



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 18 July, 2023

1. The House met at 11.05 a.m. Mr Deputy Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 13 July, 2023.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcement**

(i) ***Bereavement:***

Mr Deputy Speaker read a communication from Hon. Solomon Wombo (Katsina-Ala/Ukum/Logo Federal Constituency) announcing the death of 25 people in his Constituency, following an attack by bandits.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(ii) ***Ad-hoc Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management:***

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

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| (1) | Hon. Ihonybere Omozuanvbo Julius | — | <i>Chairman</i> |
| (2) | Hon. Bello Usman Kumo | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (3) | Hon. Abdullahi Halims | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (4) | Hon. Adewunmi Oriyomi Onanuga | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (5) | Hon. Chinda Kingsley Ogundu | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (6) | Hon. Isa Ali J.C | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (7) | Hon. Madaki Aliyu Sani | — | <i>Member</i> |
| (8) | Hon. Ozodinobi George Ibezimako | — | <i>Member</i> |

5. **Petitions**

- (i) A petition from Platinum Legal Consult (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of year 2012 intake/officers of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, on the withholding of their

promotion and refusal to pay outstanding emoluments, by the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, was presented and laid by Hon. Akintunde Rotimi (*Ekiti North/Ikole/Oye Federal Constituency*);

- (ii) A petition from Mr Fidelis Omhonrina, on the killing of his 2-year old son, Ivan Omhonrina and infliction of injuries on his one year old son, Eromosele Omhonrina by men of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), was presented and laid by Hon. Benjamin Kelechi Nwogu (*Etche/Omuna Federal Constituency*).

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

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

- (i) ***Need to Contain the Outbreak of Anthrax Discovered in a Farm at Gajiri Village, Suleija, Niger State:***

Hon. Adamu Tanko (*Suleja/Tafa/Gurara Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
(b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

Need to Contain the Outbreak of Anthrax Discovered in a Farm at Gajiri Village, Suleija, Niger State:

The House:

Notes the Report of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development concerning the presence of Anthrax in Nigeria;

Also notes that the laboratory test conducted on the collected samples by the National Veterinary Research Institute, confirmed the first reported case at a livestock farm located in Gajiri village along the Abuja Expressway, Suleija, Niger State;

Aware that similar cases of the diseases were confirmed in Northern Ghana, Burkina Faso and Togo with symptoms, including sudden death and blood oozing from natural body openings (nose, ear, mouth, and anal region) and spread through affected livestock, bush meat, and contaminated environments.

Concerned over the potential spread of the disease to other livestock farms in the country and its possible impact on public health;

Worried that Anthrax may affect humans in direct contact with affected animals and contaminated products, with potential inhalation through spores or wounds;

Recognises the urgent need for proactive measures to prevent the spread of Anthrax in Nigeria and protect the health and livelihoods of citizens by placing public health precautions in place, such as strict surveillance and monitoring of livestock farms, as well as proper disposal of infected animals and contaminated materials;

Acknowledges the efforts of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in

promptly addressing the issue by implementing necessary measures to contain the spread of Anthrax and protect both livestock and human health;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to collaborate with relevant stakeholders in implementing effective surveillance, vaccination, and awareness campaigns to contain the outbreak and provide adequate resources and support to affected communities, including compensation for losses incurred due to the outbreak;
- (ii) also urge the National Centre for Disease Control to put in place measures that will stop the further spread of anthrax;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Agricultural Production and Services, and Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to monitor compliance (*Hon. Adamu Tanko — Suleja/Tafa/Gurara Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the Report of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development concerning the presence of Anthrax in Nigeria;

Also noted that the laboratory test conducted on the collected samples by the National Veterinary Research Institute, confirmed the first reported case at a livestock farm located in Gajiri village along the Abuja Expressway, Suleija, Niger State;

Aware that similar cases of the diseases were confirmed in Northern Ghana, Burkina Faso and Togo with symptoms, including sudden death and blood oozing from natural body openings (nose, ear, mouth, and anal region) and spread through affected livestock, bush meat, and contaminated environments.

Concerned over the potential spread of the disease to other livestock farms in the country and its possible impact on public health;

Worried that Anthrax may affect humans in direct contact with affected animals and contaminated products, with potential inhalation through spores or wounds;

Recognised the urgent need for proactive measures to prevent the spread of Anthrax in Nigeria and protect the health and livelihoods of citizens by placing public health precautions in place, such as strict surveillance and monitoring of livestock farms, as well as proper disposal of infected animals and contaminated materials;

Acknowledged the efforts of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in promptly addressing the issue by implementing necessary measures to contain the spread of Anthrax and protect both livestock and human health;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to collaborate with relevant stakeholders in implementing effective surveillance, vaccination, and

awareness campaigns to contain the outbreak and provide adequate resources and support to affected communities, including compensation for losses incurred due to the outbreak;

- (ii) also urge the National Centre for Disease Control to put in place measures that will stop the further spread of anthrax;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Agricultural Production and Services, and Legislative Compliance (*when constituted*) to monitor compliance (**HR. 81/07/2023**).

(ii) ***Need for Intervention into the Poor State of the Olomi - Olojuoro, Ijebu-Igbo, Ita Egba - Owonowen Road in Oluyole Local Government Area, Oyo State:***

Hon. Akande-Sadipe Tolulope Tiwalola (*Oluyole Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance — *Negatived*.

7. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Ecological Fund Management Board (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 108).
- (2) National Metallurgical Training Institute, Sagamu, Ogun State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. HB.109).
- (3) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999) (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (HB. HB.110).
- (4) Federal University of Science and Technology, Remo, Ogun State (Establishment) Bill, Remo, Ogun State (HB. 111).
- (5) Federal Institute for Diving Technology, Ibeju - Lekki (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 112).
- (6) Student Loan (Access to Education) Act (Amendment) 2023 (HB. 113).
- (7) Niger Delta Institute of Technology and Skill Acquisition (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 114).
- (8) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999) (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (HB. 115).
- (9) Agricultural and Energy Technical Institute, Nasarawa, Eggon, Nasarawa State, (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 116).
- (10) Federal University of Education, Akwanga, Nasarawa State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 117).
- (11) National Institute for Technical and Vocational Education, Wamba, Nasarawa State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 118).
- (12) National Youth Development Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 119).
- (13) Integrated Agro-industrial Park, Akwanga, Nasarawa State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 120).
- (14) North Central Development Commission, (Establishment), Bill, 2023 (HB. 121).
- (15) Oath Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 122).

