



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 19 November, 2024

1. The House met at 11.06 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 *Second Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 31 October, 2024.

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

4. **Messages**  
Mr Speaker read the following messages from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

(i)



**PRESIDENT,  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

6th November, 2024

***Rt. Honourable Tajudeen Abbas, GCON***  
*Speaker of The House of Representatives,  
National Assembly Complex,  
Three Arms Zone,  
Abuja.*

***Rt Honourable Speaker,***

**TRANSMISSION OF THE NATIONAL SOCIAL INVESTMENT  
PROGRAMME AGENCY (ESTABLISHMENT) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024  
FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

*Pursuant to Section 58 (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), I forward, herewith, for the kind consideration and passage by the House of Representatives, the National Social Investment Programme Agency (Establishment) (Amendment) Bill, 2024, for the amendment of the National Social Investment Programme Agency Act, 2023.*

*The purpose of the Bill is to make the National Social Register the primary targeting tool for the implementation of social investment programmes of Government. This will ensure our social welfare programmes are data driven and implementation processes are transparent, targeted, dynamic and effective in delivering social protection benefits to vulnerable Nigerians.*

*While hoping that the House of Representatives will consider this submission in the usual expeditious manner, please accept, Rt. Hon. Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*(Signed)*

**Bola Ahmed Tinubu**

(ii)



**PRESIDENT,  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

15th November, 2024

**Rt Honourable Tajudeen Abbas**  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
National Assembly Complex,  
Three Arms Zone,  
Abuja.*

**Rt Hon. Speaker,**

**SUBMISSION OF FGN 2025-2027 MEDIUM-TERM  
EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK AND FISCAL STRATEGY PAPER**

*It is with pleasure that I forward herewith, the 2025-2027 Medium Term Expenditure Framework and Fiscal Strategy Paper (MTEF & FSP) for the kind consideration and approval by the House of Representatives. The 2025- 2027 (MTEF & FSP) was approved during the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting of 10th November, 2024.*

*The House is invited to note that, as the 2025 budget of the Federal Government will be prepared based on the parameters and fiscal assumptions of the approved 2025-2027 (MTEF & FSP), it is imperative to seek National Assembly's expeditious legislative action on this submission.*

*While I trust that the House of Representatives will consider this submission expeditiously. Please accept, Rt Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my highest regards.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*(Signed)*

**Bola Ahmed Tinubu**

*Matter referred to the Committees on Finance, and National Planning and Economic Development.*

**(iii)**



**PRESIDENT,  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

15th November, 2024

**Rt Honourable Tajudeen Abbas, GCON**  
Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
National Assembly Complex,  
Three Arms Zone,  
Abuja.

**Rt Hon. Speaker,**

**REQUEST FOR THE RESOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL  
ASSEMBLY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW  
EXTERNAL BORROWING OF ₦1767,610,321,779.00 (ABOUT  
USD2.209 BILLION) IN THE 2024 APPROPRIATION ACT**

*In accordance with the provisions of Sections 21 (1) and 27 (1) of the Debt Management Office (DMO) (Establishment, etc.) Act, 2003, and the approval of the Federal Executive Council, I write to request for a Resolution of the National Assembly (NASS) to raise the sum of ₦1,767,610,321,779.00 (equivalent of USD2,209,512,902.22 at the Budget Exchange Rate of USD1.00/₦800) provided as New External Borrowing in the 2024 Appropriation Act to part finance the budget deficit of ₦9.179 trillion.*

2. **Implementation of the New External Borrowing in the 2024 Appropriation Act**  
*The Right Honourable Speaker may wish to recall that the 2024 Appropriation Act approved the sum of ₦7,828,529,477,860.00 as New Borrowings to part-finance the 2024 budget deficit of ₦9.179 trillion. The total New Borrowings of ₦7.828 trillion was further subdivided into New Domestic Borrowing of ₦6.061 trillion and New External Borrowing of ₦1.767 trillion (Table 1). The latter is the subject of this request.*

