;

Aware that apart from Stamp Duty, bank customers also pay Value Added Tax (VAT) charges applicable on all VATable transactions in their account;

Also aware that Commercial Banks are charging outrageous interest on loans, and overdraft at a rate that is higher than the agreed rate in the offer letter;

Further aware of the arbitrary increase in the interest rate on loans and overdrafts and increase in the other fees without notifying and getting customer's consent as stipulated in the Central Bank/Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN) guideline;

Concerned that the creation of charges not recognized in the Central Bank Guide to Bank charges is a common practice by Commercial Banks;

Also concerned about the wrong application of maintenance fees, banks overcharging maintenance fees, the inclusion of transactions exempted from maintenance charge, loan liquidation and bank-induced transactions amongst others;

Worried that as affected customers attempted to lodge complaints to the Bank's Customer Care they are treated as beggars without result;

Resolved to:

- (i) mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency (*when constituted*) to investigate the issue of excess charges and illegal deductions by commercial banks in Nigeria and report to within four (4) weeks;
- (ii) also mandate the committee on Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (**HR. 51/07/2023**).

16. Need to Rehabilitate Benin-Ekpoma-Auchi Road to Okene Road, Kogi State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Benin-Ekpoma-Auchi Road is the only road that connects South-South to the Northern parts of Nigeria;

Also notes that the deplorable condition of the road calls for Federal Government's intervention as road users spend 5-7 hours in gridlock daily;

Further notes that the rehabilitation of the road was awarded to Dantata & Sowoe Company Limited in 2012 but was abandoned for the past 11 years;

Aware that the road has not witnessed any rehabilitation as commuters and heavy-duty vehicular find it difficult to transport the perishable and non-perishable goods en-route North to the South and from South to the North;

Also aware that Section 10 (f) of the Federal Highways Act empowered the Minister, Federal Ministry of Works to carry out reconstruction/rehabilitation and maintenance of Federal roads;

Concerned that with the deep potholes and gully erosion ravaging the road caused by torrential rainfalls, it has not only become a death trap for commuters and residents of adjoining communities but also a breeding ground for robbery and other criminal activities;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FEMA) to provide palliative on the road to ease the movement of goods and services;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Works, and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FEMA) (*when constituted*) to investigate the causes of the road abandonment and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Marcus Onobun Iziegbeaya — Esan Central/Esan West/Igueben Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 52/07/2023).

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FEMA) (when constituted), pursuant Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

17. Terrorist Attacks on Mangu Communities of Mangu/Bokkos Federal Constituency of Plateau State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the recent terrorist attacks on the People of Mangu Local Government and neighbouring Communities killing more than 300 persons and others seriously injured, properties destroyed and over 18, 000 people displaced at different IDP camps within the Local Government Area;

Also notes that most of the victims that sustained various degrees of injuries are currently receiving medical attention at different hospitals within the State;

Worried that the continuous attacks by the terrorist groups in the communities, if not addressed

immediately will lead to low farming yield, which will worsen the existing food uncertainty in the communities;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute of silence as a mark of respect to those killed in the terror attack in the Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State;
- (ii) urge the Secretary to the Government of the Federation to direct the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development through the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons to immediately provide relief materials to the victims of the attacked in communities within Mangu Local Government Area, aerial surveillance and support to flush out the terrorist and destroy their camps to avoid reoccurrence and allow innocent farmers to return to their farms and ancestral homes;
- (iii) also urge the Inspector General of Police to immediately provide Mobile Police Force Squadron formation in the affected communities to safeguard the lives of our people in compliance with Chapter 2 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), particularly Section 14 (2) (b) which clearly states thus: that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Defence, Army, Air Force, Police Affairs, and Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance and report weekly until the insecurity is under control (*Hon. Lalu Ishaya David — Mangu/Bokkos Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 53/07/2023).

Motion referred to the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Defence, Army, Air Force, Police Affairs, and Legislative Compliance (when constituted), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

18. Need to Lift the Ban on Sale of Fuel in Communities 20 kilometers to International Land Borders

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Recalls that in November 2019, the Nigerian Customs Service announced the ban on the sales and supply of Petroleum products in all communities within 20km of the Nigerian land borders which measure approximately 4,047kilometres;

Aware that the ban was apt at the time to prevent smuggling of subsidized petroleum products to Nigerian neighbouring countries;

Worried that despite the removal of subsidy on Petroleum Products by the government, the ban is yet to be lifted, thus causing hardships to millions of Nigerians living and conducting businesses within the affected area (located in 15 States of the Federation) who have to travel kilometers to get the products or pay an extra amount to secure the products for their daily needs;