- (16) National Universities Commission Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 123).
- (17) Nigerian Communications Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 124).
- (18) Federal College of Education, Bende (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 125).
- (19) Legal Aid Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 126).
- (20) Michael Okpara University Teaching Hospital (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 127).
- (21) Michael Okpara University, Umudike (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 128).
- (22) Statutory Bodies (Annual Reports) Bill, 2023 (HB. 129).
- (23) Cybercrimes (Prohibition and Protection) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 130).
- (24) Trade and Investment Agreement (Reform and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2023 (HB. 131).
- (25) Federal University of Oil and Gas Technology, Okpai, Delta State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 132).
- (26) Federal College of Health Technology, Bakassi, Cross River (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 133).
- (27) Federal University of Agriculture, Atomkpe Inamite, Cross Rivers State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 134).
- (28) Nigeria Arabic Language Village, Borno State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 135).
- (29) Nigeria French Language, Badagri, Lagos State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 136).
- (30) Investments and Securities Bill, 2023 (HB. 137).
- (31) Chartered Institute of Agribusiness of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 138).
- (32) Chartered Institute of Business Administration of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 139).
- (33) Chartered Institute of Digital Forensics of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 140).
- (34) Federal College of Agriculture, Tsafe, Zamfara State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 141).
- (35) Federal University Teaching Hospital, Gusau, Zamfara State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 142).
- (36) National Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Robotic Studies, Somolu, Lagos State (HB. 143).
- (37) Unclaimed Financial Assets Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 144).
- (38) Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 145).
- (39) Federal College of Agriculture and Forestry, Okundi, Cross River (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 146).

- (40) Allocation of Revenue (Federation Account) Bill, 2023 (HB. 147).
- (41) Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 148).
- (42) Legal Practitioners Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 149).
- (43) Prohibit Kidnapping, Hostage taking (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 150).
- (44) Criminal Code Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 151).
- (45) Compulsory Treatment and Care for Victims of Gunshot Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 152).
- (46) South East Development Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 153).
- (47) Niger Delta Development Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 154).
- (48) Federal College of Information, Communication Technology, Osogbo, Osun State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 155).
- (49) Federal College of Information, Communication Technology, Enugu, Enugu State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 156).
- (50) Federal College of Information, Communication Technology, Rivers State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 157).
- (51) Federal College of Information, Communication Technology, Niger State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 158).
- (52) Federal College of Information, Communication Technology, Bauchi, Bauchi State (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 159).

8. Reconsideration of Outstanding Bills from the Preceding Assembly

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that pursuant to Order Twelve, Rule 16 of the Standing Orders of the House, Bills passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the Senate for concurrence for which no concurrence was made or negatived or passed by the Senate and forwarded to the House for which no concurrence was made or negatived or which were passed by the National Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but for which assent or withholding thereof was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the Assembly, the House may resolve that such Bill, upon being re-gazetted or clean copies circulated, be re-considered in the Committee of the Whole without being commenced *de-novo*;

Also notes that the underlisted Bills were passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but for which assent or withholding thereof was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the last Assembly:

- (i) Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 99),
- (ii) Federal Polytechnic, Nyak-Shendam (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 45),
- (iii) Nigeria Police Force College, Training School and Institution (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 46),

- (iv) National Library of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.89),
- (v) Nigeria Hunters and forest Security Service (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.90),
- (vi) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.91);

Aware that the Bills were re-gazetted as HB. 99, HB. 45, HB. 46, HB. 89, HB. 90 and HB. 91 and read the first time, respectively;

Resolves to:

Commit the Bills to the Committee of the Whole for consideration (*Hon. Ihonvbere Julius — Owan East/Owan West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In the Prayer immediately after the word “consideration”, *insert* the words “the next legislative day” (*Hon. Babajimi Benson — Ikorodu Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that pursuant to Order Twelve, Rule 16 of the Standing Orders of the House, Bills passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the Senate for concurrence for which no concurrence was made or negatived or passed by the Senate and forwarded to the House for which no concurrence was made or negatived or which were passed by the National Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but for which assent or withholding thereof was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the Assembly, the House may resolve that such Bill, upon being re-gazetted or clean copies circulated, be re-considered in the Committee of the Whole without being commenced *de-novo*;

Also noted that the underlisted Bills were passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but for which assent or withholding thereof was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the last Assembly:

- (i) Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 99),
- (ii) Federal Polytechnic, Nyak-Shendam (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 45),
- (iii) Nigeria Police Force College, Training School and Institution (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB. 46),
- (iv) National Library of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.89),
- (v) Nigeria Hunters and forest Security Service (Establishment) Bill, 2023 (HB.90),
- (vi) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.91);

Aware that the Bills were re-gazetted as HB. 99, HB. 45, HB. 46, HB. 89, HB. 90 and HB. 91 and read the first time, respectively;

Resolved to:

Commit the Bills to the Committee of the Whole for consideration, the next legislative day.

Agreed to.

9. Call for Investigation and Prosecution of the Officers involved in Shooting and Killing of Ivan Onose Omhonrina

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that on July 13, 2023, a two-years old Ivan Onose Omhonrina, who was returning from school tragically lost his life due to a stray bullet fired by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in Asaba, Delta State, his younger brother Eromosele Omhonrina was also shut in one of his eyes;

Also notes that on April 4, 2023, a 17 years old boy, Ibuchim Ofezie, a resident of Agingi Community of Bassa Local Government Area of Jos was killed by some police patrol operatives attached to "C" Division of the Command, similarly on the 28 May, 2023, Bakare Idris Demola was shot dead by Mr. Kabiru Odejimi, a Police officer of the Nigeria Police Force in Oregun, Ikeja area, Lagos State;

Worried that innocent Nigerians have been either injured or lost their lives due to stray bullets fired by Law Enforcement Officers in the country;

Concerned that if urgent intervention to proffer a lasting solutions and end this recurring killings of innocent Nigerians by stray bullets are not put in place more citizen will continue to sustain injuries and may led to eventual loss of lives;

Also worried that the reoccurring killings of innocent Nigerians by stray bullets pose significant risks and consequences for individuals, communities, and the nation as a whole, It is therefore important that swift, immediate, and decisive action is taken to address this issue, restore the trust, protect human rights, and ensure the safety and well-being of all Nigerians;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence for Ivan Onose Omhonrina and other victims, who tragically lost their lives;
- (ii) urge the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to take over the investigation and prosecution of the officer(s) involved in the shooting and killing of Ivan Onose Omhonrina, and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to book;
- (iii) also urge the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency and all other law enforcement agencies to provide regular training and sensitization programs for their officers on the appropriate use of firearms, conflict resolution, de-escalation techniques, and respect for human rights;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Human Rights (*when constituted*) to ensure that the family of Onose are adequately compensated for the loss and report within six (6) weeks; and
- (v) also mandate the Committee on National Security and Intelligence (*when constituted*) to effectively monitor the activities of law enforcement agencies, including conducting regular evaluations, reviewing incidents, and recommend appropriate actions to prevent similar occurrences and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Unyime Idem — Ukanafun/Oruk Anam Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (v) immediately after the word “conducting”, *leave out* the words “regular”, and *insert* the words “periodic mental health” (*Hon. Chris Ukwonta — Ukwu East/Ukwu West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayer (ii) immediately after the name “Ivan Onose Omhonrina”, *insert* the words “and others” (*Hon. Dachung Bagos Musa — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) *Leave out* Prayer (iv) (*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 on July 13, 2023, a two-years old Ivan Onose Omhonrina, who was returning from school tragically lost his life due to a stray bullet fired by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in Asaba, Delta State, his younger brother Eromosele Omhonrina was also shut in one of his eyes;

Also noted that on April 4, 2023, a 17 years old boy, Ibuchim Ofezie, a resident of Agingi Community of Bassa Local Government Area of Jos was killed by some police patrol operatives attached to "C" Division of the Command, similarly on the 28 May, 2023, Bakare Idris Demola was shot dead by Mr. Kabiru Odejimi, a Police officer of the Nigeria Police Force in Oregun, Ikeja area, Lagos State;

Worried that innocent Nigerians have been either injured or lost their lives due to stray bullets fired by Law Enforcement Officers in the country;

Concerned that if urgent intervention to proffer a lasting solutions and end this recurring killings of innocent Nigerians by stray bullets are not put in place more citizen will continue to sustain injuries and may led to eventual loss of lives;

Also worried that the reoccurring killings of innocent Nigerians by stray bullets pose significant risks and consequences for individuals, communities, and the nation as a whole, It is therefore important that swift, immediate, and decisive action is taken to address this issue, restore the trust, protect human rights, and ensure the safety and well-being of all Nigerians;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence for Ivan Onose Omhonrina and other victims, who tragically lost their lives;
- (ii) urge the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to take over the investigation and prosecution of the officer(s) involved in the shooting and killing of Ivan Onose Omhonrina, and others, and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to book;
- (iii) also urge the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency and all other law enforcement

agencies to provide regular training and sensitization programs for their officers on the appropriate use of firearms, conflict resolution, de-escalation techniques, and respect for human rights;

- (iv) also mandate the Committee on National Security and Intelligence (*when constituted*) to effectively monitor the activities of law enforcement agencies, including conducting periodic mental health evaluations, reviewing incidents, and recommend appropriate actions to prevent similar occurrences and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 82/07/2023**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

10. Need to make Provision for free High Blood Pressure and Sugar Level Check Desks at Airports
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that air travel can be physically demanding and stressful for many passengers, these factors, combined with the potential health risks associated with long flights and varying environmental conditions make it essential to prioritize the health of individuals passing through our airports;

Aware that air travel has become increasingly accessible to a larger portion of the population, however, the stress associated with travel, coupled with the sedentary nature of long flights can significantly impact the health of individuals, particularly those with pre-existing conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes;

Also aware that it is of utmost importance to prioritize the health of individuals travelling long through our airports, and this notion aims to ensure their access to essential;

Believes that by establishing Free High Blood Pressure and Sugar Levels Check Desks at all airports, we can promote early detection and preventive care for conditions such as hypertension and diabetes. Regular monitoring of these vital health parameters will enable travellers to seek medical intervention and prevent potential complications;

Also believes that the provision of these check desks will demonstrate our commitment to public health promotion. It will send a powerful message that we prioritize the well-being of our citizens and visitors by making healthcare services easily accessible regardless of their travel schedules;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Ministry of Aviation to collaborate with relevant healthcare professionals and organisations to establish and operate High Blood Pressure and Sugar Levels Check Desks at airports across the country;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) to put adequate medical facilities in Nigerian Airports to forestall sudden death from high blood pressure and diabetes among others;
- (iii) further urge the desks to be staffed with trained healthcare personnel who can accurately measure blood pressure and sugar levels, provide basic counselling, and refer individuals to appropriate medical services, if necessary;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Aviation (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Kalejaiye Adeboye Paul — Ajeromi/Ifelodun Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (v) as follows:
“Urge the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency to provide High Blood Pressure and Sugar Level Check Desks in Primary Healthcare facilities and Specialist Hospital in the country” (*Hon. Sanni Abdulraheem — Ajaokuta Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

- (ii) In Prayer (i) immediately after the words “collaborate with”, *leave out* the words “relevant healthcare professionals and organisations”, and insert the words “Federal Ministry of Health” (*Hon. Isa Mohammed Anka — Anka/Talata Mafara Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (ii) and *insert* as follows:
“also urge the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) to collaborate with the Federal Ministry of Health to install relevant medical facilities to minimise the sudden death resulting from high blood pressure and diabetes” (*Hon. Isa Mohammed Anka — Anka/Talata Mafara Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that air travel can be physically demanding and stressful for many passengers, these factors, combined with the potential health risks associated with long flights and varying environmental conditions make it essential to prioritize the health of individuals passing through our airports;

Aware that air travel has become increasingly accessible to a larger portion of the population, however, the stress associated with travel, coupled with the sedentary nature of long flights can significantly impact the health of individuals, particularly those with pre-existing conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes;

Also aware that it is of utmost importance to prioritize the health of individuals travelling long through our airports, and this notion aims to ensure their access to essential;

Believed that by establishing Free High Blood Pressure and Sugar Levels Check Desks at all airports, we can promote early detection and preventive care for conditions such as hypertension and diabetes. Regular monitoring of these vital health parameters will enable travellers to seek medical intervention and prevent potential complications;

Also believed that the provision of these check desks will demonstrate our commitment to public health promotion. It will send a powerful message that we prioritize the well-being of our citizens and visitors by making healthcare services easily accessible regardless of their travel schedules;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Ministry of Aviation to collaborate with Federal Ministry of Health to establish and operate High Blood Pressure and Sugar Levels Check Desks at airports across the country;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) to collaborate with the Federal Ministry of Health to install relevant medical facilities to minimise the sudden death resulting from high blood pressure and diabetes;

- (iii) further urge the desks to be staffed with trained healthcare personnel who can accurately measure blood pressure and sugar levels, provide basic counselling, and refer individuals to appropriate medical services, if necessary;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Aviation (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (**HR. 83/07/2023**).

11. Need to Decentralize the Authentication/Verification of Qualifying Certificates among the Six Geo-Political Zones

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that many of our country's young men and young women seek knowledge and better learning in many Educational Institutions outside Nigeria;

Also notes that it is part of the requirements for admitting them to get their qualifying certificates authenticated and verified;

Further notes that it is only the Federal Ministry of Education Headquarters in Abuja that entertains requests for such authentication;

Worried that because of the centralization of such authentication Applications and Requests in the Federal Ministry of Education Headquarters in Abuja, the process is suffering from congestion and delay;

Further worried that such delay slows down the process of admission and registration for overseas studies when required;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Education to decentralize the process by allowing one of the State Ministries of Education in each geo-political zone to set up a system with a view to allowing applicants from each zones to direct the application to the Ministry undertaking the assignment in that zone;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Adeyemi Akeem Adeniyi — Afijio/Oyo East/Oyo West/Atiba Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:

“urge the Federal Ministry of Education to decentralize the verification centres within the Ministry by creating zonal desk officers in the Ministry of Education Headquarters, Abuja” (*Hon. Ahmadu Usman Jaha — Chibok/Damboa/Gwoza Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that many of our country's young men and young women seek knowledge and better learning in many Educational Institutions outside Nigeria;

Also noted that it is part of the requirements for admitting them to get their qualifying certificates authenticated and verified;

Further noted that it is only the Federal Ministry of Education Headquarters in Abuja that entertains requests for such authentication;

Worried that because of the centralization of such authentication Applications and Requests in the Federal Ministry of Education Headquarters in Abuja, the process is suffering from congestion and delay;

Further worried that such delay slows down the process of admission and registration for overseas studies when required;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Education to decentralize the process by allowing one of the State Ministries of Education in each geo-political zone to set up a system with a view to allowing applicants from each zones to direct the application to the Ministry undertaking the assignment in that zone;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Education to decentralize the verification centres within the Ministry by creating zonal desk officers in the Ministry of Education Head Quarters, Abuja;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (**HR. 84/07/2023**).

12. Rehabilitation, Expansion and Dualization of Benin-Abraka Road in Edo State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Benin-Abraka Road is a Federal Road linking Benin the Edo State Capital with Abraka a big commercial oil-rich of Delta State;

Also notes that the Benin-Abraka Road started from the King's Square (Ring Road) through communities of the Premier Oredo Local Government Area and other oil and gas drilling communities like the Obenkobi Oil Field operated by SEPLAT Oil Limited, Egboko, Evborhion and Ugbugo drilled or operated by summit Oil Limited and others under Ikpoba- Okha and Orhionmwon Local Government Areas was constructed years ago and can no longer accommodate the volume of traffic;

Observes that the present dilapidated condition of the road has increased the man hours commuters spend to get to their destination and this has drastically increased carnage on all the routes;

Aware that Edo State Oil and Gas Producing Areas Development Commission (EDSOPADEC) and Edo State Government have been undertaking remedial work on the road with no desired result thereby depriving the communities of some level of development to boost their commercial activities;

Worried that the high rate of accidents and vehicular breakdowns on the road has mostly made it difficult and most of the time impassable to commuters travelling to and fro South-South, South East to the North and vice versa;

Concerned that some miscreants and hoodlums/kidnappers have recently taken advantage of the poor state of the road to carry out nefarious acts on the commuters and business owners, thus, worsening the situation;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency to urgently consider dualizing the Benin-Abraka Road for ease of movement within the connected States, Communities and the Oil Sites in order to improve the economy;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Road Safety Corps and the Nigeria Police Force to tow broken down vehicles off the road to ease movement and avert further accidents;
- (iii) further urge the Inspector-General of Police to beef up security surveillance to ensure the safety of lives and property;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Works (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Billy Osawaru Famous Adesuwa — Orihionmmwon/Uhunmwode Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 85/07/2023).

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

13. Need to Rehabilitate the Collapsed Bridge Linking Nassarawa-Plateau State to other Northern parts of the Country

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that a heavy rainfall that lasted several hours, accompanied by heavy flooding, cut off half of the bridge in Akwanga town;

Aware that the Akwanga bridge is a major gateway Linking Nassarawa-Plateau State and to Northern Parts of the Country;

Also aware that the heavy rain that caused flooding washed away half of the bridge on the expressway in Akwanga town;

Further aware that the bridge serves as a route for the transportation of goods and services to various parts of the Country, but the collapsed highway bridge in Akwanga has affected the delivery of goods and services, thus affecting the economic development of the Country;

Worried that traffic has been diverted for articulated vehicles to ply narrow streets in the town and Wamba bye-pass, through Wamba to Plateau, Kaduna and the North Eastern States;

Also worried that the deplorable condition of the alternative route from Akwanga through Wamba to other States is due to the pressure on the road, thus resulting in an increased rate of accidents and frequent armed robbery attacks causing the loss of lives and properties.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to complete the construction of the damaged Akwanga Highway Bridge, monitor and ensure that quality materials are used for the Construction of Roads and Bridges to avoid frequent collapse
- (ii) also urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to commence the rehabilitation of Akwanga-Wamba Road to avoid further loss of lives and properties;

- (iii) further urge the Ecological Fund Office and the Federal Ministry of Environment to urgently assist and proffer lasting solutions to flood and erosion-prone areas of Akwanga/Wamba/Nasarawa/Eggon Federal Constituency;
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (when constituted) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Jeremiah Umaru —Akwanga/Nasarawa/Eggon/Wamba Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 86/07/2023).

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

14. Need to Intervene in the Gully Erosion Devastating Communities in Aguata Local Government Area, Anambra State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that climate change in recent years has adversely affected and impacted on the environment across the globe with its attendant side effects;

Also notes that gully erosions are a result of increased rainfall over a period of time, poor environmental practices, poor or lack of efficient drainage system, inadequate preparedness of relevant government agencies to climate change projections and warnings or total neglect of same, poor refuse disposal practice, etc.;

Concerned that the good people of Igbo-Ukwu, Ekwulobia, Achina, Aguluezechukwu, Uga, Umuchu, Ezinifit, Nkpologwu, Ikenga, Akpo, Amesi Communities in Aguata Federal Constituency of Anambra State have tremendously suffered the menace of dangerous gully erosions for years which has resulting in the loss of valuable land scape which could have been put to good agricultural and other economic uses;

Also concerned that the ravaging gully erosion have rendered people homeless in the affected Communities resulting in the relocation of families from their ancestral communities with its attendant traumatic consequences;

Worried that some of these communities are cut off from government reach, dislocated from one another, have their access roads washed off thereby making transportation of agricultural products from these communities very difficult;

Also worried that the communities in the areas are predominantly agrarian and are daily counting their loses due to inability to transport goods and services to other towns, loss of valuable land to gully erosions and fear of encroaching gullies;

Cognizant that if this menace of devastating gully erosions in the communities is adequately addressed, it will alleviate the hardships of residents, reclaim valuable expanse of land, improve economic activities and bring a sense of belonging and care of government to the people;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Ecological Fund office and related agencies to carry out impact assessment of the affected communities and fund a remediation plan that will stem the tide of gully erosion in the areas so affected;

- (ii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the affected Communities of Aguata Federal Constituency;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Environment, Works and Water Resources (*when constituted*) to make funds available in the 2024 budget estimates for the construction of drainage system and erosion control measures to tackle the menace of gully erosions in the affected communities (*Hon. Dominic Okafor — Aguata Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 87/07/2023).

Motion referred to the Committees on Environment, Works and Water Resources (when constituted), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

15. Need to Rehabilitate the Depilated Portion of Onitsha-Owerri Road, Anambra State
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

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

Also notes that the Onitsha-Owerri road is critical to the economic development of Anambra State and Nigeria as a whole as transportation of goods and services from the commercial city of Onitsha to other parts of the Anambra State and other States in the South East and South South are carried out on this road on a daily basis;

Concerned that the dilapidated state of the Onitsha-Owerri Road has completely cut off the kilometer 8 + 100 in the Oba axis, thereby halting human and vehicular movement in the area;

Also concerned that since the failure of the portion at the Oba axis, there have been several accidents involving unsuspecting commuters whose vehicles have fallen into the deep gully in the road, resulting in the loss of lives and property;

Aware that the Anambra State Government acted on emergency basis to stop the progression of the erosion, but the urgent intervention of the Federal Government is needed to prevent more deaths and save the entire road from total collapse;

Worried that due to the deplorable state of the road which was bedeviled by gully erosion, socio-economic activities in the area have been greatly disrupted and are slowly grinding to a halt, causing huge revenue loss to Anambra State as well as the surrounding States and Nigeria as a whole;

Also worried that the road, which has become a death trap, is an existential threat to lives and needs urgent intervention to prevent further loss to the country as a whole;

Further worried that the menace of gully erosion in Anambra State is alarming with over 1,000 active erosion sites across the State and require urgent intervention;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to move to the site of the collapsed Onitsha-Owerri Road and commence rehabilitation to prevent further loss of lives and property;

- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to increase ecological funding to address the menace of erosion in Anambra State which has become a serious threat to the existence of the people;
- (iii) again urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to commence repairs of the dilapidated Onitsha-Owerri road; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Ecological Funds, and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Paschal Agbodiike— Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 88/07/2023).