**Table 1: New Borrowings for Part-Financing of Fiscal Deficit in 2024**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount (₦' trillion)</b>
New Domestic Borrowing in the 2024 Appropriation Act	6.061
New External Borrowing in the 2024 Appropriation Act	1.768
<b>Total New Borrowings Source: 2024 Appropriation Act</b>	<b>7.829</b>

### ***Funding Plan***

3. *The plan is to raise the New External Borrowing of USD2.21 billion from a combination of commercial sources: Issuance of Eurobonds, Issuance of debut Sovereign Sukuk in the International Capital Market (ICM) and Bridge Finance/Syndicated Loans (Table 2).*

**Table 2: Financing Options for 2024 External Capital Raising**

<b>Financing Options</b>	<b>Descriptions</b>
<b>Option 1</b> <b>Issuance of Eurobonds</b>	Nigeria could raise all or part of the New External Borrowing of USD2.21 billion through the issuance of Eurobonds in the ICM. Nigeria has been a Regular issuer in the ICM and had raised USD16.92 billion out of which USD15.12 billion is outstanding. The ICM is now open to countries similar to Nigeria, and so far, Cote d'Ivoire, Benin, Kenya, and Cameroon have issued Eurobonds in the ICM in 2024.
<b>Option 2</b> <b>Issuance of Sovereign Sukuk with a Guarantee from the ICIEC</b>	A debut Sovereign Sukuk of up to USD500 million in the ICM with credit enhancement from the Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC), a member of the IsDB Group, subject to the terms and conditions.
<b>Option 3</b> <b>Bridge Finance/Syndicated Loans</b>	Bridge Finance/Syndicated Loans by the International Bookrunners/Joint Lead Managers (Citigroup Global Markets Ltd, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan and Standard Chartered) that have been appointed through an Open Competitive Bid to advise on the Issuance of Eurobonds, where it becomes necessary. This option will only be used if for any reason the Issuance of Eurobonds is delayed due to market conditions and there is an urgent need for funds. Please note that the precedent for accessing Bridge Finance/Syndicated Loan is that the proceeds of the Eurobonds will be used to offset the loan.

4. *The Right Honourable Speaker may further wish to note all the Options will be pursued simultaneously for the capital raising of USD2.21 billion considering the costs, relative benefits, and timing of each of them to the country. However, emphasis will be on the Issuance of Eurobonds (Option 1) which is typically faster to conclude. Additionally, a larger amount can be raised through Eurobonds at a relatively lower cost.*

5. ***Summary of Indicative Terms and Conditions***

*With respect to the Terms and Conditions of the proposed External Borrowings, the Right Honourable Speaker may note that because all the Options are market related, the Final Terms and Conditions (Interest Rate and Tenors) can only be determined at the point of Issuance of the Eurobonds and Sukuk, and negotiation with lenders in the case of Bridge Finance/Syndicated Loan. They will all be subject to market conditions prevailing at that time. The Federal Ministry of Finance and the Debt Management Office, working with the Transaction Advisers appointed by the Federal Government through Open Competitive Bidding, will ensure that Nigeria secures the best Terms and Conditions within the context of the market. Meanwhile, the Indicative Terms and Conditions for Eurobonds, which can be used as a guide is attached as Appendix I for your information.*

6. ***Utilisation of Proceeds of New External Borrowing***

*The funds are needed to give more impetus to the ongoing implementation of the projects and programmes in the 2024 Appropriation Act, which were designed to stabilize the economy*

*and put it on the path of sustainable growth and development. The key projects to which the proceeds will be deployed from the priority sectors of the economy, such as power, transport, agriculture, defence and security. It is also important to add that the proceeds will increase the accretions to the external reserves as the proceeds will be received into the Central Bank of Nigeria's Account, and thereby support the Naira exchange rate.*

7. ***Required Resolutions***

*As stated in Paragraph 1 above, the Right Honourable Speaker may wish to note that the Resolution of the NASS in the attached format (Appendix II) is required to comply with the provisions of the DMO Act and implement the New External Borrowing of ₦1,767,610,321,779.00 (equivalent of USD2,209,512,902.22 at the Budget Exchange Rate of USD1.00/₦800) in the 2024 Appropriation Act to part finance the budget deficit.*

8. *In view of the foregoing, especially with respect to the provisions of Sections 21 (1) and 27 (1) of the DMO Act, a specific Resolution of the NASS is required to implement the New External Borrowing in the 2024 Appropriation Act as stated in Paragraphs 1 and 7. Accordingly, the House of Representatives is invited to consider and approve a Resolution in the format outlined hereunder, which is also attached as Appendix II:*

- (i) To implement the New External Borrowing of ₦1,767,610,321,779.00 (equivalent of USD2,209,512,902.22 at the Budget Exchange Rate of USD1.00/₦800) in the 2024 Appropriation Act and that the amount should be raised from one or more sources, namely: Issuance of Eurobonds in the ICM, Issuance of debut Sovereign Sukuk in the ICM, and Bridge Finance/Syndicated Loans subject to market conditions, including time to market;*
- (ii) Based on availability and costs, to issue Eurobonds in the sum of USD1.70 billion or more, but not more than USD2,209,512,902.22 approved as New External Borrowing in the 2024 Appropriation Act; and,*
- (iii) The Honourable Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, working with the Debt Management Office are authorised to take all relevant and necessary actions required to give effect to this Resolution of the National Assembly.*

9. *While looking forward to the kind consideration of this submission and timely Issuance of the Resolution by NASS, please accept, Rt Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my personal regards.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*(Signed)*

***Bola Ahmed Tinubu***

*Matter referred to the Committee on Aids, Loans and Debts Management.*

**5. Message from the Senate**

**President of the Senate**  
Federal Republic of Nigeria

14th November, 2024

**Rt Hon. Tajudeen Abbas,**  
*The Speaker of House of Representative*  
*National Assembly Complex*  
*Three Armed Zone*  
*Abuja.*

**The Rt Honourable Speaker,**

**NOTIFICATION OF VALEDICTORY SESSION IN HONOUR OF LATE SENATOR Dr PATRICK IFEANYI UBAH, CON**

*You will recall Mr Speaker, that on 27 of July 2024, the National Assembly and indeed the entire country, received with grief and deep shock, news of the sudden and untimely death of Distinguished Senator Dr Patrick Ifeanyi Ubah, CON in the United Kingdom. Until his demise, Senator Dr Patrick Ifeanyi Ubah, CON was the Senator representing Anambra South Senatorial District.*

*Mr Speaker, you are also aware that, in line with our practice and convention as legislators, a Valedictory Session is often held in honour of any deceased Legislator before final interment.*

*Accordingly, I hereby use this medium to notify you, about the Valedictory Session to be held by the Senate in honour of the late Distinguished Senator Dr Patrick Ifeanyi Ubah, CON on Tuesday, 19 November, 2024 at the Senate Chambers within the usual time of our Plenary.*

*As always, please accept the esteemed assurances of my highest regards.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*(Signed)*

**H.E. Distinguished Senator (Dr) Godswill Obot Akpabio, GCON**  
*President of the Senate*

**6. Announcement*****Visitors in the Gallery:***

Mr Speaker announced the presence of the following visitors:

- (i) Children of Africa Leadership and Values Development Initiative (CALDEV);
- (ii) Staff and Students of the Excellent Grade International Schools, Kubwa, Abuja;
- (iii) Staff and Students of Freedom City International Christian School, Mararaba, Karu, Nasarawa State;
- (iv) Staff and Students of The Lord's Educational Services, Tudunwada, Nasarawa State.

**7. Petitions**

- (i) A petition from Youths of Bonny Local Government Area, Rivers State, on alleged murder of Kelechi Augustine Ibeh by operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), was presented and laid by Hon. Hart Cyril Godwin (*Bonny/Degema Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) A petition from Simon Peter Archibong, on her disengagement from service by the Nigeria Export Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA), was presented and laid by Hon. Clement Ernest Jimbo (*Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency*);
- (iii) A petition from Jeremiah Akpabio, on behalf of Federal Polytechnic, Ukana, Akwa Ibom State, on the nullification of the appointments of the Registrar and Bursar of the Federal Polytechnic, Ukana by the Federal Ministry of Education, was presented and laid by Hon. Patrick Umoh (*Ikot Ekpene/Essien Udim/Obot Akara Federal Constituency*).

*Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.*

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

- (i) ***The Attacks by Unknown Gunmen in Anambra State:***  
Hon. Uchenna Harris Okonkwo (*Idemilli North/Idemilli South Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
  - (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
  - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

**The Attacks by Unknown Gunmen in Anambra State:**

The House:

*Notes* that the constitutional responsibility of the government is to safeguard the lives and property of its citizens;

*Concerned* that the increasing violence in Anambra State perpetrated by unknown gunmen, has created fear, grief, and instability among residents;

*Alarmed* by the brazen attack that occurred on the morning of Monday, 18 November, 2024, in the communities of Abatete and Ukpo, resulting in the tragic death toll of about 10 individuals, including the President General of Abatete, alongside other innocent victims;

*Also concerned* about the threat this violence poses to peace, social cohesion, and economic development in the region;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) strongly condemn the brutal attacks by unknown gunmen in Abatete and Ukpo communities of Anambra State, which have caused the senseless loss of lives, including that of a community leader and others;
- (ii) commiserate with the families of the 10 victims who lost their lives in the attack and extend profound condolences to all those affected, while offering prayers for the swift recovery of the injured;

- (iii) observe a minute of silence in honour of the lives lost in this tragic incident;
- (iv) urge the Anambra State Government to provide immediate relief and compensation to the victims and their families, as well as rebuild and rehabilitate affected areas;
- (v) call on community leaders, traditional rulers, and other stakeholders to collaborate with security agencies in identifying and addressing the root causes of insecurity in the region;
- (vi) call on the Federal and Anambra State Governments to:
  - (a) deploy specialized security forces immediately to Abatete, Ukpo, and other affected areas to restore calm and prevent further attacks,
  - (b) ensure a comprehensive investigation into the incident to apprehend and prosecute the perpetrators swiftly and transparently;
  - (c) strengthen community-based security frameworks and intelligence-sharing mechanisms to forestall similar tragedies;
- (vii) mandate the Committee on Defence to:
  - (a) conduct an urgent fact-finding mission to Abatete, Ukpo, and other affected areas to assess the security situation and report within two weeks;
  - (b) liaise with the Anambra State Government and federal security agencies to ensure swift action is taken to apprehend and prosecute the perpetrators of these heinous crimes;
- (viii) request the Speaker to summon a Security Summit involving key stakeholders, including security agencies, traditional rulers, and civil society organizations, to discuss and develop a comprehensive plan to address insecurity in the Southeast (*Hon. Uchenna Harris Okonkwo — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*)

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the constitutional responsibility of the government is to safeguard the lives and property of its citizens;

*Concerned* that the increasing violence in Anambra State perpetrated by unknown gunmen, has created fear, grief, and instability among residents;

*Alarmed* by the brazen attack that occurred on the morning of Monday, 18 November, 2024, in the communities of Abatete and Ukpo, resulting in the tragic death toll of about 10 individuals, including the President General of Abatete, alongside other innocent victims;

*Also concerned* about the threat this violence poses to peace, social cohesion, and economic development in the region;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) strongly condemn the brutal attacks by unknown gunmen in Abatete and Ukpo communities of Anambra State, which have caused the senseless loss of lives, including that of a community leader and others;
- (ii) commiserate with the families of the 10 victims who lost their lives in the attack and extend profound condolences to all those affected, while offering prayers for the swift recovery of the injured;
- (iii) observe a minute of silence in honour of the lives lost in this tragic incident;
- (iv) urge the Anambra State Government to provide immediate relief and compensation to the victims and their families, as well as rebuild and rehabilitate affected areas;
- (v) call on community leaders, traditional rulers, and other stakeholders to collaborate with security agencies in identifying and addressing the root causes of insecurity in the region;
- (vi) call on the Federal and Anambra State Governments to:
  - (a) deploy specialized security forces immediately to Abatete, Ukpo, and other affected areas to restore calm and prevent further attacks,
  - (b) ensure a comprehensive investigation into the incident to apprehend and prosecute the perpetrators swiftly and transparently;
  - (c) strengthen community-based security frameworks and intelligence-sharing mechanisms to forestall similar tragedies;
- (vii) mandate the Committee on Defence to:
  - (a) conduct an urgent fact-finding mission to Abatete, Ukpo, and other affected areas to assess the security situation and report within two weeks;
  - (b) liaise with the Anambra State Government and federal security agencies to ensure swift action is taken to apprehend and prosecute the perpetrators of these heinous crimes;
  - (viii) request the Speaker to summon a Security Summit involving key stakeholders, including security agencies, traditional rulers, and civil society organizations, to discuss and develop a comprehensive plan to address insecurity in the Southeast (**HR. 166/11/2024**).

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

**(ii) *Outbreak of Disease in Kaduna Correctional Facility:***

Hon. Umar Shehu Ajilo (*Makarfi/Kudan Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

**Outbreak of Disease in Kaduna Correctional Facility:**

The House:

*Notes* that the Kaduna Correctional Facility has been plagued by a mysterious disease outbreak, resulting in significant loss of lives among the inmate population, and this disturbing trend necessitates immediate attention and action;

*Concerned* that beside over crowding in the correctional facility inmates are also suffering from lack of food which exacerbate their health condition and spread of diseases;

*Aware* that this investigation is crucial to ensuring accountability, transparency, and the protection of human rights within the correctional facilities. It is the collective responsibility of lawmakers to safeguard the lives and dignity of all Nigerians, including those in custody;

*Cognizant* of the need to ensure that justice is served, and the lives of those in custody are protected;

*Resolves to:*

Mandate the Committee on Reformatory Institutions to:

- (i) conduct an urgent investigation into the cause of the disease outbreak at the Kaduna Correctional facility,
- (ii) identify measures to prevent future occurrences and ensure the health and well-being of inmates and staff,
- (iii) collaborate with relevant agencies to provide immediate medical assistance and support to affected individuals (*Hon. Umar Shehu Ajilo — Makarfi/Kudan Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

*Agreed to.*

The House:

*Noted* that the Kaduna Correctional Facility has been plagued by a mysterious disease outbreak, resulting in significant loss of lives among the inmate population, and this disturbing trend necessitates immediate attention and action;

*Concerned* that beside over crowding in the correctional facility inmates are also suffering from lack of food which exacerbate their health condition and spread of diseases;

*Aware* that this investigation is crucial to ensuring accountability, transparency, and the protection of human rights within the correctional facilities. It is the collective responsibility of lawmakers to safeguard the lives and dignity of all Nigerians, including those in custody;

*Cognizant* of the need to ensure that justice is served, and the lives of those in custody are protected;

*Resolved to:*

Mandate the Committee on Reformatory Institutions to:

- (i) conduct an urgent investigation into the cause of the disease outbreak at the Kaduna Correctional facility,
  - (ii) identify measures to prevent future occurrences and ensure the health and well-being of inmates and staff,
  - (iii) collaborate with relevant agencies to provide immediate medical assistance and support to affected individuals **(HR. 167/11/2024)**.
- (iii) ***Need to Revitalize the Vocational Skills Acquisition Centers under the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) in Nigeria:***  
Hon. Harrison Anozie Nwadike (*Isu/Njaba/Nkwerre/Nwangele Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
  - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

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

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

**Need to Revitalize the Vocational Skills Acquisition Centers under the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) in Nigeria:**

The House:

*Notes* the current President, His Excellency, Bola Ahmed Tinubu administration's provision of promoting vocational skills acquisition and entrepreneurship as drivers of economic growth and social development;

*Also notes* the current status of Skills Acquisition Centers in the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria, managed by the National Directorate for Employment (NDE), reveals a critical need for revitalization. Many centers across various States are nonfunctional, largely due to building dilapidation, vandalism and lack of maintenance. Essential resources and tools for training are often missing or outdated, further hindering their ability to deliver effective vocational skills training;

*Cognizant* that these centers, designed to offer crucial skills sets such as Hairdressing, ICT, GSM Repairs, Soap Making, Radio and TV Repairs, Plumbing, Carpentry, Automobile, Fabrication, Satellite Installation and Maintenance, Shoe and Bag making, Electrical Installation, Welding, Computer Operations, etc. are vital for reducing unemployment and fostering entrepreneurship, yet their deteriorating conditions have significantly limited their impact. Immediate intervention is required to restore functionality and ensure these centers fulfill their potential in adequately equipping Nigerians for the present and future economic viability, through Skills Acquisition, particularly the youths;

*Aware* that currently, there are 87 NDE managed Skills Acquisition Centers across the Six geo-political zones of the Country, where 54 centers are barely functional while 33 centers remain non-functional, raising concerns about the overall effectiveness of the initiative. To maximize the impact of these centers, it is crucial to ensure that all of them, nationwide are fully operational;

*Also aware* that these Skills Acquisition Centers are located in different centers across the following States: Imo, Bauchi, Kebbi, Katsina, Gombe, Rivers, Anambra, Kaduna, Niger, Yobe, Osun, Edo, Enugu, Ekiti, Adamawa, Oyo, Barno, Sokoto, Ondo, Ebonyi, FCT, Delta, Cross River, Abia, Akwa Ibom, Ogun, Jigawa, Benue and Kwara. These centers are spread across the Country, indicating the broad reach of the NDE's vocational training initiatives;

*Concerned* that the increasing number of non-functional Skills Acquisition Centers in Imo State and other parts of Nigeria is a matter of great concern. With 33 centers currently non-functional, the intended goal of equipping the nation's youth with essential vocational skills is being undermined. This situation is contributing to rising unemployment as these centers were designed to offer critical training in areas such as Computer Operation, Welding, Hairdressing, Fabrication, Plumbing, Shoe Making, Satellite Installation, etc. skills that are crucial for self-employment and economic empowerment. It should be noted with nostalgia that Nigeria now relies on foreign nationals from mostly West African Countries like Togo, Benin Republic, Cameroon etc. to fill the medium skill labour market gap;

*Worried* that the inability to utilize these centers, particularly in Imo State located at Comprehensive Secondary School, Amauzari, Isiala Mbano Local Government, old Nwangele Local Government Council, Amaigbo, within Isu/Njaba/Nkwerre/Nwangele Federal Constituency and Comprehensive Secondary School, Amuzi in Ahiazu Mbaise is leaving many young people without access to opportunities for skill development, thereby exacerbating the already high unemployment rate among youths in Imo State. Therefore, immediate effort to revitalize these centers are necessary to unlock their potentials and provide the needed training for thousands of unemployed Nigerians fostering entrepreneurship and reducing dependency on limited job opportunities;

*Also worried* that the prolonged non-functional state of many of these Skills Acquisition Centers have left our youths feeling disillusioned and frustrated. These centers were established to provide essential vocational training, offering a pathway to Self-employment and economic independence. However, with 33 centers nonfunctional, many young people are left without access to these critical resources, deepening their sense of hopelessness in a job market that is already saturated;

*Disturbed* that for many of these youths, the non-operational status of the centers symbolizes broken promises and missed opportunities, leading to rising disaffection and discontent. The situation risks further alienating the younger generation, who see these centers as potential avenues to escape Unemployment and poverty as well as steering them away from path of crime and violence. Immediate action to restore and revitalize these centers is not only essential for the economic futures, but also for restoring their confidence in governmental initiatives aimed at youth employment;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to liaise with the National Directorate of Employment to conduct a wholistic survey of the requirements needed to reactivate these 33 non-functional and the barely functional 54 Skills Acquisition Centers with a view of making all 87 to optimally function within the 2025 budget circle;
- (ii) mandate the Ad-hoc Committee to:
  - (a) liaise with the Committees on National Planning and Economic Development, and Appropriations to ensure that adequate budgetary provision is made in the 2025 Appropriation Bill to ensure revitalization of the NDE Skills Acquisition Centers across the country,

- (b) take any additional measures deemed necessary to support and advance the objectives of this motion and report within two (2) weeks (*Hon. Harrison Anozie Nwadike — Isu/Njaba/Nkwerre/Nwangele Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.*

**Amendments Proposed:**

- (i) In Prayer (i), *leave out* the words “constitute an *Ad-hoc* Committee ” and *insert* the words “mandate the Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity” (*Hon. Olumide Osoba — Abeokuta North/Ogbafemi Owode/ Odeda Federal Constituency*).

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

- (ii) In Prayer (ii), *leave out* the words “*Ad-hoc* Committee” and *insert* the words “mandate the Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity” (*Hon. Olumide Osoba — Abeokuta North/Ogbafemi Owode/ Odeda Federal Constituency*).

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

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

The House:

*Noted* the current President, His Excellency, Bola Ahmed Tinubu administration's provision of promoting vocational skills acquisition and entrepreneurship as drivers of economic growth and social development;

*Also noted* the current status of Skills Acquisition Centers in the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria, managed by the National Directorate for Employment (NDE), reveals a critical need for revitalization. Many centers across various States are nonfunctional, largely due to building dilapidation, vandalism and lack of maintenance. Essential resources and tools for training are often missing or outdated, further hindering their ability to deliver effective vocational skills training;

*Cognizant* that these centers, designed to offer crucial skills sets such as Hairdressing, ICT, GSM Repairs, Soap Making, Radio and TV Repairs, Plumbing, Carpentry, Automobile, Fabrication, Satellite Installation and Maintenance, Shoe and Bag making, Electrical Installation, Welding, Computer Operations, etc. are vital for reducing unemployment and fostering entrepreneurship, yet their deteriorating conditions have significantly limited their impact. Immediate intervention is required to restore functionality and ensure these centers fulfill their potential in adequately equipping Nigerians for the present and future economic viability, through Skills Acquisition, particularly the youths;

*Aware* that currently, there are 87 NDE managed Skills Acquisition Centers across the Six geo-political zones of the Country, where 54 centers are barely functional while 33 centers remain non-functional, raising concerns about the overall effectiveness of the initiative. To maximize the impact of these centers, it is crucial to ensure that all of them, nationwide are fully operational;

*Also aware* that these Skills Acquisition Centers are located in different centers across the following States: Imo, Bauchi, Kebbi, Katsina, Gombe, Rivers, Anambra, Kaduna, Niger, Yobe, Osun, Edo, Enugu, Ekiti, Adamawa, Oyo, Barno, Sokoto, Ondo, Ebonyi, FCT, Delta, Cross River, Abia, Akwa Ibom, Ogun, Jigawa, Benue and Kwara. These centers are spread across the Country, indicating the broad reach of the NDE's vocational training initiatives;

*Concerned* that the increasing number of non-functional Skills Acquisition Centers in Imo State and other parts of Nigeria is a matter of great concern. With 33 centers currently non-functional, the intended goal of equipping the nation's youth with essential vocational skills is being undermined. This situation is contributing to rising unemployment as these centers were designed to offer critical training in areas such as Computer Operation, Welding, Hairdressing, Fabrication, Plumbing, Shoe Making, Satellite Installation, etc. skills that are crucial for self-employment and economic empowerment. It should be noted with nostalgia that Nigeria now relies on foreign nationals from mostly West African Countries like Togo, Benin Republic, Cameroon etc. to fill the medium skill labour market gap;