Cognizant that the ban has continued to impact negatively on the socio-economic activities in the affected areas;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to review the policy towards lifting the ban on the sale of fuel within 20 Kilometers to the Nigerian land borders as fuel subsidy has been effectively removed;
- (ii) urge the Nigerian Customs Service and other relevant government agencies to ensure immediate stoppage of the ban thus, allowing duly registered fuel stations within this community to be supplied with petroleum products;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Customs and Excise (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Adegboyega Nasir Isiaka — Egbado North/Imeko-Afon Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Recalled that in November 2019, the Nigerian Customs Service announced the ban on the sales and supply of Petroleum products in all communities within 20km of the Nigerian land borders which measure approximately 4,047kilometres;

Aware that the ban was apt at the time to prevent smuggling of subsidized petroleum products to Nigerian neighbouring countries;

Worried that despite the removal of subsidy on Petroleum Products by the government, the ban is yet to be lifted, thus causing hardships to millions of Nigerians living and conducting businesses within the affected area (located in 15 States of the Federation) who have to travel kilometers to get the products or pay an extra amount to secure the products for their daily needs;

Cognizant that the ban has continued to impact negatively on the socio-economic activities in the affected areas;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to review the policy towards lifting the ban on the sale of fuel within 20 Kilometers to the Nigerian land borders as fuel subsidy has been effectively removed;
- (ii) urge the Nigerian Customs Service and other relevant government agencies to ensure immediate stoppage of the ban thus, allowing duly registered fuel stations within this community to be supplied with petroleum products;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Customs and Excise (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (**HR. 54/07/2023**).

19. Need for Reconstruction of the Eleme- Onne Axis of the East-West Road

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the East-West Road project which is a 338km Road covering Warri to Oron through Kaima and Ahaoda, Port Harcourt to Ogoni and Eket was awarded in 2006 in four (4) Sections;

Also notes that Section I and II covering Warri to Kaima and Eket was completed, while Section III from Eleme Junction to Onne Port Junction was abandoned;

Further notes that in December 2014 the contract for Section III was awarded to Messrs RCC Nig. Ltd in Contract Ref. No. MNDA/PROC/CAP/14/89/23 to upgrade and expand the road from a dual carriageway to a three lane dual carriageway;

Aware that the Eleme - Onne axis of the East-West Road is a highway access to two Sea Ports, the Eleme Refinery, Indorama Eleme Petrochemicals Limited, NAFCON and the Onne Oil & Gas Free Zone that houses over two hundred (200) Companies amongst others which generates revenue to the Federal Government;

Worried that the deplorable state of the Eleme-Onne axis of the East-West road has continued to claim the lives and property including loss of businesses occasioned by fallen containers conveying goods and products, thus, leading to protests by the indigenes of the Eleme and Onne communities;

Also worried that the Federal government will continue to loss revenue if the road is not rehabilitated;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to:
 - (a) immediately prioritize the reconstruction of Eleme-Onne axis of the East-West road,
 - (b) ensure the Contractor is mobilize to site and commences reconstruction of the Eleme-Onne axis of the East-West road immediately;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Works (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Felix Uche Nwaeke — Eleme/Oyigbo/Tai Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:

“Urge the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs to carry out remedial measure to ease the hardship experienced by commuters on the road” (*Hon. Mark Esset Udo — Uyo/Uruan/Nsit Atai/Asutan/Ibesikpo Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the East-West Road project which is a 338km Road covering Warri to Oron through Kaima and Ahaoda, Port Harcourt to Ogoni and Eket was awarded in 2006 in four (4) Sections;

Also noted that Section I and II covering Warri to Kaima and Eket was completed, while Section III from Eleme Junction to Onne Port Junction was abandoned;

Further notes that in December 2014 the contract for Section III was awarded to Messrs RCC Nig. Ltd in Contract Ref. No. MNDA/PROC/CAP/14/89/23 to upgrade and expand the road from a dual carriageway to a three lane dual carriageway;

Aware that the Eleme - Onne axis of the East-West Road is a highway access to two Sea Ports, the Eleme Refinery, Indorama Eleme Petrochemicals Limited, NAFCON and the Onne Oil & Gas Free

Zone that houses over two hundred (200) Companies amongst others which generates revenue to the Federal Government;

Worried that the deplorable state of the Eleme-Onne axis of the East-West road has continued to claim the lives and property including loss of businesses occasioned by fallen containers conveying goods and products, thus, leading to protests by the indigenes of the Eleme and Onne communities;

Also worried that the Federal government will continue to loss revenue if the road is not rehabilitated;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to:
 - (a) immediately prioritize the reconstruction of Eleme-Onne axis of the East-West road,
 - (b) ensure the Contractor is mobilize to site and commence reconstruction of the Eleme-Onne axis of the East-West road immediately;
- (ii) urge the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs to carry out remedial measure to ease the hardship experienced by commuters on the road;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Works (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (**HR. 55/07/2023**).

20. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 12 July, 2023 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.53 p.m.

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker