



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 27 May, 2025

1. The House met at 11.15 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House sang the National Anthem and recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 22 May, 2025.

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**

PRES/134-1/HRIBP/4

22nd May, 2025

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

Rt Honourable Speaker,

**REQUEST FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE
ISSUANCE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA BONDS TO
SETTLE OUTSTANDING PENSION LIABILITIES UNDER THE
CONTRIBUTORY-PENSION SCHEME**

I write to request for the kind approval of the National Assembly (NASS) for the issuance of Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) Bonds in the domestic debt market by the Debt Management Office (DMO) to settle outstanding Pension Liabilities under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) as at December 2023 in the sum of ₦757,983,246,571.00 (Seven Hundred and Fifty-Seven Billion, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Three Million, Two Hundred and Forty-Six Thousand, Five Hundred and Seventy-One Naira) only.

2. *The House of Representatives may wish to note that the Pension Reform Act (PRA), 2014 provide for the following, amongst others:*

- (i) *Sections 15 (1) and 39 (2)-(3) — Recognise the accrued pension rights of employees for services' rendered before the commencement of the implementation of the PRA, 2004 in Nigeria, mandate the FGN to set aside 5% of its monthly wage bill into Redemption Fund to settle such past pension liabilities and National Pension Commission to determine any shortfall in this regard;*
- (ii) *Section 15 (4) — Guarantees the right of retirees to pension review in line with the provisions of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) which provides that pension shall be reviewed every five (5) years or whenever salaries are reviewed;*
- (iii) *Section 6 (2) — Requires FGN to fund the shortfall in the Retirement Savings Accounts (RSAs) of eligible University Professors who are to retire on their full salary in line with extant laws; and,*
- (iv) *Section 82 (2) — Establishes the Pension Protection Fund and mandates FGN to contribute annual subvention of 1% into the Fund to part finance minimum Pension Guarantee for retirees whose RSA balances had depleted while receiving pension.*

3. *The House of Representatives is invited to note that the FGN has not been complying with the implementation of the above provisions of the PRA 2014 over the years due to revenue challenges leading to accumulation of pension arrears with the attendant hardship to retirees. To settle the accrued pension liabilities as of December 2023 in the sum of ₦757,983,246,571.00 (Seven Hundred and Fifty-Seven Billion, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Three Million, Two Hundred and Forty-Six Thousand, Five Hundred and Seventy-One Naira) only, the Government has decided to raise funds through the issuance of FGN Bonds in the domestic debt market. The proposed Issuance of FGN Bonds to settle outstanding pension liabilities was approved by the Federal Executive Council in its Meeting held on February 4, 2025:*

4. *This request to the NASS to approve the Issuance of FGN Bonds by the DMO to settle pension liabilities in the sum borrowing of ₦757,983,246,571.00 is pursuant to the provisions of Section 44 (1)-(2) of the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA), 2007, which requires the approval of the NASS for all New Borrowings by the FGN. Further to the provisions of the FRA 2007, the House of Representatives, may find below the Purpose and Cost-Benefit Analysis of the proposed borrowing:*

Purpose

Since the borrowing is for the settlement of FGN pension obligations to retirees, it is an essential investment in human capital development, which is allowed under the FRA 2007.

Benefits

- (i) *It will enable the FGN meet its obligations under the CPS and restore confidence in*

the pension industry;

- (ii) *positive welfare effect on the retirees, as this will enable them to meet their basic needs such as payments for routine drugs, rents, school fees of their children and other family needs. These will improve the health and avoid untimely death of the retirees;*
- (iii) *it has potential to contribute to productivity and morale of public servants, as this will assure them of the FGN's commitment to meeting pension obligations; and,*
- (iv) *settlement of pension liabilities have potential to improve aggregate demand and economic growth because it will enhance liquidity in the economy.*

Cost Implications for Public Debt

- (i) *The borrowing will lead to increase in the public debt stock; and,*
- (ii) *It will also increase debt service for the FGN.*

5. *Based on the foregoing, I wish to request for the approval of the House of Representatives for the issuance of FGN Bonds in the domestic debt market by the Debt Management Office to settle FGN 'pension obligations under the Contributory Pension Scheme as at December 31, 2023 in the sum of ₦757,983,246,571.00 (Seven Hundred and Fifty-Seven Billion, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Three Million, Two Hundred and Forty-Six Thousand, Five Hundred and Seventy-One Naira) only.*

6. *While I look forward to the consideration and timely approval of the House of Representatives, please accept, Rt. Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my high regards.*

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Bola Ahmed Tinubu

A Specimen of the Approval required for this purpose is attached as Annexure II

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

(ii)



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

PRES/134-1/HRIBP/5

22nd May, 2025

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

Rt Honourable Speaker,

**REQUEST FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR
ESTABLISHMENT OF FOREIGN CURRENCY DENOMINATED ISSUANCE
PROGRAMME IN THE DOMESTIC DEBT MARKET**

I write to request the kindly approval of the National Assembly (NASS) for capital raising of up to USD2.00 billion in the domestic debt market toward the implementation of the Presidential Executive Order on Foreign Currency Denominated Financial Instrument Local Issuance Programme and Related Matters Order, 2023 dated October 19, 2023 (Order No. 16 of 2023) by the Debt Management Office (DMO). Please see Annexure I for the Presidential Executive Order.

2. *The House of Representatives may wish to note that this request is pursuant to the provisions of Section 44 (1)-(2), of the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA), 2007 which requires the approval of the National Assembly (NASS) for all New Borrowings and Section 1 (7) of the Presidential Executive Order that requires the NASS to appropriate the proceeds of the capital raising. Further to the provisions of the FRA 2007 which defines; the Use of Proceeds of all borrowings and requires Cost-Benefit Analysis of capital raising, please find below:*

(a) Use of Proceeds

As stated in the Presidential Executive Order, "the proceeds of the debt instrument and its accretion shall be ring-fenced and invested in critical sectors to be approved by the President on the recommendation of the Honourable Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, subject to appropriation of the NASS, The Minister in making his recommendation 'shall have regard to a sector's capacity to accelerate economic growth, earn foreign exchange, drive infrastructure development, create jobs and yield reasonable returns on investment'".

(b) Benefits

- (i) Investors will have the opportunity to earn reasonable income on their US Dollar funds, while allowing the Government to channel the funds to productive uses in the economy;*
- (ii) It is a viable fiscal strategy with potential to boost accretion to reserves and promote exchange rate stability;*
- (iii) It will help diversify the sources of funding for the FGN and deepen the investor base for FGN Securities; and,*
- (iv) It will increase the range of products in the local financial market and enable investors to diversify their portfolios.*

(c) Cost Implications for Public Debt

- (i) The capital raising will lead to increase in the public debt stock; and,*
- (ii) Will also increase debt service costs.*

3. *Based on the foregoing, I wish to request for approval of the Senate for capital raising of up to USD2.00 billion through the establishment of a Foreign Currency Denominated Financial Instrument Issuance Programme in the domestic debt market by the Debt Management Office, in furtherance of the implementation of the Presidential Executive Order on Foreign Currency Denominated Financial Instrument Local Issuance Programme and Related Matters Order, 2023 dated October 19, 2023.*

4. *While I look forward to the consideration and timely approval of the House of*

Representatives, please accept, Rt. Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my high regards.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Bola Ahmed Tinubu

A Specimen of the Approval required for this purpose is attached as nexure II

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

(iii)



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

PRES/134-1/HRIBP/6

22nd May, 2025

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

Rt Honourable Speaker,

***REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
2025-2026 EXTERNAL BORROWING (ROLLING) PLAN***

I write in reference to the above subject and to submit the attached Federal Government 2025-2026 External Borrowing Rolling Plan for consideration and early approval of the National Assembly to ensure prompt implementation of the projects.

The House of Representative is invited to note that the 2025-2026 Borrowing Plan cut across all sectors with specific emphasis on infrastructure, agriculture, health education, water supply, growth, security, and employment generation, as well as Financial Management Reforms, amongst others. Total facility of the projects and programmes under the Borrowing (Rolling) Plan is USD21,543,647,912 and €2,193,856,324.54 & JPY15,000,000,000.00 and Grant of €65,000,000.00 respectively, and the summary of the breakdown is attached.

The House of Representatives, in light of the removal of the fuel subsidy and its impact on the national economy, approval is sought for the External Borrowing Plan, which amounts to USD21,543,647,912 and €2,193,856,324.54 & JPY15,000,000,000.00 and Grant of €65,000,000.00.

I want to emphasize that the projects and programmes included in the Borrowing Plan were selected based on thorough technical and economic evaluations, as well as their anticipated contribution to the socio-economic development of the country. These initiatives aim to generate employment, promote skill acquisition, foster entrepreneurship, reduce poverty, and enhance food security, all of which will improve the livelihoods of the average Nigerian. The majority of these

projects and programs will be implemented across all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory.

In light of the significant infrastructure deficit in the country and the vast financial resources needed to address this gap amid declining domestic funding, it has become essential to pursue prudent external borrowing to close the financing shortfall. These funds will primarily be directed towards critical infrastructure projects, including the sectors of power, railways, and healthcare, among others.

Given the urgent nature of these needs and the importance of stabilizing the economy, it is crucial to seek the consideration and approval of the House of Representative for the 2025-2026 External' Borrowing Plan. This will enable the government to fulfill its obligations to the Nigerian people through timely disbursement . and effective project implementation.

While I look forward to the consideration and approval of the House of Representative, please' accept, Rt Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my high regards.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Bola Ahmed Tinubu

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

5. Announcement

(i) Visitors in the Gallery:

Mr Speaker announced the presence of the following visitors:

- (i) Staff and Students of Phoebe Kiddies International School, Katampe, Abuja;
- (ii) Staff and Students of Fama Islamic International School, Gwarimpa, Abuja;
- (ii) Staff and Students of Innocent Achiever's School, Kuchikau Village, Karu, Nasarawa State.

(ii) The Rivers State 2025 Appropriation Bill:

Mr Speaker announced that the Rivers State 2025 Appropriation Bill be referred to the ***Ad-hoc Committee on the Oversight of the Emergency Administration of Rivers State.***

6. Admittance into the Chamber:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do admit into the Chamber, the families of the deceased Hon. Members of the House of Representatives for the purpose of a Valedictory Session, and fifty (50) Public and Private Senior Secondary School Students along with their Teachers in commemoration of the 2025 International Children's Day Celebration to observe the Plenary Session, pursuant to Order Six, Rule 4 (1), and (2) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives" (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Agreed to.

7. Special Sitting — 12 : 10 p.m.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do resolve into a Special Sitting in commemoration of the 2025 International Children's Day" (Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader).

Agreed to.

Motion made and Question proposed, “That House do allow Master Lawal Haruna Sani to preside as Shadow Speaker in commemoration of International Children’s Day” (*Hon. Julius Ihonvbere — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

By leave of the House, Mr Speaker invited Master Lawal Haruna Sani to preside over the Special Sitting.

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

Commemoration of International Children’s Day:

Hon. Ogbara Adetola Kalifat (*Kosofe 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.

Commemoration of International Children's Day:

The House:

Notes that International Children's Day is observed on May 27th, as a vital occasion to reaffirm our commitment to the rights and well-being of children both in our nation and around the. World;

Also notes that this year's theme, "**Our Future and Our Responsibility!**" resonates with the challenges and responsibilities of 2025, symbolizing a pivotal moment of hope and rights advocacy;

Further notes that children are the cornerstone of our future, and their well-being is indispensable for the progress and prosperity of our society;

Aware that millions of children globally confront formidable obstacles including poverty, limited educational opportunities, inadequate healthcare access, and vulnerabilities to violence and exploitation;

Also aware that within our communities, numerous children endure food insecurity, limited healthcare access, and a shortage of educational resources, exacerbating their vulnerabilities. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child emphasizes the importance of ensuring that all children have the right to survival, development, protection, and participation;

Concerned that the digital gap in Nigeria poses a substantial obstacle to educational fairness, leaving millions of children without crucial ICT tools and resources, hindering their ability to acquire essential skills vital for engaging in a swiftly evolving global economy;