*Worried* that the inability to utilize these centers, particularly in Imo State located at Comprehensive Secondary School, Amauzari, Isiala Mbano Local Government, old Nwangele Local Government Council, Amaigbo, within Isu/Njaba/Nkwerre/Nwangele Federal Constituency and Comprehensive Secondary School, Amuzi in Ahiazu Mbaise is leaving many young people without access to opportunities for skill development, thereby exacerbating the already high unemployment rate among youths in Imo State. Therefore, immediate effort to revitalize these centers are necessary to unlock their potentials and provide the needed training for thousands of unemployed Nigerians fostering entrepreneurship and reducing dependency on limited job opportunities;

*Also worried* that the prolonged non-functional state of many of these Skills Acquisition Centers have left our youths feeling disillusioned and frustrated. These centers were established to provide essential vocational training, offering a pathway to Self-employment and economic independence. However, with 33 centers nonfunctional, many young people are left without access to these critical resources, deepening their sense of hopelessness in a job market that is already saturated;

*Disturbed* that for many of these youths, the non-operational status of the centers symbolizes broken promises and missed opportunities, leading to rising disaffection and discontent. The situation risks further alienating the younger generation, who see these centers as potential avenues to escape Unemployment and poverty as well as steering them away from path of crime and violence. Immediate action to restore and revitalize these centers is not only essential for the economic futures, but also for restoring their confidence in governmental initiatives aimed at youth employment;

*Resolved to:*

- (i) mandate the Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity to liaise with the National Directorate of Employment to conduct a wholistic survey of the requirements needed to reactivate these 33 non-functional and the barely functional 54 Skills Acquisition Centers with a view of making all 87 to optimally function within the 2025 budget circle;
- (ii) also mandate the Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity to:
  - (a) liaise with the Committees on National Planning and Economic Development, and Appropriations to ensure that adequate budgetary provision is made in the 2025 Appropriation Bill to ensure revitalization of the NDE Skills Acquisition Centers across the country,
  - (b) take any additional measures deemed necessary to support and advance the objectives of this motion and report within two (2) weeks (**HR. 168/11/2024**).

## 9. Order of the Day

*Motion made and Question proposed*, "That the House do set down all other items on the Order

Paper till another legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (3)” (*Hon. Waive Ejiroghene Francis — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

**10. Adjournment**

*That the House do adjourn till Wenesday,20 November, 2024 at 11.00 a.m to enable Members attend the Valedictory Session in honour of Late Distinguish Sen. Andy Ubah (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).*

*The House adjourned accordingly at 12.07 p.m.*

**Abbas Tajudeen**  
*Speaker*

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**CORRIGENDUM**

In the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 11 June, 2024, **item 16**, pages 3039-3040, *leaves out* all the words in Item 16 and *insert* as follows:

- “16. A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal College of Optometry, Odiokwu, Ahoada-West/Ogba-Egbema-Ndoni, Rivers State, to Provide for Courses Leading to the Award of Designated Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in Optometry, Ophthalmology and Related Courses, and for Related Matters (HB.587) — Second Reading**  
*Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal College of Optometry, Odiokwu, Ahoada-West/Ogba-Egbema-Ndoni, Rivers State, to Provide for Courses Leading to the Award of Designated Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in Optometry, Ophthalmology and Related Courses, and for Related Matters (HB.587) be read a Second Time” (Hon. Victor Obuzor Chukwuemele — Ahoada West/Ogba /Egbemi Ndoni Federal Constituency).*

*Debate.*

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

*Bill read the Second Time.*

*Bill referred to the Committee on Specialty Healthcare.”*

**Abbas Tajudeen**  
*Speaker*