Motion referred to the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Ecological Funds, and Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (when constituted), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

16. Need to Compel the Federal Character Commission to Diligently Discharge its Constitutional and Statutory Mandate and Responsibility

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Character Commission Act was enacted in 1995 and enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) with the primary responsibility to promote, monitor and enforce compliance with the principles of the proportional sharing of all bureaucratic, economic, media and political posts at all levels of government;

Recalls that no other Constitution in Nigeria history has entrenched such regulatory body and vested same with powers to facilitate national integration through equitable, transparent and unbiased sharing of national wealth and public official positions;

Laments that twenty-eight years after this purposeful enactment was aimed at national cohesion and equal opportunities, and twenty-four years after its constitutional entrenchment, the perception is that there exists brazen domination of the bureaucratic, economic, media and political posts at all levels by a section of the country at the expense of the others;

Regrets that the Federal Character Commission has virtually abdicated its constitutional and statutory responsibilities and degenerated into personality clash of interest amongst its commissioners as was the case about a year ago;

Recognise that the constitutional injunction is that the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be a state based on the principles of democracy and social justice, which also propagates national integration and abjure discrimination on the grounds of place of origin, sex, religion, status, ethnic or linguistic association or ties;

Observes that the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) empowered the National Assembly with the categorical powers under section 88(2) (6) to expose corruption, inefficiency or waste in the execution or administration of laws within its legislative competence and in the disbursement or administration of funds appropriated by it as our core oversight and supervisory duty;

Also notes that by Order Seventeen, Rule 1 (a) - (b) of the Standing Orders of the House, all Ministries, statutory Agencies, Bodies or corporations shall forward to the speaker all reports required by statute within three months of the close of the reporting period, and any violation of the same attracts sanctions as provided in the Legislative houses (Power and Privileges) Act, 2017;

Concludes that it is within the Legislative competence of the National Assembly especially its relevant Committee when constituted, to compel the Federal Character Commission to discharge its constitutional and statutory responsibilities;

Resolve to:

Mandate the Committee on Federal Character (*when constituted*) to request the Federal Character Commission to forward the returns on appointments undertaken by Ministries, Departments and Agencies under its jurisdiction between 2015-2023 and report within four weeks (4) (*Hon. Paul Sunday Nnamchi — Enugu East/Isi-Uzo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (ii) as follows:
“Urge the Federal Character Commission to forward the Federal Character Balancing Index of all the employment approved for Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to ascertain equity and fairness in the operation of the Commission” (*Hon. Abiodun Akinlade — Yewa South/Ipokia Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
“Urge the Federal Character Commission to sustain the reporting culture of all appointments undertaken by Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in subsequent times” (*Hon. Iliyasu Aliyu Abubakar — Batsari/Safana/Danmusa Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

- (iii) *Insert* a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
“Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to carry out a holistic investigation of alleged constitutional breaches in recruitments as well as other constitutional responsibilities” (*Hon. Miriam Unuoha — Okigwe/Onuimo/Isiala Mbano Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iv) *Leave out* the title of the Motion, and *insert* as follows:
“Need to Compel the Federal Character Commission to Investigate the Recruitment Exercises by Various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) from 2015 - 2023” (*Hon. Okafor Dominic Ifeanyi — Aguata Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

Need to Compel the Federal Character Commission to Investigate the Recruitment Exercises by Various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) from 2015 - 2023:

The House:

Noted that the Federal Character Commission Act was enacted in 1995 and enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) with the primary responsibility to promote, monitor and enforce compliance with the principles of the proportional sharing of all bureaucratic, economic, media and political posts at all levels of government;

Recalled that no other Constitution in Nigeria history has entrenched such regulatory body and vested

same with powers to facilitate national integration through equitable, transparent and unbiased sharing of national wealth and public official positions;

Lamented that twenty-eight years after this purposeful enactment was aimed at national cohesion and equal opportunities, and twenty-four years after its constitutional entrenchment, the perception is that there exists brazen domination of the bureaucratic, economic, media and political posts at all levels by a section of the country at the expense of the others;

Regretted that the Federal Character Commission has virtually abdicated its constitutional and statutory responsibilities and degenerated into personality clash of interest amongst its commissioners as was the case about a year ago;

Recognised that the constitutional injunction is that the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be a state based on the principles of democracy and social justice, which also propagates national integration and abjure discrimination on the grounds of place of origin, sex, religion, status, ethnic or linguistic association or ties;

Observed that the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) empowered the National Assembly with the categorical powers under section 88(2) (6) to expose corruption, inefficiency or waste in the execution or administration of laws within its legislative competence and in the disbursement or administration of funds appropriated by it as our core oversight and supervisory duty;

Also noted that by Order Seventeen, Rule 1 (a) - (b) of the Standing Orders of the House, all Ministries, statutory Agencies, Bodies or corporations shall forward to the speaker all reports required by statute within three months of the close of the reporting period, and any violation of the same attracts sanctions as provided in the Legislative houses (Power and Privileges) Act, 2017;

Concluded that it is within the Legislative competence of the National Assembly especially its relevant Committee when constituted, to compel the Federal Character Commission to discharge its constitutional and statutory responsibilities;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Character Commission to forward the Federal Character Balancing Index of all the employment approved for Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to ascertain equity and fairness in the operation of the Commission;
- (ii) Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to carry out a holistic investigation of alleged constitutional breaches in recruitments as well as other constitutional responsibilities;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Federal Character (*when constituted*) to request the Federal Character Commission to forward the returns on appointments undertaken by Ministries, Departments and Agencies under its jurisdiction between 2015-2023 and report within four weeks (4) (**HR. 89/09/2023**).

17. Need to Revive Gele-Gele Seaport, Edo State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the maritime industry is the second largest contributor of revenue to Nigeria's economy and has been touted as capable of surpassing the oil sector in terms of revenue generation;

Also notes that Gele-Gele Seaport in Edo State has an important place in history as it was where the first European travellers to visit Benin landed and subsequent diplomatic and trade relations between

the Portuguese and the great Benin Kingdom were carried out via the same seaport;

Concerned that despite its relevance as an international trade route, the Gele-Gele seaport was abandoned after Nigeria's independence, while attention was diverted to Lagos Ports which are currently overwhelmed and other ports which have become inoperative;

Aware that the maritime industry is one of the most lucrative industries in the world as it sets the pace of growth experienced in other industries, thus Nigeria's economic growth through the industry would largely depend on the development and expansion of its seaports to accommodate the demands on the sector;

Also aware that maritime transportation need quick response, and the labour market in the industry requires both skilled and unskilled workers for the sector to function properly, thus revitalization of the Gele-Gele seaport will create huge employment opportunities, not only for the people in the South-South zone but also for the teeming number of unemployed youths in Nigeria at large;

Cognizant that if Gele-Gele seaport is revived and developed to meet international standards, it will play a significant role in boosting Nigeria's ailing economy as Edo State is geographically connected to various parts of the country, which makes it an economic hub for international trade and investments;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to, in line with its diversification agenda, leverage the huge economic potentials in the maritime sector by including the revitalization of the Gele-Gele Seaport in Edo State in the 2024 budget estimates;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Maritime Safety, Education and Administration (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Esosa Iyawe — Oredo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the maritime industry is the second largest contributor of revenue to Nigeria's economy and has been touted as capable of surpassing the oil sector in terms of revenue generation;

Also noted that Gele-Gele Seaport in Edo State has an important place in history as it was where the first European travellers to visit Benin landed and subsequent diplomatic and trade relations between the Portuguese and the great Benin Kingdom were carried out via the same seaport;

Concerned that despite its relevance as an international trade route, the Gele-Gele seaport was abandoned after Nigeria's independence, while attention was diverted to Lagos Ports which are currently overwhelmed and other ports which have become inoperative;

Aware that the maritime industry is one of the most lucrative industries in the world as it sets the pace of growth experienced in other industries, thus Nigeria's economic growth through the industry would largely depend on the development and expansion of its seaports to accommodate the demands on the sector;

Also aware that maritime transportation need quick response, and the labour market in the industry requires both skilled and unskilled workers for the sector to function properly, thus revitalization of the Gele-Gele seaport will create huge employment opportunities, not only for the people in the South-South zone but also for the teeming number of unemployed youths in Nigeria at large;

Cognizant that if Gele-Gele seaport is revived and developed to meet international standards, it will play a significant role in boosting Nigeria's ailing economy as Edo State is geographically connected to various parts of the country, which makes it an economic hub for international trade and investments;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to, in line with its diversification agenda, leverage the huge economic potentials in the maritime sector by including the revitalization of the Gele-Gele Seaport in Edo State in the 2024 budget estimates;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Maritime Safety, Education and Administration (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (**HR. 90/07/2023**).

18. Need to provide Control Measures on the Federal Road in Ganaja Flood-Prone Area of Ajaokuta, Kogi State linking the South East States to prevent severe Socio-Economic adverse effects on Nigerians

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the annual recurring incident of flooding in Ganaja, the confluence area in Kogi State is crippling the socio-economic activities of residents and other Nigerians plying the road, thus, destroying lives and property in the affected area;

Also notes that in January 2023, the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet), released a seasonal climate prediction with a forecast of the early onset of heavy rain throughout Nigeria, the forecast prediction of imminent flooding is already stirring Nigerians living in the Ganaja flood-prone area;

Concerned that Ganaja, the confluence area in Kogi State, is part of the 178 (one hundred and seventy-eight) Local Government Areas in 32 (thirty-two) States that fall within the anticipated flood-prone areas as stipulated by the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency in its annual flood outlook;

Also concerned that Nigerians are yet to recover from the effect of the 2022 flood in Ganaja within Ajaokuta Local Government Area of Kogi State, which affected not less than 1 million (one million) Nigerians, about 300 (three hundred) thousand Nigerians displaced, 5 (five) thousand homesteads and houses damaged, an estimated 80 (eighty) hectares of farmland destroyed, and several lives lost;

Aware that the 2022 flood made the Federal Government constitute a committee to develop a comprehensive Plan of Action for Preventing future Flood Disasters in Nigeria;

Also aware that the federal road passing through Ganaja and linking the 5 (five) South East States will be inaccessible during the fast-approaching flood season and will gravely affect the socio-economic activities of Nigerians plying the road to transport their goods and services to markets within the State and from the Northern States to the South Eastern States;

Worried that if urgent measure is not taken to provide control measures to avert future floods, it will permanently cut off the South-East States and the rest part of the State during the flood season;

Cognizant of the provisions of the National Environmental (Soil, Erosion, and Flood Control) Regulations, 2011, on the fundamental objectives of the Regulations which protect human life and the environment;

Resolves to:

- (i) invite the Director General, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and all Federal Government Agencies to brief the House on the measures put in place to ameliorate flood disasters on the federal road in Ganaja linking five South East States;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to adequately prepare palliative intervention inclusive of speed boats to convey Nigerians across the flood on the federal road in Ganaja to prevent severe socio-economic adverse effects;
- (iii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to liaise with the Kogi State Ministry of Works and Housing to provide an alternative bypass to the Federal Road in Ganaja in the flood-prone area to prevent cutting off the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and other Northern States from accessing the South East States through Kogi State;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Works, Federal Roads Maintenance and, Emergency and Disaster Preparedness (*when constituted*) to, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), investigate the threat posed by the flood on the Federal Road in Ganaja, ensure compliance and report within three (3) weeks (*Hon. Sanni Egidi Abdulraheem — Ajaokuta Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (iii), immediately after the words “National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)” *leave out* the words “to liaise with the Kogi State Ministry of Works and Housing” (*Hon. Kuye Ademorin Aliu — Shomolu Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (v) as follows:
“urge the Federal Government to declare the Ganaja Federal road a national emergency infrastructure” (*Hon. Ojogo Donald Kimikanboh — Ese-Odo/Ilaje Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) *Insert* a new Prayer (vi) as follows:
“Mandate the Committees on Works, Federal Roads Maintenance Agency to liaise with Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to carry out repairs on the Koton Karfi road by elevating the pavement to avert regular submerging of the road due to torrential rainfall” (*Hon. Aguye Sueliman Danladi — Lokoja/Kogi/Koton Karfi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the annual recurring incident of flooding in Ganaja, the confluence area in Kogi State is crippling the socio-economic activities of residents and other Nigerians plying the road, thus, destroying lives and property in the affected area;

Also noted that in January 2023, the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet), released a seasonal climate prediction with a forecast of the early onset of heavy rain throughout Nigeria, the forecast prediction of imminent flooding is already stirring Nigerians living in the Ganaja flood-prone area;

Concerned that Ganaja, the confluence area in Kogi State, is part of the 178 (one hundred and seventy-eight) Local Government Areas in 32 (thirty-two) States that fall within the anticipated flood-prone areas as stipulated by the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency in its annual flood outlook;

Also concerned that Nigerians are yet to recover from the effect of the 2022 flood in Ganaja within Ajaokuta Local Government Area of Kogi State, which affected not less than 1 million (one million) Nigerians, about 300 (three hundred) thousand Nigerians displaced, 5 (five) thousand homesteads and houses damaged, an estimated 80 (eighty) hectares of farmland destroyed, and several lives lost;

Aware that the 2022 flood made the Federal Government constitute a committee to develop a comprehensive Plan of Action for Preventing future Flood Disasters in Nigeria;

Also aware that the federal road passing through Ganaja and linking the 5 (five) South East States will be inaccessible during the fast-approaching flood season and will gravely affect the socio-economic activities of Nigerians plying the road to transport their goods and services to markets within the State and from the Northern States to the South Eastern States;

Worried that the if urgent measure is not taken to provide control measures to avert future floods, it will permanently cut off the South-East States and the rest part of the State during the flood season;

Cognizant of the provisions of the National Environmental (Soil, Erosion, and Flood Control) Regulations, 2011, on the fundamental objectives of the Regulations which protect human life and the environment;

Resolved to:

- (i) invite the Director General, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and all Federal Government Agencies to brief the House on the measures put in place to ameliorate flood disasters on the federal road in Ganaja linking five South East States;
- (ii) urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to adequately prepare palliative intervention inclusive of speed boats to convey Nigerians across the flood on the federal road in Ganaja to prevent severe socio-economic adverse effects;
- (iii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide an alternative bypass to the Federal Road in Ganaja in the flood-prone area to prevent cutting off the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and other Northern States from accessing the South East States through Kogi State;
- (iv) urge the Federal Government to declare the Ganaja Federal road a national emergency infrastructure;
- (v) mandate the Committees on Works, Federal Roads Maintenance and, Emergency and Disaster Preparedness (*when constituted*) to, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), investigate the threat posed by the flood on the Federal Road in Ganaja, ensure compliance and report within three (3) weeks;
- (vi) also mandate the Committees on Works, Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (*when constituted*) to liaise with Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to carry out repairs on the Koton Karfi road by elevating the pavement to avert regular submerging of the road due to torrential rainfall (**HR. 91/07/2023**).

19. Need to Investigate the Non-Remittance of Due Taxes by the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) into the Federation

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Section 162 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides for "The Federation Account" in which all revenues collected by the Government of the Federation except such exempted therein are paid;

Also notes that the said "Federation Account" belongs to the entire federation while the Federal Government keeps the same in trust on behalf of three tiers of Government in Particular and Nigerians at large;

Aware that the Allocation of Revenue (Federation Account, etc.) Act, prescribes the basis for the distribution of revenue accruing to the federation account between the Federal, State Governments and Local Government Areas in Nigeria;

Also aware that the fate of the National Development largely depends on how transparent and accountable relevant Government agencies and corporate entities are in the collation, remittance and distribution of revenues solely acquired;

Convinced that section 6 of the Allocation of Revenue (Federation Account, etc.) Act, established the "Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC)" to among other functions, report annually to the National Assembly in respect of the function under the Act;

Also convinced that the non-remittance of crude sales, royalties and taxes by the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) into the Federation Account has been a reoccurring decimal and a sad narrative constituting a subject matter without opposing views;

Cognizant that the Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) had severally accused the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC) of short-changing it by refusing to pay over 2 trillion naira to the Federation Account from crude sales, royalties and taxes;

Further aware that the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited averred that the Federal Government owed it over four (4) trillion naira of subsidy payments, power debt and other sundry charges and therefore would not remit until the debts are recovered;

Further notes that the Non-remittance accusation and counter-accusation are tantamount to a calculated attempt to disrespect and downplay the collective intelligence of Nigerians;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the non-remittance of revenues to the Federal Government Account by the National Petroleum Company Limited and the Accusation by the Federation Account Allocation Committee (*Hon. Uduak Alphonsus Odudoh — Ikot Abasi/Mlpat Enin/Eastern Obolo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In the Prayer, immediately after the words "Allocation Committee", *insert* the words "and report within four (4) weeks" (*Hon. Oboku Abonsizibe Oforji — Yenagoa/Kolokuma/Opokuma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In the Prayer, *leave out* the words “set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee”, and *insert* the words “mandate the Committee on Finance (*when constituted*)” (*Hon. Saidu Musa Abdullahi — Bida/Gbako/Katcha Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Section 162 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides for "The Federation Account" in which all revenues collected by the Government of the Federation except such exempted therein are paid;

Also noted that the said "Federation Account" belongs to the entire federation while the Federal Government keeps the same in trust on behalf of three tiers of Government in Particular and Nigerians at large;

Aware that the Allocation of Revenue (Federation Account, etc.) Act, prescribes the basis for the distribution of revenue accruing to the federation account between the Federal, State Governments and Local Government Areas in Nigeria;

Also aware that the fate of the National Development largely depends on how transparent and accountable relevant Government agencies and corporate entities are in the collation, remittance and distribution of revenues solely acquired;

Convinced that section 6 of the Allocation of Revenue (Federation Account, etc) Act, established the "Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC)" to among other functions, report annually to the National Assembly in respect of the function under the Act;

Also convinced that the non-remittance of crude sales, royalties and taxes by the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) into the Federation Account has been a reoccurring decimal and a sad narrative constituting a subject matter without opposing views;

Cognizant that the Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) had severally accused the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC) of short-changing it by refusing to pay over 2 trillion naira to the Federation Account from crude sales, royalties and taxes;

Further aware that the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited averred that the Federal Government owed it over four (4) trillion naira of subsidy payments, power debt and other sundry charges and therefore would not remit until the debts are recovered;

Further noted that the Non-remittance accusation and counter-accusation are tantamount to a calculated attempt to disrespect and downplay the collective intelligence of Nigerians;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Finance (*when constituted*) to investigate the non-remittance of revenues to the Federal Government Account by the National Petroleum Company Limited and the Accusation by the Federation Account Allocation Committee, and report within four (4) weeks (**HR. 92/07/2023**).

20. Need to Investigate the Abandonment of Section 1 of the Project for Dualisation of Kano-Maiduguri Road

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Kano-Maiduguri road is a major link to several States in the country including Kano, Jigawa, Bauchi, Yobe and Borno States among others;

Also notes that in October, 2006, the Federal Government approved a contract for the dualisation of the road, which was divided into five (5) sections with Section 1 covering 202 kilometers dual line along Kano-Wudil-Gaya in Kano State and Shuwarin in Jigawa State;

Aware that the contract for the construction of Section 1 of the project was awarded to Dantata and Sawoe Construction Company Nigeria Limited;

Also aware that the other 4 sections of the road have been completed many years ago;

Concerned that Section 1 of the project was abandoned without any plausible explanation despite funding of the project by the Federal Government;

Worried that the road, which is now in a deplorable condition, poses a major risk to commuters as accidents are recorded on a regular basis and hoodlums are taking advantage to unleash mayhem on unsuspecting road users;

Also worried that due to the dilapidation of the road, economic activities in the area have been paralyzed, thus causing untold hardship to the people;

Cognizant that prompt completion of the road will, not only provide safety for commuters, but also boost socio-economic activities of communities in the area;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the non-completion of the road with a view to ensuring that all factors impeding its completion are effectively addressed and the road duly completed, and report within three (3) weeks (*Hon. Yusuf Shittu Galambi — Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* all the words in the Prayer, and *insert* as follows:
“Urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to mobilise the contractor to site” (*Hon. Kabiru Amadu — Gusau/Tsafe Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (ii) as follows:
“mandate the Committee on Works (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance” (*Hon. Kabiru Amadu — Gusau/Tsafe Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Kano-Maiduguri road is a major link to several States in the country including Kano, Jigawa, Bauchi, Yobe and Borno States among others;

Also noted that in October 2006, the Federal Government approved a contract for the dualisation of

the road, which was divided into five (5) sections with Section 1 covering 202 kilometers dual line along Kano-Wudil-Gaya in Kano State and Shuwarin in Jigawa State;

Aware that the contract for the construction of Section 1 of the project was awarded to Dantata and Sawoe Construction Company Nigeria Limited;

Also aware that the other 4 sections of the road have been completed many years ago;

Concerned that Section 1 of the project was abandoned without any plausible explanation despite funding of the project by the Federal Government;

Worried that the road, which is now in a deplorable condition, poses a major risk to commuters as accidents are recorded on a regular basis and hoodlums are taking advantage to unleash mayhem on unsuspecting road users;

Also worried that due to the dilapidation of the road, economic activities in the area have been paralyzed, thus causing untold hardship to the people;

Cognizant that prompt completion of the road will, not only provide safety for commuters, but also boost socio-economic activities of communities in the area;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to mobilise the contractor to site;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Works (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (**HR. 93/07/2023**).