Also concerned over the National Policy on Education's emphasis on ICT integration in education, citing persistent challenges of inconsistency and under-funding in its implementation nationwide;

Disturbed that the potential transition of WAEC to Computer-Based Testing by 2026 could present significant challenges if the digital divide among students, especially in rural communities, is not promptly addressed;

Worried that many rural and underserved urban areas lack the infrastructure necessary for reliable internet access, further exacerbating inequalities in education;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to —
 - (a) prioritize policies that support children's health, education, and welfare,
 - (b) also prioritize investments in ICT infrastructure, particularly in rural communities, to ensure equitable access for all children and also review the Child Rights Act;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Education to implement comprehensive programs aimed at enhancing digital literacy among students and teachers;
- (iii) expedite action on the passage of the "Establishment of the National Child Protection and Enforcement Agency Bill;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Women Affairs, Digital and Information Technology, and Basic Education and Services to ensure compliance (*Hon. Ogbara Adetola Kalifat — Kosoife Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed.

The House:

Noted that International Children's Day is observed on May 27th, as a vital occasion to reaffirm our commitment to the rights and well-being of children both in our nation and around the. World;

Also noted that this year's theme, "**Our Future and Our Responsibility!**" resonates with the challenges and responsibilities of 2025, symbolizing a pivotal moment of hope and rights advocacy;

Further noted that children are the cornerstone of our future, and their well-being is indispensable for the progress and prosperity of our society;

Aware that millions of children globally confront formidable obstacles including poverty, limited educational opportunities, inadequate healthcare access, and vulnerabilities to violence and exploitation;

Also aware that within our communities, numerous children endure food insecurity, limited healthcare access, and a shortage of educational resources, exacerbating their vulnerabilities. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child emphasizes the importance of ensuring that all children have the right to survival, development, protection, and participation;

Concerned that the digital gap in Nigeria poses a substantial obstacle to educational fairness, leaving millions of children without crucial ICT tools and resources, hindering their ability to acquire essential skills vital for engaging in a swiftly evolving global economy;

Also concerned over the National Policy on Education's emphasis on ICT integration in education, citing persistent challenges of inconsistency and under-funding in its implementation nationwide;

Disturbed that the potential transition of WAEC to Computer-Based Testing by 2026 could present significant challenges if the digital divide among students, especially in rural communities, is not promptly addressed;

Worried that many rural and underserved urban areas lack the infrastructure necessary for reliable internet access, further exacerbating inequalities in education;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of Government to —
 - (a) prioritize policies that support children's health, education, and welfare,
 - (b) also prioritize investments in ICT infrastructure, particularly in rural communities, to ensure equitable access for all children and also review the Child Rights Act;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Education to implement comprehensive programs aimed at enhancing digital literacy among students and teachers;
- (iii) expedite action on the passage of the "Establishment of the National Child Protection and Enforcement Agency Bill;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Women Affairs, Digital and Information Technology, and Basic Education and Services to ensure compliance (**HR. 155/05/2025**).

9. Close of Special Sitting — 12.30 p.m.

Question "That Mr Speaker do resume Plenary Session"

Agreed to.

House in Plenary — 12.32 a.m.

10. Valedictory Session in Honour of the Five (5) Deceased Members of the 10th National Assembly

Opening Remark by Mr Speaker

Protocols:

We gather this morning, 27th May, 2025, coinciding with Children's Day around the world, to pay tribute to five of our own who have passed from these benches into history. On a day dedicated to cherishing childhood dreams and nurturing tomorrow's leaders, we are reminded poignantly that life itself is a precious gift entrusted to us only for a brief tenure. As we mourn our departed friends, let us draw strength from their example and recommit ourselves to the ideals they upheld: service, hope and the unfulfilled promise of tomorrow that every child in the galleries represents.

2. Today's assembly is made even more meaningful by the presence of students from both public and private schools in Abuja, who are here to observe the workings of democracy first-hand. We applaud them for their curiosity and courage. A special commendation goes to the young student who, in symbolic homage, stepped into the Speaker's chair earlier, celebrating both Children's Day and our House tradition of honouring children and encouraging their dreams. May their excitement remind us that our highest calling is to build a future worthy of their boundless potential.

3. Honourable Colleagues, the passing of Rt. Hon. Adewunmi Oriyomi Onanuga, affectionately called "Ijaya", Hon. Abdulkadir Jelani Oanbuga, Hon. Isa Dogonyaro, Hon. Olaide Adewale Akinremi, lovingly referred to as "Jagaban", and Hon. Ekene Abubakar Adams, fondly dubbed "The Youngest", left a pain in our hearts and a void in our deliberations. Each served with distinction, passion, and tireless dedication to their country and constituents. Although their voices now fall silent, the ideals they championed continue to resonate within these walls and the communities they

tirelessly served and uplifted.

4. *Ijaya's unwavering advocacy for women's empowerment and education transformed countless lives in Ogun State. Her electoral triumphs were only surpassed by her generosity of spirit and her willingness to nurture emerging leaders. Danbuga exemplified quiet humility: though his tenure was brief, his devotion to Isa/Sabon Birni Federal Constituency was steadfast, proving that true impact rests not on years served but on the courage shown each day. Dogonyaro brought rigorous integrity to every committee he served, from national security to public health, reminding us that leadership often speaks most powerfully through action rather than words. Jagaban's entrepreneurial vision united commerce and community service, illustrating how public office can ignite innovation for the common good. And Ekene, whose youthful vigour on the football field shaped his legislative zeal, taught us that the spirit of teamwork and resilience is as vital in the Chamber as on the pitch.*

5. *Their collective legacy compels us to remember that our authority here on earth is neither a birthright nor an end in itself, but a sacred trust borrowed for a moment in history. As the American philosopher William James admonished, "the greatest use of a life is to spend it on something that will outlast it." Another thinker reminds us that "life becomes more meaningful when we realise the simple fact that we will never get the same moment twice".*

6. *Accordingly, it becomes imperative that we seize every opportunity presented to us. Each sunrise brings a new beginning, and with it, the chance to impact lives around us. We must do so with purpose, fully aware that the laws we craft and the policies we propose today will mould the destinies of those very children sitting among us.*

7. *To the families of our departed colleagues, we extend our deepest condolences and pledge that the memories of your loved ones will not merely fade on marble plaques but will endure in the lives transformed by their work. May you find solace in the knowledge that their service enriched this nation and that their unfinished dreams will guide us forward.*

8. *Honourable colleagues, let us honour the sacrifice of these our former colleagues by renewing our vigour to legislate with compassion, oversee with integrity, and govern with humility. Let every motion we pass, every debate we engage in, and every decision we make resonate with the values our late friends lived and died for.*

9. *In closing, we beseech the Almighty to grant eternal rest to these noble souls, to console those who grieve, and to inspire us, both young and old, to carry forth their torch of public service into a brighter tomorrow. Amen.*

10. *We will now take a moment to honour the five deceased Members by reading their biographies, celebrating their accomplishments, and recollecting the legacies they left behind. Following this, we will invite tributes from Members who spent time with them in the Chamber, during committee meetings, and in informal sessions as friends.*

11. Tributes

The Principal Officers of the House, Hon. Members and immediate family members took turns to extol the legacies and virtues of the deceased. They celebrated their lives as devout public servants, astute entrepreneurs, consummate politicians, philanthropists and quintessential leaders who worked tirelessly to serve and uplift humanity. In their remarks, Members encouraged friends, families and well wishers to strive towards upholding the values that the deceased stood for, which include compassion, integrity and selfless service. They prayed for the repose of the souls of the departed.

Closing Remark by Mr Deputy Speaker:

The Deputy Speaker in his closing remark, celebrated the lives, achievements and sacrifices of the deceased in nation building, describing them as fallen Heroes. He prayed that the cherished memories of the departed will continue to bring comfort and inspiration to the family members, friends and well wishers who are left behind and prayed for the repose of their souls.

12. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 28 May, 2025 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali — Deputy House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.20 p.m.

Abbas Tajudeen
Speaker