21. Need to Discourage the Destruction of Vessels Laden with Stolen Crude Oil with a view to Curbing Environmental Pollution in the Niger Delta Region

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the recent reports of interception, arrest and subsequent destruction of vessels laden with stolen crude oil in the Niger Delta region, the most recent being MT TURA II on Friday, 7 July, 2023 in the escravos river in Warri South-West Local Government Area, Delta State;

Also notes that the vessel MT TURA, an 800,000 tonne capacity vessel was at the time of arrest and destruction, laden with about 150,000 metric tonnes of stolen crude oil;

Further notes that the said vessel was set ablaze by a joint team of Nigeria security forces and representatives of the NNPC Ltd on 11 July, 2023;

Aware that in October 2022, a vessel named MT DEIMA which was laden with 1500 metric tonnes of stolen crude oil, was also arrested and set ablaze in the Warri Escravos river;

Also aware that setting ablaze stolen crude oil laden vessels will further destroy the well-endowed ecosystem of the Niger Delta region already ravaged by oil exploration;

Worried that this act if allowed to continue, will further affect the livelihood and the overall wellbeing of the Niger Delta people who have fishing as their main occupation;

Cognizance of the determination of the Federal Government to curb oil spill in the Niger Delta region and make the living condition of the people better;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the security agencies of the Federal Government to desist from further setting ablaze vessels laden with stolen crude oil;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Environment (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Thomas Ereyitomi — Warri North/Warri South/Warri West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
“Urge the security agencies to take legal action against the owners and operators of the Vessels laden with stolen crude oil” (*Hon. Ibe Okwara Osonwa — Arocchukwu/Ohafia Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayer (ii), immediately after the word “Environment”, *insert* the words “and Climate Change” (*Hon. Patrick Umoh — Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) *Insert* a new Prayer (iv) as follows:
“Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the setting ablaze of the vessel with stolen crude oil, by security operatives” (*Hon. Ben Etanabene — Okpe/Sapele/Uvwie Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iv) In Prayer (ii), immediately after the word “and Climate Change”, *insert* the words “and Maritime Safety, Education and Administration” (*Hon. Abiante Awaji-Inombek Dagomie — Andoni/Opobo Nkoro Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (v) *Insert* a new Prayer (v) as follows:
“Further mandate the *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate what happened to the 150, 000 barrels of crude oil contained in the vessel before it was destroyed” (*Hon. Chris Mkwonta — Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the recent reports of interception, arrest and subsequent destruction of vessels laden with stolen crude oil in the Niger Delta region, the most recent being MT TURA II on Friday, 7 July, 2023 in the escravos river in Warri South-West Local Government Area, Delta State;

Also noted that the vessel MT TURA, an 800,000 tonne capacity vessel was at the time of arrest and destruction, laden with about 150,000 metric tonnes of stolen crude oil;

Further noted that the said vessel was set ablaze by a joint team of Nigeria security forces and representatives of the NNPC Ltd on 11 July, 2023;

Aware that in October 2022, a vessel named MT DEIMA which was laden with 1500 metric tonnes of stolen crude oil, was also arrested and set ablaze in the Warri escravos river;

Also aware that setting ablaze stolen crude oil laden vessels will further destroy the well-endowed ecosystem of the Niger Delta region already ravaged by oil exploration;

Worried that this act if allowed to continue, will further affect the livelihood and the overall wellbeing of the Niger Delta people who have fishing as their main occupation;

Cognizance of the determination of the Federal Government to curb oil spill in the Niger Delta region and make the living condition of the people better;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the security agencies of the Federal Government to desist from further setting ablaze vessels laden with stolen crude oil;
- (ii) also urge the security agencies to take legal action against the owners and operators of the Vessels laden with stolen crude oil;
- (iii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the setting ablaze of the vessel with stolen crude oil, by security operatives;
- (iv) mandate the *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate what happened to the 150, 000 barrels of crude oil contained in the vessel before it was destroyed
- (v) also mandate the Committee on Environment, Climate Change, and Maritime Safety, Education and Administration (*when constituted*) to ensure compliance (**HR. 94/07/2023**).

22. Rehabilitation of Federal Science and Technical College, Ukana Offot in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State and Other Institutions for Technical and Vocational Education Across the Country

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Technical and vocational education is critical to boosting the economy and development of any developing nation as it is concerned with qualitative technological human resources development geared towards a national pool of skilled and self-reliant craftsmen, technicians and technologists in technical and vocational education fields;

Also notes that while technical education is not designed for any particular vocation but provides general technical knowledge and prepares people for entry into recognized occupations at a higher level, vocational education on the other hand refers to skill-based programmes which are designed for skill acquisition at a lower level of education and focuses on specific vocations for entry into defined workplaces;

Further notes that technical education is usually a merger of technical education and vocational education, that is, the inclusion of basic technical and scientific knowledge with the skill-based vocational programme, thus it is deemed to be the answer to youth unemployment, given its place in proffering a proactive solution to the corrosive unemployment rate in Nigeria;

Concerned that the Federal Science and Technical College College at Ukana Offot in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State as well as other Institutions for technical and vocational education across the country are

in deplorable conditions and portray an unserious attitude to the country's quest for technological development;

Also concerned that the laboratories and workshops in the Federal Science and Technical in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State and other Institutions for technical and vocational education in Nigeria are dilapidated and in need of re-engineering and reinvention;

Aware that according to experts, training citizens on the need to be technologically literate would eventually lead to self-reliance and sustainability, thus technical education, more than any other profession, has a direct impact on the development of the country;

Worried that despite all the glaring contributions of technical and vocational education in the nation, Nigeria is yet to accord this type of education the attention it deserves, and that is one of the major reasons for the rising unemployment, poverty and unabated crimes in the society today;

Also worried that polytechnics, which are supposed to admit students from technical colleges, have been relegated as the students are reluctant to apply for admissions into the institutions due to dilapidated infrastructure, obsolete equipment, inadequate and unqualified teachers and instructors to meet with current industry skills impartation;

Cognizant that Technical and vocational education cannot effectively contribute to the reduction of abject poverty, hunger and unemployment in Nigeria unless the institutions for technical and vocational education are adequately funded, equipped, and properly incentivized;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to rehabilitate, adequately fund and equip the Federal Science and Technical College at Ukana Ofot in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, as well as other Institutions for Technical and Vocational Education across the country;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to provide Special intervention funds for procurement of workshop facilities for technical and vocational institutions across the country;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services (*when constituted*) to investigate and ascertain the true status of Institutions for Technical and Vocational Education across the country with a view to proffering solutions to the issues preventing the institutions from functioning optimally and impacting the economy, and report within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Mark Esset Udo — Uyo/Uruan/Nsit Atai/Asutan/Ibesikpo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 95/07/2023).

Motion referred to the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services (when constituted), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

23. Executive Session

Motion made and Question proposed: "That the House do resolve into a Closed Session" (Hon. Ihonvbere Omozuanvbo Julius — House Leader) — Agreed to.

Closed Session — 2.22 p.m.

Open Session — 2.37 p.m.

24. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 19 July, 2023 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Julius Omozuanvbo Ihonvbere — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.40 p.m.

Benjamin Okezie Kalu
Deputy Speaker